

Founded 1994



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

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Imigliori augari per il 2016...Ti auguro moltissima felicità, amore, salute e successo pieno digioia e serenità'.

Best wishes for 2016...wish you lot of happiness, love, health and success filled with joy and peace.

Que Buona Festa!

By Lenora Fiorenza Rhyner

Sounds of Buon Natale resounded throughout the **Green Bay Yacht Club on December 5, 2015** as revelers gathered for the **twenty first annual Italian-Inspired Cena di Natale.**

Upon arriving at the venue, both exterior and interior decorations set the tone for the evening's seasonal

gathering. Plentiful antipasti of assorted cheeses, bruschetta with ratatouille and fruit were available. Professionally attired servers circulated among the group with roasted mushroom and kale pizzette.

The Kyle Sweeny Trio (keyboard, sax and bass) who are talented students from **UWGB**, provided festive background music that enhanced the holiday atmosphere.

Teofilo, Club ItaloAmericano president, invited the attendees to proceed to the dining area where tables for sixty were aglow with lit red candles, red and green placemats on white tablecloths and carafes of vino rosso and vino bianco. **Teofilo asked Janice Galt** to give a benediction to begin our feast. After welcoming remarks, acknowledging those who set up for the event and the introduction of board members all was in place to continue this an-

nual tradition.

Primo piatto of mouth-watering vegetable lasagna with white sauce began our plated dinner. As conversazione continued, the secondo piatto of saltimbocca di pollo or braciola di manzo were efficiently and correctly served because of color-coded indicators created by **Janice Galt** at each place setting. In keeping with the Italian tradition, insalata of mixed greens with grilled pears and herb vinaigrette was served next.

Adding to the festive evening, music from the trio and singing Christmas carols in Italian permeated the surroundings before the scrumptious dolci of mascarpone torte was served. Led by our in-resident musicians, namely **John Contratto with Marlene Feira on keyboard** the exuberant diners participated in groups of approximately five that

were assigned one of the 12 days of Christmas with Italian lyrics!! Following this, **John Contratto** entertained with a solo rendition of the **12 Days AFTER Christmas!!! A surprise visit from Bobbo Natale (Santa Claus - aka Merlin Baenen)** arrived to the sound of jingle bells and opportunities to pose for pictures.

A round of applause, a chorus of thanks and a serenade of Silent Night were gratefully given to **Kim Zimmerman and the 11 kitchen staff** who expeditiously prepared and served our repast.

Donations of food or cash were accepted throughout the evening with the collection being given to **St. Patrick's Food Pantry. Donna from the food pantry extends her thanks to the members of the Club Italo Americano for 40 pounds of food and \$90.00 in cash.**

This report would not be complete without expressing our gratitude to co-chairs Mary Teofilo and Peg Anderson and to Merlin and Fatima Baenen who generously offered the perfect social setting for the Cena. Vice-President Vladimir Wojnar summed it up very appropriately by stating that Club ItaloAmericano wouldn't exist without the participation and energy of its members, a fact that was very evident at the evening's Christmas gathering.

Calendar of Events for 2016

Club ItaloAmericano of Green Bay

Our 22nd year

OUR PREMIER EVENTS

Carnevale (think "Mardi Gras") - Tuesday February 9 @ Luigi's on Manitowoc Road

Lent starts tomorrow so we celebrate heartily tonight.

Good food, good friends, lots of "Italianismo" It couldn't be better.

Spaghetti Dinner/Columbus Day Celebration X - Saturday October 8 @ Baird Creek Park Pavillion

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. .

Musicale IX - Tuesday October 18 @ 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 Italian pop music.

Cena di Natale XXI - Saturday December 3 @ 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 in March and Fall Showing in November.

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 -Colburn Park- First session begins in April, second session begins in July.

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 12

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 July, mid August and mid September [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.

33rd Annual Green Bay Holiday Parade - Saturday November 19

Last year we participated for the second time with a float entitled "La Befana" and came home with the "Grand Marshall's Award"!!

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 **Festa Italiana in Mil-**

waukee, just to name a few. If you want to put one together, Vicky will help get the word out.



CARNEVALE IS COMING!

By Lynn Thompson

On Tuesday, February 9th, some Americans celebrate "Fat Tuesday" or (in areas of French influence, such as New Orleans) "Mardi Gras", while Italians will be celebrating "Carnevale", and our club looks forward to our own Carnevale, incorporating many authentic elements of the Italian celebration for our members to enjoy!

Luigi's Italian Bistro at 2733 Manitowoc Road in Green Bay will again be hosting this event. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, and a buffet of Italian delicacies will be served at 7:00, including bruschetta, mussels, sausage and peppers, a selection of pizzas, cheeses, and olives, dolci, soft drinks, and others.

We will be entertained with the live Italian music of the **Mariucci Family and Victor Tec Cob!** Attendees will also enjoy wearing masks and beads, joining their tablemates in an upbeat game of Tombola played in Italian, as well as judging the Venetian-style masks decorating the walls!

The cost for this years Carnevale is again \$25. for members and guests and \$16 for students. *Checks can be sent, payable to the Club Italo/Americano by February 2nd, to Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck; 1810 Oakhill Dr.; Green Bay, WI 54313-4800.*

This year we are offering the fun opportunity for club members and Italian language students to get together on the Sunday before Carnevale (February 7th) at Luigi's at 2:00 pm to make masks together to be displayed at Carnevale. *Materials will be provided at \$3. per mask.*

You are welcome to get creative and bring any additional materials to make a unique and funky or delightful mask. A creativity facilitator will be on hand to support your inner artist. YOU may be one of our mask prize winners!

After the masks have been created, we shall hang and label them to decorate for **Carnevale**. (Anyone wishing to continue working on their masterpiece at home may bring it to Luigi's by 5:30 the night of Carnevale for hanging.) We will then enjoy a tasty meal together from Luigi's wonderful menu, after which we can position the tables for **Carnevale** itself, taking place that Tuesday. *If you can join us for this fun "prequel" to Carnevale, or, if you are interested in helping to set up or clean up for Carnevale, please call Vicky at 920-865-7229.*

Remember to make your reservation by February 2nd, since space is limited. We look forward to celebrating Carnevale with you!

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS

Benvenuto to Chris Rugowski. Chris is club member **Melanie Riley's** boyfriend. Those who attended the 2014 Musicale may remember him accompanying Melanie on the guitar. Welcome!

DID I FORGET TO PAY MY DUES?

Well, that can happen. Your **Club ItaloAmericano** wants to make sure you remain a member. **The 2016 membership dues are \$15 per member and can be mailed to:**

Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck, Treasurer

1810 Oakhill Drive

Green Bay, WI 54313

If you have already taken care of it, Grazie Mille!

If, you're not planning to rejoin, please call Vicky at 865-7229 or email her at dvsobeck@gmail.com with a "no thank you" and we will remove your name from the club directory. We'd like to bring our club directory up to date ASAP.

Ciao,

Club ItaloAmericano

Concert - Sunday, January 3

The Schola d'Arezzo of St. Norbert Abbey will present a concert featuring Gregorian chant and polyphonic music from the Christmas season on January 3. **It will be held at the St. Norbert Abbey Church, 1016 N. Broadway at 2:30 p.m. Director is club member, Fr. Mark Falcone and admission is free.**

Save The Date!!!!

As you start filling in the squares of your 1916 calendars, please skip ahead to December and mark **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 in big red letters. That will be the date of Club I/A's premier event of the year, our annual CENA DI NATALE.**

CLUB LIBRARY

John Contratto is starting 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 Toyne

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

Speaking of Books.....

Club member, *Sue (Baratta) Milewski*, would like to recommend three delightful reads for your winter enjoyment: "Home

to Italy", "Every Sunday", and "Francesca's Kitchen". The author is Peter Pezzelli and they are available at the G.B. Library.

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 21 January 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.

CENA DI NATALE 2015









MORE HOLIDAY PARADE MEMORIES

