

Founded 1994



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 ex-

change 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 quando

penso a te, E' la gioia che provo quando ti vedo sorridere.

E' il canto che odo quando as-

colto 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 sarò 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 9th at 6:00?** If you do, you will enjoy hearing the music of our **Mariucci Family Quartet and Victor Tec Cob on his violin, 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 2nd 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 **Sunday, January 31st, at 2 pm!** For \$3. per mask you 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! Creativity facilitators will be on hand to ensure that you are inspired to support your inner artist! Workshop members can then dine together, ordering from **Luigi's** wonderful menu!

We need a few people to help hang the masks and set up on Sunday, February 7th. CALL VICKY AT 920-865-7229 IF YOU WILL BE MAKING MASKS and/or SETTING UP WITH US. WE NEED YOUR CREATIVITY!!

DUES! DUES!! DUES!!!

Currently there are 35 club members who have not paid their dues for 2016. That's approximately thirty percent of our membership!

Remember whenever we have an event at the Yacht Club, Green Isle Park, Col-

burn Park, Baird Creek and/or the Unitarian Universalist Church, we need to pay for the use of these facilities.

Our only source of income comes from the annual dues. If you have not already done so, **please put your check (\$15.00 per person) in the mail today. Make the check out to Club ItaloAmericano and**

send it to Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck, 1810 Oakhill Drive, Green Bay, WI 54313.

If you are not planning to renew your membership --and we sincerely hope that is not the case--please call Vicky at 865-7229 so that we can bring our club directory up to date.



A Gift to the Italian Language Program

by Lynn Thompson (aka: Linanna)

Our state organization, **WISITALIA**, has given a financial grant to the **Green Bay Area Public Schools (GBAPS)** again this year, earmarked for use in the **Italian Language Program**, taking place at **East and Preble High Schools!** A check for **\$1,000**, from **WISITALIA** was presented at the **January 18th GBAPS board meeting**.

In attendance were several members of **Club ItaloAmericano**. **Chris Wagner**, who is also the **GBAPS Board Treasurer**, is our closest link to the school board and set up this presentation. Our **president, Teofilo**, introduced our club members and stated the purpose of our presence at the meeting. **Lisa Iapalucci** was our photographer and is handling press releases. **Laurie Stimpson**, the Italian teacher, brings much authentic Italian language and culture to her teaching, having lived in Italy for many years.

Lynn Thompson, liaison between our club, WISITALIA, and the public schools Italian Language Program, provided some background to the board, explaining that the promotion of the Italian language and culture is the mission of both the **Club ItaloAmericano of Greater Green Bay and WISITALIA**, a valuable goal in our increasingly global society. She added that our organizations have been happy to offer our support to the Italian Language Program since its inception in 2008. Throughout these years, **WISITALIA** has provided funds of over **\$12,000**, including startup and annual amounts for materials, in addition to amounts for teacher certification.

Our local club has involved high school Italian students in cultural events, and our members have made numerous presentations to the high school classes.



WisItalia Schools Awards

At the WisItalia meeting on January 2, 2016 WisItalia president Al Rolandi presented checks of \$1,000 each to the following Schools that teach Italian:

Victory Italian Immersion - Principle Janine Cano Graber and Italian Teacher Enrica Fracchia and WisItalia Secretary St. Joseph Catholic Academy in Kenosha - Italian Teacher Alessio Guidice Bradford High School - Italian Teacher Monica Valenti

Also in attendance were Tony Bruno and Frank Alfano from Madison's Italian Workmen's Club. Additionally Professor Sandra Pucci, VP of WisItalia. Carla Guidice wife of Alessio.

CHRONOLOGY of EVENTS

2016

February 9, Tuesday Carnevale
March TBD Dinner & an Italian Movie
April TBD. Bocce Ball League - session 1 begins
June 22, Sunday Bocce Pot Luck
mid July Prima Passeggiata
July TBD. Bocce Ball League - session 2 begins
mid August Seconda Passeggiata
mid September. Terza Passeggiata
October 8, Saturday Spaghetti Dinner
October 18, Tuesday Musicale
November TBD. Dinner & an Italian Movie
November 19, Saturday Green Bay Holiday Parade
December 3, Saturday Cena di Natale

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.

THE CLUB LENDING LIBRARY:

LANZA

A biography of Mario Lanza
by Raymond Strait and Terry Robinson

SINATRA

by Anthony Summers

WONDERS OF ITALY

A Photographic Journey through Landscape, Art and Architecture

Oversize coffee table type book

PAGANINI

A biography of Nicolo Paganini (violinist)
By Leslie Sheppard and Dr. Herbert Axelrod

VERDIE

A biography of Giuseppe Verdi (composer)
By Francis Toyé

GREEN, WHITE, RED

The Italian-American Success Story
By Dominic Pulera

THE COMPLETE OPERAS OF PUCCINI

By Charles Osborne

VIVALDI

By Marc Pincherle

VENICE: LION CITY

By Garry Wills

VENICE

Pictorial Travelogue

By Bonechi

FLORENCE

Pictorial Travelogue

By Bonechi

THE MEDICI

By Ferdinand Schevill

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The next Board meeting will be on **Thursday 18 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 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.

