

Founded 1994



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

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**Club ItaloAmericano Spaghetti Dinner 2017**

by JoAnna Kloster

The weather gods may not have been smiling on us, but that didn't dampen anyone's spirits at **Club ItaloAmericano's** annual spaghetti dinner commemorating Italian American month, Saturday, October 14. This year we actually set a record - with 75 people at Green Isle Park, including 10 children!

To start things off right, our socializing hour included food, of course! Bruschetta with fresh topping of tomato, shredded lettuce and a lively Italian dressing as well as two savory and sweet pepper spreads paired with cream cheese and crackers prepared by **Carlene DelBianco and Georgine (Fonzi)**

**Knack.** While noshing, attendees were encouraged to add their lineage to our **Heritage Map** nearby.



**Patrizio Closterelli (Patrick Kloster), our MC** for the evening, informed the crowd that the **Closterelli's have officially adopted Cinisi, Sicily as their Italian city of origin "for the record."** This is such a fun time during the event as members mingle and welcome recent arrivals with hugs, smiles, and genuine

camaraderie.

This year our main course - the spaghetti, the Italian sausage peppers and onions, the marinara sauce and the bread sticks- was prepared by our dear friends **Giovanni and Fara Sollena at Luigi's Bistro.** **Janice Galt** prepared the green salad with fresh tomatoes from the farmer's market. **Patrick** called tables up one by one and dinner was served by **Board members Vicky Piccione Sobeck, Bill and Peg Ricci Anderson, Lynn (Linanna)Thompson, Janice Galt and Dom DelBianco.**



Following the main course, we were treated to a lively “Name That Tune” contest coordinated by **Mark Mariucci and Darrell Sobeck**. Members and guests listened to snippets of Italian and Italian/American songs while trying to guess the name of the tune. Winners were rewarded with Italian specialties like packages of Italian imported pasta etc.

After this invigorating round it was time for Karaoke sing along with **Kitty Rosman & Mark Mariucci** leading. Members formed clusters and sang with gusto to favorite tunes thanks to the magic of the karaoke machine orchestra. Turns out we have some lovely voices in this club. Who knew?

All this singing and dancing (wasn't that **Lisa I. and Mark Z.** doing the foxtrot during karaoke?) primed members for the next round of dining. **Dolce!**



This year we had a lovely white sheet cake festively decorated from Festival and vanilla ice cream to top it off.

As usual, clean up brought out many hands on deck. Members assisted the planning committee in gathering chairs and folding up tables to restore the room for its next event. It is so obvious that this huge event would not happen without a dedicated planning committee.

**MILLE GRAZIE to chairman Dominic DelBianco and all who contrib-**

**uted to this 11th annual spaghetti dinner. Once again it was a huge success!**

## La Celebrazione del Decimo Anniversario della Musicale

By **Lenora Fiorenza Rhyner**

On Tuesday evening, October 24, 2017, the Art Garage on Main Street in Green Bay was transformed into a concert hall in Italy. In spite of the cold, rain, and wind outside, the 100 people in attendance were transported to 19th c. Italy, the golden age of Italian Opera.

The composers featured in the Musicale X included **Giuseppe Verdi (1813- 1901), Giacomo Puccini(1858- 1924), G. Donizetti (1797-1848), Mascagni (1863-1945), V. Bellini (1801- 1835), and G. Rossini (1792 -1868)**. Among these six composers, there were a total of 170 operas written. Twelve of them are represented in our tenth Musicale featuring seven local soloists (four women and three men) who have been our loyal contributors for the past 10 years. This year's theme was “Italian Opera-Singers Choice.” Although it was a performance, it felt more like a family reunion with some serious moments and some light-hearted humor.

As the concert goes entered, Italian music selections chosen and played by the **Mariucci family trio (Ardo, David and Mark) echoed through Studio B**. Just before the Musicale began, **Marlene Feira** explained that she and her deceased husband, **Pete, as co-founders of the Club ItaloAmericano**, had a song that was meaningful to them. Lyrics for the song “Always” were distributed to the audience and with the cue given by **Mark Mariucci**, we all in a resounding voice sang the last verse as a tribute to Pete!

**John Contratto, as our veteran emcee,**

entered playing his concertina and singing the popular aria “La Donna e Mobile” from **Verdi's Rigoletto**. This led into **John's** welcome, introduction and historical background to the evening's opera theme. Among the past Musicale presentations there have been several aspects of Italian music: Neopolitan, Pop Music, Opera, American words to Italian music and Italian words to American music and minor Italian composers.

**Melanie Riley, a graduate of UWGB, currently studying at Lawrence University, was first on the program singing two Verdi compositions, “Sul fil d'soffio etesio” from Falstaff and “Caro Nome” from Rigoletto**. Her summary of the plots of each was a huge help in understanding the emotion behind the singing.

**Felix Torrez, a senior from Southwest High School, opened his portion of the program with “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning” from Oklahoma and “Danza, danza fanciulla” gentile by Francesco Durante**. Felix plans to pursue Music at the college level.

**Suzan Sherman, daughter of our Club ItaloAmericano current president, Teofilo, sang “O mio babbino caro” from Gianni Schicchi by Puccini, the only comic opera that Puccini wrote**. Suzan has an extensive background in entertaining with several groups in the **Green Bay** area and beyond.

**Randi Faye** sang the recognizable “Quando me'n vo” (from **La Boheme**) by **Puccini**. Her stage presence, interaction with the audience and background explanation of her selection demonstrated her far-reaching experience in the entertainment world. **Randi and John Contratto** have worked together for several years. **Suzan Sherman and Randi' Faye** in appropriate head gear, sang “Comic Duet for **Two Cats**” by **Rossini**. It is not an opera but highly entertaining with the only lyrics being “Meow “!!! In Italian “Miaow”!!!



**You have to hear it, to believe it!!!!**

**Marlene (Sparapani ) Feira**, not only accompanied 12 soloists, but treated us to a piano solo titled **“Regnava nel silenzio” by Donizetti from Lucia Di Lammermoor.**

Before beginning the piece, she explained that **John** asked her to play it. She wanted to make us aware that it was seven minutes long with pauses. It was absolutely beautiful with perfect dynamics and played with all her heart and soul. In no way, did it feel like seven minutes. A well-deserved standing ovation followed her performance. **Brava,brava Bravissima, Marlana, and Mille grazie for sharing your talent with us!!!!**

**Kent Paulson**, our baritone in residence, again reminded us that the baritone never gets the girl. He continues to add humor as he explains and summarizes the plots of his chosen selections: **“Questo amor vergogna mia” from Edgar ( 1889) by Puccini**, and **“Nessun dorma” from Turandot (1926) also by Puccini. That is a span of about 40 years! He also sang “Bella siccome un agnello” from Don Pasquale by Donizetti.**

**Jennifer Stevens**, a professional singer, before beginning her opera choices, extended a **“thank you” to Club Italo/Americano** for being one of her supporters that allowed her to study in Rome for 3 weeks. **She sang “Casta Diva” from Norma by Bellini who during his short lifetime( 34 years), wrote 10 operas. Her next selection was “Signore, ascolta!” from Turandot by Puccini.**

**Genardi Maltinski**, a medical doctor by profession, but with an avocation for singing with compassion and passion began his three selections with **“Quando le sere al placido” from Luisa Miller ( a German play) but an opera by Verdi, “Siciliana” from Cavallria Rusticana by Mascagni and finally “Niun mi tema” from Otello by Verdi (1887). Rossini had also written an opera titled Otello in 1810.**

That concludes the ambitious program for **Musicale 2017**. It was an evening not to forget, not only because of the “bel canto” (beautiful music), but because of the mood and warm feeling of those present for the tenth anniversary celebration.

I would be remiss if I didn't extend a sincere thank you to those who set up for this event: **Peg and Bill Anderson, Marlene Feira, Janice Galt and Vicky Sobeck. We are fortunate to have the Mariucci family as club members.** We appreciate that they shared their musical talent at the preconcert celebration. If you have ever worked on any committee, you realize that it doesn't just happen. It takes a village!!

In addition, if it weren't for **John Contratto and Marlene Feira**, this would never have come to fruition. **They were the driving force behind the celebration.**

In their continued generosity, **Fosber American** has again contributed \$100.00 to defray the expenses for the Musicale. We are grateful for their interest and monetary support and extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to them.

**Last but not least, MILLE GRAZIE to all of you, the club members, for your interest, enthusiasm and contributions to our table of plenty. What a variety of hors d'oeuvres (antipasto) and desserts (dolce) that you generously shared!!!!**

## **L'italiano vive a Preble!**

**scritto da Karen Habel-Marshall**

Our 2017 school year started with a whirlwind of ups and downs as we sought to find a solution for our Italian teacher vacancy at **Preble and East**. When it appeared that there was no candidate from outside the district, I volunteered to keep the program going. **Thanks to everyone at DOB and Natasha Rowell, our principal,** we were able to change some schedules

and start the school year without missing a beat! I also teach **Spanish and German**, and I am the **World Language department chairperson at Preble. I studied Italian at Loyola University in Roma** many, many years ago (talk about "ancient Roman history"!!!) Although, unfortunately, this did not mean that **East** could offer the classes this year, students were offered the option to travel to **Preble** for Italian coursework. Preble now has one section of Italiano 1 and one section of Italiano 2. I am so blessed to have been invited into and to become connected with **Club ItaloAmericano**, and it was wonderful putting new faces with names at the meeting. I have reported my experience at the October board meeting to my students, and they are excited to become involved in some events with the Club this year.

**The group of students in the photo are some of the members of the Italian 1 class.** For some, this is their third language (English, Spanish, Hmong)! They are quick to learn and are motivated to speak, which is usually a struggle, but not with this group! So far this year, they have learned a bit of geography, introductions (they all have class Italian names), dates, numbers up to 100, classroom expressions, likes and dislikes, and **il ono-**



**mastico (we celebrated San Francesco d'Assisi) and the Italian soccer league!** We are just starting our new chapter on

"La famiglia" this week! In the next issue I will tell you a bit about the Italiano 2 class.

## Dinner and a Movie

*The movie scheduled for Dinner and a Movie on November 8 is:*

*Days and Clouds (Giorni e Novole) (2007) by director Silvio Soldini*

Elsa and Michele live a life of upper-middle-class luxury; she studies art restoration in her spare time, and he is a founding partner in a successful shipping firm. Their daughter, Alice, is showered with gifts. But when Michele is forced out of the company, the couples faith and commitment to each other is put to the test.

## Green Bay Italian Conversation Club

By Linanna Thompson

Here is the perfect opportunity for club members who are interested in conversing in Italian! **Angela Landt, Italian instructor at St. Norbert College**, started the **Green Bay Italian Conversation Club** this past April. What a great way for those of you who speak Italian or who are advanced students of Italian to enjoy getting together with other Italian speakers to increase your fluency or just enjoy conversing in this beautiful language!!

The club is **NOT** a place for learning Italian nor speaking in English, rather a place to be able to enjoy a couple of hours of speaking Italian each month.

The club usually meets for 2 hours on Saturday mornings once a month. The venue varies. Information is posted on Facebook, if you are interested! Viva l'italiano!

## CENA DI NATALE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Our annual Christmas dinner is **Club Italo-**

**oAmericano's premier event of the year!** Soon you will receive a special invitation via snail mail. Please mark your calendars and save the date!

## OPERA LOVERS

There will be two opportunities to attend an opera in Green Bay during the month of November. The first is "**Hansel and Gretel**" by **Engelbert Humperdinck with the St. Norbert College Opera Workshop**. The performance will be at the **Meyer Theater on Friday, November 10 at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$8 for children.**

**On Saturday, November 18, Bay Park Cinema's "Live at the Metropolitan Opera" series will feature the American premiere of "Exterminating Angel" by Thomas Ades at 11:55 am. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$18 for children.**

**To organize a club event to attend one or both, contact Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck 865-7229 or [dvsobeck@gmail.com](mailto:dvsobeck@gmail.com) with the pertinent info including your contact info and she will email it to the club membership.**

## Share Your Family Roots

By Lenora (Fiorenza) Rhyner

The results of the recent survey indicate that the majority of our members are interested in activities that include events to sample Italian food and opportunities to learn about and share all things Italian.

More than half of the members in **Club ItaloAmericano** are of Italian or Sicilian ancestry. If your heritage includes Italian surnames whether paternal, maternal or both we would like to include their name (s) in the club directory. We would also like to prepare a separate list of the re-

gions from which your ancestors emigrated.

SAMPLE ENTRY:

**Lenora( Fiorenza/Pellegrino) Rhyner ----  
-- Sambuca and Marsala Sicilia**

**Marlene( Sparapani/ Pataconi) Feira ---  
Piemonte, Trentino, LeMarche Italia**

As we gather for **Club ItaloAmericano** activities, this information could be a source of conversation regarding common ancestry, stories, pictures, recipes, traditions and customs of your heritage.

Please send the Italian surnames of your paternal and maternal ancestors and the regions from which they emigrated to Lenora (Fiorenza) Rhyner at:

**[crhyner@new.rr.com](mailto:crhyner@new.rr.com)**

## ITALIAN TEACHER WANTED

By Linanna Thompson

The Green Bay Area Public School District in Green Bay, Wisconsin is looking for a high school Italian teacher to teach Italian 1 and Italian 2, starting this school year, 2017-18. This is currently a 60% position, though additional teaching assignments may be available, depending on the background of the candidate and the needs of the district. The ideal candidate would be interested in growing the program. A general job description for a teacher in the district is available on the district website.

Licensure through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction is required. The following link describes the current alternate pathways to licensure for candidates of many different backgrounds, such as those with a BA degree (and not a teaching license), those with a Wisconsin license (wanting to add an Italian certification), out-of-state teachers, and those from outside the USA.

**<https://dpi.wi.gov/tepd/pathways>**



Green Bay Area Public School District Human Resources personnel are available to meet in person or speak by phone to answer questions and provide additional information to anyone who may be interested in teaching with them.

Interested candidates should contact **Tina Nowak (Human Resources Specialist at the Green Bay Area Public School District): [tmnowak@gbaps.org](mailto:tmnowak@gbaps.org) or 920-448-2155 (internal extension: 50387).**

We look forward to working with you!

Grazie mille!

## CLUB ACTIVITIES 2017

November 8, Wednesday- 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 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 16 November.**

## 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](mailto: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, Angelina Ristorante in Green Bay, Thumb Knuckle Brewing Co. brewery and taproom, just west of Luxemburg and east of the Brown County line on Hwy 54.

Whenever you visit these businesses, please mention that you are a member of Club ItaloAmericano as a support of their business and membership.

## **Spaghetti Dinner 2017**







**MUSICALE 2017**





