

Founded 1994



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

Website: <http://clubitaloamericano.org/> Facebook: Club Italoamericano of Green Bay

Send contributions/comments to: [clubitalianoamericano@gmail.com](mailto:clubitalianoamericano@gmail.com)

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**The Legend of la Befana**

Like children everywhere, Italian kids look forward to the arrival of the red-suited **Babbo Natale on Christmas Eve**. However, this relatively modern tradition pales in comparison to the anticipation generated by the arrival of an old witch in early January. On Epiphany Eve, the old, tattered and soot-covered **Befana** flies around the world on a broomstick and comes down chimneys to deliver candy and presents to children who have been good during the year. For those who have fallen a bit short of model behavior, **la Befana**

will leave lumps of coal. (Realizing that no one can be perfect for a whole year, these days **la Befana** often leaves a sweet "lump of coal" made from black sugar.)

**La Befana** has been an Italian tradition since the XIII century and comes from Christian legend rather than popular culture. The story is that **la Befana** was approached by the **Three Wise Men** who asked her to lead them to the stable where the **baby Jesus** lay in a manger. **La Befana** was too busy cleaning her house at the time, so she declined the offer to go with

them. Very soon she realized that she had made a huge mistake, so she gathered up a bag full of gifts and set off alone in search of the **baby Jesus**. Though she followed the same star as the **Magi**, she was unable to find the stable. Undaunted, **la Befana** continues to travel the world over to this day searching every house for the **Christ child**. On January 6, the first day of Epiphany, Italian children hold their breaths as they search their stockings for a sign that they have been good that year. The arrival of **la Befana** is celebrated with traditional Italian

foods such as panettone (a Christmas cake) and marks the end of the long and festive holiday season in Italy.

**Article from:** <http://monteverdituscany.com>

## MEMBERSHIP

This month we welcome two new members - **Mary Prisco and Nancy Kohrman.**

**Mary** is 100% Italian, 75% of her family originated in or near **Naples** and the remaining 25% in **Sicily**. She and her husband **Forrest** (who is mostly Irish) moved to **G.B. from New York State** in 1984. She'd heard of **Club IA**, but didn't know much about it until **Bill and Peg Anderson** encouraged her to join!

**Nancy** loves learning about new cultures and meeting new people. So when club member **Dan Brunmeier** invited her to a **Club IA** event, she gladly accepted. As an honorary Italian, she has enjoyed all of the events she's attended, the food has been marvelous and the conversation even better. To quote Nancy, "Your club is a very welcoming community that I'm privileged to be a part of".

**Benvenute Mary and Nancy!**

## CENA DI NATALE

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3**

Hope you are looking forward to attending this wonderful event.

## CONDOGLIAZE

Long time club member **Wayne Knack** passed away on Monday, November 21 after a battle with cancer. **Wayne and his wife Georgine (Fonzi)** co-chaired many of our spaghetti dinners.

**Our sincere sympathy to Georgine and their family.**

## Notizie (News) from the

### Board

**The second vacancy on the Board of Directors has been filled by Dominic Del Bianco.**

**Dominic's father, also Dominic, was born in Borgio Del Bianco, a small town about 100 miles north of Venice.** He was born in 1911 and came to the U.S. before he turned 18. **Dom and Carlene** have been to Italy twice and stayed with his cousins right in the village where his father was born.

**Dom** has been a member of Club IA for many years. He and his wife **Carlene** have co-chaired several of our spaghetti dinners and, more recently, has been helping **Merlin Baenen** with the up-keep of his vineyard.

**Benvenuto Dom!**

## OPEN FORUM Calling all

### Members

We extend an invitation for all club members to attend our monthly Board of Directors meetings. Our plan is to create an open forum at the beginning of each meeting where members can share their ideas, suggestions and/or concerns.

**If you have an item or topic that you feel needs extra time, please contact President Teofilo (LVTeofilo@aol.com or 432-6513) by the Monday before the board meeting so it can be added to the agenda.**

The meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month. They begin at 5:30 and are held at Luigi's Italian Bistro on Manitowoc Road.

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday 15 December .

## CLUB LIBRARY

**John Contratto** has started a club library, which he will bring to each event he participates in.

Books may be borrowed for a month.

Names of borrowers, phone numbers and email addresses are recorded.

Books are welcome from lenders. All books will remain under the ownership of the lender. The club will not assume liability for any lost books.

## 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 Cmas) 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](mailto:paolomarino1@gmail.com)

**Questions— call me at 612-360-8246**

## 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, **Captains Walk Winery** in Green Bay, **Polito's Pizza** in Green Bay, the **Oilerie** in Fish Creek and on **Lineville Road** 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.**