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

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Club's Holiday Parade Float Gets Award

By Peggy Ricci Anderson

Club ItaloAmericano participated in the 32nd Annual AT&T Green Bay Holiday Parade with a float entitled "La Befana" on Nov. 21, 2015. We are proud to announce that our club's float won the parade's "Grand Marshall's Award."

Lisa Iapalucci was the enthusiastic organizer and committee chairperson who put forth much effort to make the float happen. We applaud Lisa for the successful presentation that made our club newsworthy.

Cold temperatures at the parade were braved by the following participants: Lisa Iapalucci (La Befana); Ron Bernard and Peg Ricci Anderson (ItaloAmericano banner carriers); John Contratto (entertainer

with concertina and Italian songs on float); Vicky Piccione Sobeck and Dominic DelBianco (candy toss); Mark Mariucci, Teofilo and Mark Schahezensi (Three Wise Men); Mary and Morey Tabatabai (American and Italian flag carriers); and Mark Zittlow (held peasant woman mannequin).

Victoria Sobeck assisted Lisa Iapalucci at her home preparing macaroni and cheese and sausage, peppers and gravy on Nov. 12 to feed the many happy float builders. They included Mary and Teofilo; Mark Zittlow; Jim Wagner; Paul Vaughn; Mary Angelina; Mark Mariucci; Patrick Kloster; Chuck and Lenora Rhyner; Dominic DelBianco; Will Agen; and Lisa Iapalucci. There remained an additional 70-plus hours of work to be done with Mary Angelina, Jim Wagner, Mark Zittlow and Lisa Iapalucci completing the finishing touches.

Chuck and Lenora Rhyner donated two boxes of floral decor from their St. Joseph table. Jim Wagner, who owned the vehicle and trailer used in the float, worked closely with Lisa to modify the trailer to her specifications. Mark Zittlow stored the float in his single-stall garage for nearly a month.

The holiday parade was well attended and televised live on Channel 26; it will be broadcast throughout the holiday season. See "Downtown Green Bay Facebook page" for further details.

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 gen-

erated 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://monteverditusca-ny.com>

Dinner (Cena) and Movie (Film)

Twenty four club members met at 4:45 to have dinner at Sammy's Pizza on Wednesday, November 18. With a wide selection of items on the menu, each was able to place an individual order of their choice. While waiting to be served, there was lively conversation on a variety of topics.

By 6:30, most of the members left to drive to the **Neville Public Museum to see the classic Italian comedy (with captions) Big Deal on Madonna Street.** The movie was our selection as part of the monthly series of International films sponsored by the **Green Bay Film Society.** Approximately thirty to fifty people regularly attend the showing of these films. Club member, **Chuck Rhyner** introduced the movie presenting detailed facts that helped the audience understand the background of the 1958 movie.

The next Italian film is tentatively scheduled for March 23, 2016. The title is “**Human Capital**”.

UPDATE

Sue (Baratta) Milewski's 54 year old son Rick underwent surgery for aortic replacement on Wednesday, November 25

As of this writing, the surgery went well. However the recovery prognosis is 3 months or longer with massive costs. **Sue is asking for our prayers and/or donations.**

To learn more, go to this website:
<https://de.gofundme/RickSteavpack>

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

Our membership continues to grow as we add two more. **Father Andrew Ciferni is with the Norbertines in Paoli, Pennsylvania.** He is currently working at **St. Norbert College and living at the Abbey in De Pere** until his assignment is finished.

We also welcome another business. Polito's Pizza is located at 201 N. Washington Street and serves pizzas and sandwiches.

Benvenuti

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

It's that time of the year again. If you would like to pay your dues, you can. Send your check (\$15 per person) made out to Club ItaloAmericano, to: Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck, 1810 Oakhill Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313-4800.

Assembly Adopts Barca-Authored Resolution Recognizing Italian-Americans

Bipartisan Resolution Proclaims October Italian-American Heritage Month

MADISON, WI— **Rep. Peter Barca (D-Kenosha) and his colleagues in the Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously adopted Assembly Resolution 15, a bipartisan resolution proclaiming October to be Italian-American Heritage Month.**



In attendance were **Roma Lodge President Rick Bonanno, Italian Workmen's Club (IWC)**

President David Rizzo, IWC and Wislalia Past President Tony Bruno and IWC Past President Frank Alfano. Unfortunately Steve Torcaso, Board President of the Italian-American Society of Kenosha, was unable to attend.

Rep. Barca offered the following remarks regarding the adoption of this resolution:

In the early 1900s, millions of immigrants and their families left their homes in Italy to come to America in search of a new life, bring with them strength, character, belief in hard work, devotion to family, love of life, and a reverence and appreciation for the arts.

Connected by a shared heritage, a strong determination to succeed, and an appreciation for the new freedom they found,

Italian immigrants played an integral role in creating some of our country's most valued national treasures, including the **Lincoln Memorial and the dome of our own state Capitol in Madison.**

Italian-Americans are filled with pride and gratitude for family and an ancestral culture which, through the generations, has greatly influenced almost every aspect of our nation's culture.

The recognition of Italian-American Heritage Month by the Wisconsin State Assembly officially commends Italian-Americans for their extraordinary accomplishments and the numerous and invaluable contributions they have made to enrich the fabric and foundation of our country and the state of Wisconsin.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

We are pleased to announce that John (Giovanni) Contratto has joined the

Board of Directors. John has been a member of Club IA for many years and is filling the spot vacated last month by **Ron Bernard.** We look forward to John's input and ideas.

Grazie Giovanni.

The Desk of the President

Dear Friends and Fellow Club ItaloAmericano members,

I am eagerly looking forward to our premier club celebration, our **Cena di Natale.** As I think about this, I am remembering how whenever I sit down to a celebratory meal like the Cena or Thanksgiving Dinner, etc., I cannot help but to think also about the many, many people who can't afford to buy food like this and who often go to bed hungry. With this in mind I am asking you to help ease this burden by donating non perishable food goods or \$\$ to a local food pantry by bringing it to the **Cena di**

Natale and depositing it in the container that will be provided. I will personally deliver it to one of the local pantries after our Holiday Feast at the Green Bay Yacht Club.

I would like to encourage all of us, whether attending the **Cena di Natale** or not, to be as generous as you can throughout the holiday season and all year long by contributing to our local shelters and food pantries.

Thank you for your generosity and may it be returned to you one hundred fold.

Teofilo

President, Club ItaloAmericano

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, Titledown Brewery in Green Bay, the Captains Walk Winery in Green Bay, and Polito's Pizza 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.

CHRONOLOGY of EVENTS FOR THE REST OF 2015

December 5, Saturday...Cena di Natale

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

HOLIDAY PARADE MEMORIES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on **Thursday 17 December 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!

