

Founded 1994



# Il Piccolo Giornale

February 2015

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

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## Buon San Valentino



### Valentine's Day in Italy

Valentine's Day was initially celebrated as an open air spring festival in Italy. Young people would gather in tree arbors or ornamental gardens and enjoy listening to music and reading poetry. Later, they would stroll off with their Valentine into the gardens. The custom steadily ceased over the course of years and has not been celebrated for centuries. In Turin (Piedmonte region), betrothed couples used to announce their engagements on Valentine's Day. Several days ahead of February 14, stores were decorated and loaded with a huge variety of bon-bons. Some even sold china baskets and cups filled with delectable

Valentine's Day candies tied with a ribbon. They were to be presented as gifts to their valentine. Another interesting Valentine's Day tradition that was followed in Italy and Britain made unmarried girls wake up before sunrise. People strongly believed that the first man an unmarried girl saw on Valentine's Day, or someone who looked like him, would marry her within a year. Girls therefore would wake up early on Valentine's Day and stand by their window to watch for a man to pass by. In recent times, lovers in Italy celebrate Valentine's Day by expressing their love to sweethearts. Couples usually go out for dinner at a pizzeria or ristorante. Just as in other countries, the festival

has been commercialized to a great extent. There is a strong tradition to exchange gifts like roses, perfume, chocolates and diamonds depending on the age and taste of the person. Another popular Valentine's Day gift in Italy is "Baci Perugina," small chocolate-covered hazelnuts containing a small slip of paper with a romantic poetic quote in four languages.

### Poem taken from the "Italian Times"

From Marlene Feira

Che cos'e' l'amore?

E' il calore che sento qaundo  
penso a te,

E' la gioia che provo quando ti vedo sorridere.

E' il canto che odo quando ascolto la tua voce.

E' il conforto che trovo quando ci abbracciamo.

E' il vuoto che sento quando tu non sei qui.

E' il calma che sento quando tu ci sei.

E' sapere che tu ci sarai quando avro' bisogno di te.

E' sapere che io ci saro' quando tu avrai bisogno di me.

### What is Love?

It's the warmth I feel when I think of you.

It's the joy I feel when I see you smile.

It's the song I hear when I hear you speak.

It's the comfort I feel when we embrace.

It's the emptiness I feel when you're not here.

It's the calm I feel when you are.

It's knowing you're there when I need you.

It's knowing I'll be here when you need me.



## CARNEVALE, A COLORFUL AND FUN WINTER INTERLUDE!

By Lynn Thompson

Will you be joining us for **Carnevale at Luigi's on Tuesday, February 17th** at 6:00? If you do, you will enjoy hearing the music of our **John Contratto and the Mariucci Trio**, wearing fun **Carnevale masks and beads**, judging the handmade Carnevale masks adorning the walls, playing the traditional Italian Tombola number game, eating **Luigi's** incredible Italian delicacies, and socializing with our friendly club members!! Not to mention: doing something colorful and fun on a winter evening!! See all the details in the invitation attached to this newsletter. **BE SURE TO SEND VICKY YOUR PAYMENT BY FEBRUARY 10th SO THAT WE CAN ORDER THE FOOD AND PLAN ACCORDINGLY. SPACE IS LIMITED!!**

Take advantage also of the fun opportunity to create your own mask to decorate the **Carnevale** and be entered in the competition...**COME TO OUR CARNEVALE MASK-MAKING WORKSHOP** at **Luigi's** on the Sunday just prior to **Carnevale, February 15th, at 2 pm!** For \$3 per mask your can design your own mask to be judged at **Carnevale**. Get really creative and also bring any additional materials from home to add to your mask to make a real statement and/or work of art! Workshop members can then dine together, ordering from **Luigi's** wonderful menu, and then hang their masks in preparation for **Carnevale** that Tuesday. **CALL VICKY AT 920-865-7229 IF YOU WILL BE MAKING MASKS WITH US.** If you like, you can include your \$3./mask when you send your **Carnevale** reservation fee to **Vicky. WE NEED YOUR CREATIVITY!!**

Note: if you sign up for one of these two activities, you do not need to necessarily sign up for both, though we sure hope you do!!

## 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 Ital-

ian 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**

**February 17, Tuesday . . . . . Carnevale**

**March 18, Wednesday . . . . . Dinner & an Italian Movie**

**April 27, Monday . . . . . Bocce Ball League - session 1 begins**

**June 7, Sunday . . . . . Bocce Pot Luck**

mid June .....Prima Passeggiata

mid July ..... Seconda 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* -----

**DUES**

Please remit promptly by sending your check (\$15.00 per person) made out to Club ItaloAmericano to Vicky at 1810 Oakhill Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313.

If you're not planning to rejoin (we sincerely hope that isn't the case), please call Vicky at 865-7220 or email her at [dvsobeck@gmail.com](mailto:dvsobeck@gmail.com). We'd like to bring our club directory up to date ASAP.

Grazie mille

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**CLUB MEMBER : REV. MARK FALCONE MAKES THE NEWS**

A wonderful article about Fr. Mark and his Schola d'Arezzo appeared in the Green Bay Press Gazette on Friday, January 2 in the "A" Section, page 1. It is full of his "tongue in cheek" humor. We contacted him about his poetry reading, so mark your calendars. It will be on Thursday, February 26, 6:00 p.m. at the Readers Loft. Also, the next concert for Schola d'Arezzo will be on Sunday, April 26, 2:30 p.m. at the Abbey in De Pere.

To read the article, go to: [greenbay-pressgazette.com](http://greenbay-pressgazette.com) "Abby Choir Prefers Dark Ages Chants", Jan. 2, 2015

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our new member this month is actually a returning member. She is Susan Sherman, daughter of Mary and LV Teofilo.

Welcome back, Susan!

Benvenuti!

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday 19 February 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:

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Questions— call me at 612-360-8246

