

Founded 1994



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

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St. Joseph's Table: An Age-Old Tradition

The following is a short description of the history, significance and layout of the St. Joseph Table or St. Joseph Altar.

An Age-Old Italian Tradition

Saint Joseph is one of the most beloved saints among Italian-Americans. As the patron of workers and the protector of the family, he is honored with a feast on March 19.

According to legend, there was a famine in Sicily many centuries ago. The villagers prayed to **St. Joseph**, foster-father of the Infant Savior, and asked his intercession before the throne of **God**. Their

prayers were answered. With the ending of the dreadful famine, a special feast of thanksgiving was held in commemoration of the Saint. This celebration became tradition. Wealthy families prepared huge buffets. They then invited the less fortunate people of the village, especially the homeless and sick.

The celebration begins with a religious table. Selected villagers portray an elderly man, a lovely young woman, and a little child. The three are seated at the head table and remain there during the early part of the festivity. Others accompanying this "**Holy Family**" are twelve men or boys, representing the Apostles and other children, attired as angels. The village priest blesses the food, then the "**Holy Family**" is served

first by the host and hostess.

All are free to come and go as they wish. The guests may eat what they choose and as much as pleases them. The festival lasts most of the day and well into the night. When all have been fed, they go on their way with thankful hearts and take the blessing of the host and hostess with them.

The effect of the table design is dignified, solemn, yet festive, grand and inspiring. Much symbolism is contained in its shape and decoration. The "steps" represent the ascent from earth to heaven. On the topmost step is a statue of **St. Joseph** or a picture of the Holy Family. White linen tablecloths cover the table. Vigil lights of green, brown and deep yellow, representing **St. Joseph's** attire, are profusely placed. Palms

placed nearby and around the room, as well as lily plants and white carnations give the table softness and the scents together with incense used in the opening of the ceremony are suggestive of the fragrance of heaven and the sweetness of salvation.

The food dishes represent the harvest, the created beauties of the world. Breads are baked in shapes of a staff, a carpenter's implement, a hand, the cross and animals close to the Infant Child at birth. These shapes represent St. Joseph and the life of Christ. Minestras, very thick soups, are made of lentils, favas and other types of beans, together with escarole, broccoli or cauliflower. Other vegetables, celery, fennel stalks, boiled and stuffed artichokes are also served.

No cheese is eaten on **St. Joseph's day**. The spaghetti is not sprinkled with grated Incanestrato, but in its place a traditional mixture of tasted dry bread crumbs with fresh sardines and fennel sauce is used. A dish of "sweet macaroni" with honey sauce is also served.

Then, the special dessert without which no **St. Joseph's Day** buffet could ever be called by that name. It is **St. Joseph's Sfinge**: a large round cream puff filled with ricotta (Italian cottage cheese) and topped with red cherries and glazed orange slices. Many dessert cookies are embellished with almonds. **The almond tree is characteristic among the flora of the Mediterranean and a profoundly sacred symbol to those of Jewish, Moslem and Christian faiths alike.**

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It is also customary for the village officials to arrange a public buffet in **St. Joseph's**

honor. The banquet table invariably stands in the piazza--public square--opposite the doors of the cathedral. The table is usually built around two sides of the piazza in the form of a right angle. These village tables in the public squares may not be as elaborately decorated as those in the homes, but they sage beneath the weight of choice foods and wines contributed by the wealthy villagers. All are welcome to come to this public table at some time during the day to pay homage to the great saint.

March 18 Cinema Paradiso

The now classic movie **Cinema Paradiso (1988)** offers a nostalgic look at films and the effect they have on a young boy who grows up around a village movie theater in this Italian comedy/drama based on the life and times, of director **Giuseppe Tornatore**. The story begins in the present as a Sicilian mother pines for her estranged son, Salvatore, who left many years ago and has since become a prominent Roman film director who has taken the advice of his mentor too literally. He finally returns to his home village to attend the funeral of the town's former film projectionist, Alfredo, and, in so doing, embarks upon a journey into his boyhood just after WWII.

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, 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* -----

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Benvenuto! Invitation to Italian Language Classes

Come have some fun with some wonderful folks and learn **La lingua bella!!**

Language classes are starting up again and there are enough sessions to accommodate everyone. The first class is a beginner 1 and 2 section together. If you took level one and missed classes, join us and if not, it is a good time to get a little review and expand on what you learned. I will differentiate as needed to keep things from getting boring. I am used to that.

This class starts Wednesday March 4th at 10:00 a.m. and will go an hour and a half with one ten minute break finishing at 11:40. The class will be held at the YWCA, Young Woman's Christian Association on 230 S. Madison Street.

It will be held on the second floor (there is an elevator right by the back door near the parking lot across the street) and **the class will be held in the Multi-Cultural Center Room**. There is a Keurig coffee and tea machine and snacks are welcome as long as we clean up afterwards. There are ten sessions from 3/4 through 5/13 with 3/25 off as this is Spring break for most.

The cost is the same for all. \$90.00 for members of the club and \$100.00 for non-members.

The next three classes will be starting the week of April 6th through 10th and this is to accommodate the snowbirds who fly south and those who would like an evening session. These three are not yet set in

stone with time or location so call Lisa with any particular schedule requirements if needed

They are generally as follows;

Monday mornings starting April 6th to June 8th 10:00 - 11:40 a.m. - Beginner levels 1 and 2

Monday mornings starting April 6th to June 8th noon - 1:40 p.m. - Advanced levels 1 and 2

Wednesday evenings starting April 8th to June 10th 5:15 - 7:00 p.m. - Beginner levels 1 and 2

Some folks may also choose to sign up for the Monday and Wednesday classes to accelerate the learning. In this case there would be some review as well as an expansion of the learning.

To sign up for a session or to share any concerns please call Lisa Meli at (920) 562-7327.

WisItalia Italian Teacher of the Year Award

Greetings to all:

As the **President of WisItalia** it gives me great pleasure to announce our 2015 WisItalia Italian Teacher of the Year Award recipient, **Mr. Steven Falsetti. Mr. Falsetti was nominated by Ms. Janine Cano Graber, principle at Victory K-8 School For The Gifted and Talented and Italian Immersion and approved by the Officers and Directors of WisItalia.**

Steve has worked hard for the past 6 years in developing the Italian program at **Victory** and his contributions have been essential to the program's success.

Additionally, **WisItalia** would like congratulate **Tom Balistreri** who will be receiving the **WisItalia 2015 Presidents Award** for his contributions to the teaching of the Italian language in our K - 12 schools in

Wisconsin.

Tom was an essential contributor to our efforts and to establishing the program at **Victory K-8 School for the Gifted and Talented and Italian Immersion.**

And finally, **WisItalia** would like to congratulate **Anna Pitzo**, who will be receiving the **WisItalia 2015 Italian Cultural Contribution Award** for her many years of teaching and promoting Italian Language and Culture.

Anna's contributions have enriched not only the Italian American community but the Milwaukee community at large.

Please mark your calendars for the evening of April 18, 2015 at the ICC to help us recognize and celebrate our Award recipients.

Kind regards,

Al Rolandi

President - WisItalia

Adult Bocce Ball – THINK SPRING

Roll into summer with one of the fastest growing sports in **Green Bay!** Bocce Ball is coming your way for another fun-filled summer. Leagues are available for co-ed teams in advanced or intermediate divisions. Teams consist of 2 players, 18 years of age or older. Matches will be played weekly for approximately 8 weeks.

Location: Colburn Park, 1158 Highview Street

Registration Begins March 16th

Dates Session 1: Begins week of April 26, 2015 Deadline April 15

Dates Session 2: Begins week of July 26, 2015 Deadline July 17

Leagues are offered for: Co-ed

Fee: \$8.44 Resident/\$12.66 Non-

Resident

Refund Policy: A \$5.00 processing fee will be applied to all customer cancellations. A full refund will be issued if program has insufficient enrollment or program is cancelled.

We need to promote this program to keep it alive. We encourage our club members to form a team and also to spread the word among friends and invite them to join. If anyone can think of a team that has played in the past, why not give them a call and invite them to "re-up".

For a registration form go to the Park and Rec. website or for more information, call 448-3365 or 448-3367.

Fees per player are \$8.00. Checks should be made payable to Green Bay Parks Department and mailed to or dropped off at: 100 N. Jefferson. St., Room 510, Green Bay, 54301

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday 19 March 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:

paolomarino1@gmail.com

Questions— call me at 612-360-8246

CARNAVALE PHOTOS



