

Founded 1994



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

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Observe Lent in Italy

The 40 days leading up to Easter are sacred for Italian Catholics - and anyone who happens to be visiting Italy at the time

Our Paesani

By Francesca Di Meglio

Italy, with Venice's annual festivities, is much more famous for **Carnevale**, the day before Lent begins, than it is for the 40-day countdown to **Easter**. However, among Catholics, who make up the majority of Italy, Lent is the holiest time of year. And there is much work to do in preparation of the anniversary of when Jesus rose from the dead.

Known as **Quaresima**, or the **40th day**, in Italian, Lent is the word Catholics use to describe the fast

before Easter. The idea is to abstain from certain things, especially on Fridays, as penance for our sins, and to reflect on Jesus' resurrection, especially on Sundays during Lent. **Forty is a significant number in the Bible** - to name a few examples, Moses is on the mountain for 40 days, it rains for 40 days and nights in the story of Noah's Arc, and Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness praying and fasting, according to religion and Bible experts.

Today, many Catholics - including many Italians - still make sacrifices or changes during Lent in an attempt to be closer to Jesus. **The most well-known tradition during Lent is meatless Fridays. On Ash Wednesday and every Friday until Easter arrives, Catholics refrain from eating any sort of meat.** Fish, vegetables, and fruits are acceptable. The very old, the very young, and the sick are exempt from this

rule and can eat meat if they so choose. Some Italian Catholics refrain from eating meat on Fridays year round. It's a personal choice and is no longer a Church rule.

In addition to refraining from eating meat on Fridays, most Catholics choose to either do a good deed (volunteering at a hospital, donating food and supplies to the poor, etc.) or to give up something they love (chocolate, watching television) during Lent. The idea is to make a sacrifice like the one Jesus made for us. Many Italian Catholics observe Mass more frequently during the season of Lent. Some even go to morning services everyday. This is especially true of the older generation in Italy. Nowadays, young people in Italy tend to lead more secular lives.

Still, when Holy Week, or the week before Easter rolls around, many

Italians take to Catholicism again. The churches tend to be much fuller than usual on Palm Sunday, where you will typically get small pieces of palm that looks very different than the kind we are used to in the United States. Sometimes, the palm even looks silver and comes wrapped in plastic.

Bottles of holy water are usually blessed and offered to Mass attendants throughout the week (at least that's always been the case in Ischia, where I've celebrated Lent and Easter numerous times). Other highlights of Holy Week include the Stations of the Cross, which are often done outdoors with a procession, and additional live music during many Masses. Of course, the Vatican is one of the most visited destinations during this period - and guests are invited to observe the many important days of Holy Week and the Easter holiday with the pope.

Even for the numerous Italians who are not that religious, Lent is a spiritual time, especially in the south. The weather starts to turn warmer and people get some time off work. There's an air of hope and celebration. The flowers start to bloom and the sun shines, and it seems like God is speaking to the world through nature. In fact, the **English word "Lent" means springtime. It is a time when we are looking forward to rebirth in nature and religion.**

As Easter approaches, Italians - at least those who are tied to tradition - prepare for a big feast. Many of them collect red onion skins that they use to dye Easter eggs. In fact, hardly anyone uses store-bought dyes, which they consider to be poisonous. In other words, don't expect to see pastel colored eggs in Italy during Easter. The bakers among them start to soak wheat for pastiera or wheat pie, which is a typical Neapolitan dessert during the season and a must-have on many Italian dinner tables on Easter Sunday. Wherever you go in the Naples area dur-

ing the Easter season, you will be offered a cup of espresso and a slice of pastiera.

There's a reason that Italy starts to get attention from tourists again at Easter. It's because that's when Italy comes back to life. The secret, however, is that Italy's rebirth begins with Lent.

Now, you know.

NEW MEMBERS

New members this month are **Augustin and Angela Landt**. They tell us they are not Italian but love the language, culture and food!

Also joining us is **Forrest Baulieu, whose wife Mary Prisco** became a member a few months ago.

Benvenuti a tutti! We look forward to meeting you at one of our many activities!

CONDOLENCES

We offer our deepest sympathy to club member **Lisa Meli** whose mother passed away last week.

OOPS—We Are Sorry

We are so sorry that we forgot to thank Chuck and Karen Hockers for their help in taking down the tables and chairs ect. after the **Cena di Natale**. They stayed until everything was put back in place.

So a big thank you and shout out goes to the Hockers.



Promoting the teaching of Italian language and culture

www.wisitalia.org ☐
wisitalia.info@gmail.com ☐

February 24, 2017

LV Teofilo

Club Italo Americano

President

Subject: WisItalia Donation

Caro Teofilo,

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of WisItalia I want to thank you and the Officers and Directors of Club Italo Americano for your generous donation of \$400.00.

Club Italo Americano has a long history of support for WisItalia and we are truly grateful. We are indeed simpatico in our mission to promote the teaching of the Italian Language and Culture in the K through 12 and Post Secondary Schools in Wisconsin.

Club Italo Americano can be so proud of the great achievements at both Preble and Green Bay East High Schools in regards to the development of Italian curriculum in both schools.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and as always tanti auguri avoi.

Con i migliori saluti,

Al

Al Rolandi

WisItalia - President

arolandi@outlook.com

262-957-6866

Dinner and a Movie

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Unfortunately an Italian movie was not scheduled for the Green Bay Film Society International Film Series at the Neville Museum.

In lieu of a movie at the museum, Chuck and Lenora Rhyner would like to invite Club members (maximum of 20) to their home [2430 Morning Star Trail, Green Bay] to view the movie **The Orange Thief** (2008) following dinner at Sammy's Pizza. In this movie, a young thief steals and sells oranges. Thievery gets him tossed in jail

where his cellmate makes him a deal "he can't refuse."

Dinner at Sammy's Pizza will be at 4:45pm. Please call Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck at 865-7229 if you plan to have dinner at Sammy's Pizza and/or view the film at the Rhyner's.

CLUB ACTIVITIES 2017

March 22, Wednesday.....Sammy's Pizza
Dinner Night (5:00 pm)

April Date TBD.....Bocce Ball - session 1
begins

May Date TBD.....Starting Every Sunday
Club Bocce Activity 4:00
pm, Colburn Park

June 11, Sunday.....Bocce Pot Luck,
Colburn Park

July Date TBD.....Bocce Ball - session 2
begins

July Date TBD..... La Prima Passeggiata

August Date TBD...La Seconda Passegg

September Date TBD- La Terza Passeggiata

October 14, Saturday...Eleventh Spaghetti
Dinner/Columbus Day Celebration (Italian
Heritage Month) Green Isle Park Pavilion,
Allouez

October Date TBD.....Musicale X

November Date TBD..... Sammy's Dinner
(4:45 pm) Neville Italian Movie (7:00 pm)

December 16, Saturday...Cena di Natale

Chair: Marlene Feira

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 on

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 16 March.

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

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.