

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

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**Cena di Natale 2016**

**By Jo Anna Kloster**

Saturday evening, December 3, was warmer than usual. Possibly because a special angel ordered kinder weather for his extended Italian family. **Club ItaloAmericano's annual Cena di Natale** was a special and bittersweet event for members this year. Our beloved founding father was not among the gathering. He was watching from a much loftier place. And, like **Father Mark Falcone** reminded us, **Pete Feira** was a blessing, whose love made our world a better place. **Marlene Feira**, our founding mother, was with us to remind us how **Pete** would have wanted us to celebrate

this night. Indeed, we did. We celebrated **Pete's legacy and love, with stories, with smiles and embraces.**

We were also blessed to have **Nick Feira son of Marlene and Pete** with us this evening as well. **Teofilo, our president, honored Pete with a remembrance and a toast. Father Mark Falcone** shared his heartfelt tribute, **A BLESSING**, and how much meaning **Pete's** life brought to our world through his love and goodness and ability to bring well-being to others.

Starting the evening was Antipasti e Conversazione. Members were treated to four lovely selections: tomato, olive and basil bruschetta, savory sausage stuffed mushrooms,

authentic Sicilian eggplant caponata, and assorted cheeses. Members mingled around the appetizer table like butterflies in a garden as they tasted and socialized across the hour.

During antipasti, club member **Darrell Sobek and Mark Mariucci** were ever-present with his trusty camera capturing members in front of the Christmas tree and enjoying each other's company.

**Then it was time to mangia!**

After **Teofilo** called all to their seats, Primo Piatto was presented. But not before many got a dunk of crispy bread into the extra virgin olive oil dip which accompanied the meal. The Primo was a real beauty:

linguini l'aglio l'olio with shrimp and parmesan cheese. Accompanying the meal were two lovely selections of typical Italian table wines of red and white. During this time, **Vladimir Wojnar** reminded members how valuable they are to making events like this a success. He invited all to choose one event they like and join the planning committee to make it happen. They would be glad they did as they get to know other members better creating stronger bonds and memories.

Secondo Piatto was unique and scrumptious as well. Some had chicken breast with artichokes, mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes and rosemary in a white wine sauce. Others had herb roasted pork tenderloin with apple chutney. Both selections were accompanied by broccoli rabe with a garlic, olive oil and white wine finish.

To help promote digestion, our insalata course was an Italian orange Christmas Eve salad. Crisp and sweet it cleared the palate. Dolce was a light and fresh selection of fruit skewers covered in dark chocolate accompanied by coffee or tea.

After the meal, we continued our tradition of caroling in Italian as **Janice Galt** and others led us with accompaniment from a trio of musicians from **UW**. **Marlene** requested a second rendition of Silent Night in honor of **Pete**, as it was his favorite carol. Then it was time for the highlight of the evening and **ItaloAmericano tradition**.

**Marlene led us all in a very rousing version of the 12 Days of Christmas, Italian style.**

Clusters of members rose and sat like a celebratory wave moving round the table on cue as they stood to sing each verse. Until the last round. Our very own **Patrick Kloster(elli)** and **Nick Feira** decided we needed to add a bit of naughty to our nice when they substituted their own verse. Don't know if they saved the best for last, but it certainly added spice.

This event would not be the success it is without the hard working planning and take down committee headed by **Peg and Bill Anderson** and assisted by **Steve and Shelley Bowe (for their incredibly inventive and fun table decorations)**, **Patrick Kloster, Fatima Baenen, Vladimir Wojnar, Lisa Iapalucci, Vicky and Darrell Sobek, Janice Galt** and others who pitched in to help return the room to its original set up.

The **ItaloAmericano Cena di Natale 2016** was once again a joy to experience and a blessing to all, as we give great thanks to **Marlene and Pete Feira** for making it possible. Your love lives on!

### **A Heartfelt Thank You**

Dear Club Italo Americano,

Thank you one and all for the love and support you have shown to me and my family since my dear husband Peter passed away on November 28th.

The hugs, tears and shared memories of Pete are a huge comfort. The out pouring of cards, calls, visits, and tributes along with the generous donations in his memory to Alzheimer's research have been absolutely amazing and heartwarming.

Grazie mille and God Bless,

Marlene

### **CONCERT OF GREGORIAN CHANT**

**Schola d'Arezzo, a concert of Gregorian Chant and polyphonic music from the Christmas season will be performed 2:30 p.m. Jan. 8 at St. Norbert Abby Church, 1016 N. Broadway.**

The concert, directed by club member **Father Mark Falcone**, is free.

## **CARNEVALE IS COMING**

### **Mark Your Calendar**

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 some Americans celebrate "Fat Tuesday" or (in areas of French influence, such as New Orleans) "Mardi Gras," while Italians will be celebrating "Carnevale."

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 pm, and the buffet of Italian delicacies will be served at 7:00 pm.**

Look for more information and detail, which will be sent in your invitation. We look forward to celebrating Carnevale with you!

### **WISITALIA Grant for the Italian Language Program**

By Lynn Thompson

The Green Bay Area Public School District Board was presented with a \$1900 check at their December 19th meeting for use in the Italian Language Program.





**Club ItaloAmericano board members Marlene Feira, Teofilo, Vicky Sobek, Janice Galt, and Lynn Thompson were in attendance. Al Rolandi, president of WIS-ITALIA, our state-level organization, presented the grant in honor of Pete Feira who, along with Marlene Feira and GBAPS board and Club ItaloAmericano member, Chris Wagner, was instrumental in launching the Italian Language Program at both East and Preble high schools in 2008.**



Since its inception in 2008, WISITALIA has provided funds of approximately \$16,000, including startup and annual amounts for materials and events, in addition to amounts for teacher certification.

We are so fortunate to have this strong support, as well as to have had such great teachers in the program, **Lisa Meli and Laurie Stimpson**, who bring much authen-

tic personal experience having lived for extensive periods of time in Italy and who are passionate about the Italian language and culture!

**Grazie mille! Viva l'italiano!**

## **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 19 January.**

## **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 sub-

**mitted 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**

**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, Titledown 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.**

## **Cena di Natale Photos**







Wishing you a **New Year** that's...  
sparkling with **fun**...  
bursting with **joy**...  
& crackling with **laughter!**

**Happy  
New Year!**

