

Founded 1994



Il Piccolo Giornale

October, 2017

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

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Italian-American Heritage



National Italian American Heritage Month

Celebrate the many achievements and successes of Italian Americans

Every year the U.S. president signs an executive order designating the month of October as National Italian American Heritage Month. Coinciding with the festivities surrounding Columbus Day, the proclamation is recognition of the many achievements, contributions, and successes of Americans of Italian descent as well as Italians in America.

Over 5.4 million Italians immigrated to the United States between 1820 and 1992. Today there are over 26 million Americans of Italian descent in the United States, making them the fifth largest ethnic group. The country was even named after an Italian, the explorer and geographer

Amerigo Vespucci. One way to celebrate Italian American heritage is with *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Italian History and Culture*, which includes the accomplishments and successes of many Italian Americans.

Federico Fellini, the movie director, once said that "language is culture and culture is the language," and nowhere is this more true than in Italy. There was a time when speaking Italian was considered a crime, but nowadays many Italian Americans are learning Italian to discover more about their family heritage.

TWO BIG EVENTS HONORING ITALIAN/ AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND SAVE THE DATES!

Club ItaloAmericano is celebrating Italian/American heritage month with two of our biggest yearly events.

- **Our eleventh annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 from 4:00-7:30 PM at Green Isle Park pavilion in Allouez— Food, Fun, "Name that Tune", Karaoke and More!!**
- Bring your friends and family, guests are always welcome. Watch for details in a separate invitation via email.
- **Our tenth annual Musicale will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017.** The theme this year is "Italian Opera-Singers Choice".
- **Returning performers are Genadi Maltinski, Jennifer Stevens, Kent Paulsen, Melanie**

Riley, Randi Faye and Suzan Sherman. Felix Torrez, a senior at Southwest High School, will join us for the first time.

- **Please note: we have a new venue. Musicale X will be held at The Art Garage, 1400 Cedar Street. More info to follow at a later date.**

MEMBERSHIP

Please join us in welcoming our new members, **Eddy Thiry and Dain Treml**, co-owners of **Thumb Knuckle Brewing Company** in Lunxemburg.

Eddy is the son of board member **Lynn (aka Linanna) Thompson**.

Benvenuti!



EDDY THIRY @ Green Bay Botanical Garden event Brews, Bistros & Bonfires, September 9, 2017

La Terza Passeggiata

by **Marlene Sparapani Feira**

A small, but optimistic group of 10 met at the **Kress Center on Tuesday, September, 5** eager to begin our third & final **passeggiata of the season on the UWGB campus**.

Allora Mother Nature didn't want to cooperate and she opened the skies on us. We quickly ran to our cars and drove to **Rosati's** where we joined the "oh-so-brave."

The rest of the evening was marvelous! **Renata**, our vivacious Italian speaking waitress catered to our every needs. **Steve**, the owner, told us a humorous story behind the Tuscan mural painted on the wall of our private dining room.

The buffet both tasty and bountiful included garlic bread, salad, make your own Italian beef sandwiches, 2 kinds of baked mostaccioli and (I kid you not) **FIVE** pizzas (pepperoni, sausage, cheese, vegetarian and loaded). Top that off with delicious warm bombolini with caramel, chocolate and raspberry dipping sauces—to die for!

The evening ended on a happy "note" (no pun intended) as **Giovanni Contratto** who, with his concertina, had everyone clapping and singing along.

Mille grazie to **Lee and Beverly Maigaitter** for volunteering to organize this event---Complimenti —Well Done!!

Grazie Mille

I would like to thank the **Club ItaloAmericano of Green Bay** for being a sponsor for my educational opportunity to attend the **OCAVA Summer Vocal Program in Rome, Italy June 18-July 9, 2017**. I was a participant of three weeks of vocal training by international singers, such as; **Dubravka Zubovic, mezzo** and **Milena Kitic, mezzo**, weekly student performances and master classes.

One of the major highlights of the program for me was meeting **Ines Salazar**, a world renowned operatic soprano. She came to our student concerts and she accepted me in her studio to come to Rome, Italy to train with her in Spring 2018.

I enjoy singing for the **Club ItaloAmericano** for our annual performances and it was wonderful to have them as one of my sponsors.

Grazie mille!!!

Jennifer M. Stevens, soprano

www.wakohsiyovisions.com



Jennifer Stevens and Ines Salazar



OPERA OUTINGS

In tallying up the results from our recent survey, several people suggested attending an opera together. We are paying attention to your requests and will continue to do our best to fulfill your wishes.

Bay Park Cinema has recently published their 2017-2018 **"Live at the Metropolitan**

Opera" schedule. The first live date will be "Norma" a 2 act opera by **Vincenzo Bellini on Saturday, October 7**. There will be a second opera "Die Zauberflote" (The Magic Flute) by **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart showing on Saturday, October 14**. Start time for both will be 11:55 AM. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$18 for children.

Please note: **Jennifer Stevens** will be singing "Casta Diva" one of the arias from the opera "Norma" at our **Musicale X on October 24**.

Another opportunity to enjoy opera will be "Hansel and Gretel" by **Engelbert Humperdinck with the St. Norbert College Opera Workshop**. This performance will be at the **Meyer Theater on Friday, November 10 at 7:00 PM**. Tickets will be \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors and \$8 for children.

On **Saturday, November 18**, the featured opera at **Bay Park Cinema** will be the American premiere of "Exterminating Angel" by **Thomas Ades**.

So, there you go Opera Lovers four opportunities in the next 2 months right here in **Green Bay!**

If you would like to organize a club outing to meet for one or all of the above, you can write up an invitation with all the pertinent information including your contact information. **Then contact Vicky (Piccione) Sobeck (865-7229 or dvsobeck@gmail.com) and she will mass email the invitation to the club membership.**

BOOK REVUE

Another request from the survey is to offer more opportunities to learn and share our Italian heritage. Former club member, **Syvia Rauzi McElroy**, has written and published "Walk Brave, Walk Strong", a wonderful book about the life of her father, **Joseph Rauzi**. **Sylvia** has agreed to do a book revue for **Club**

ItaloAmericano in November. In order to decide where to hold this event, we need to get an idea of how many people would attend.

If interested, please email Marlene Sparapani Feira at: canavese1701@gmail.com

Fun Facts About Italy

- At its height in A.D. 117, the Roman Empire stretched from Portugal in the West to Syria in the east, and from Britain in the North to the North African deserts across the Mediterranean. It covered 2.3 million miles (two-thirds the size of the U.S.) and had a population of 120 million people. During the Middle Ages, Rome had perhaps no more than 13,000 residents.
- Like most of Europe, Italy was ravaged in the middle of the fourteenth century by the Black Death, a combination of plagues (chiefly the bubonic) that were carried to Genoa by Italian merchants returning from the Middle East. The recovery stimulated growth and helped spawn humanism and the Renaissance.
- Two Italians in particular contributed to the eighteenth-century's Enlightenment: **Cesare Beccaria (1738-1794)**, whose essays on Crime and Punishment led to broad reforms in the treatment of prisoners and criminals, and **Giambattista Vico (1668-1774)**, a philosopher, rhetorician, and historian who is often thought to have ushered in a modern philosophy of history.
- From 1861 to 1985, more than 26 million people left Italy (mostly from the overcrowded south) to seek a better life. Only one in four came home again.
- The highest peak in Europe is in Italy. Monte Bianco (White Mountain) is

15,771 feet high and is part of the Alps.

- Though Italy's economy lagged behind the rest of Europe during the first half of the twentieth century, currently it is the world's seventh largest economy.
- Italian is a Romance language descended from Vulgar Latin, the dialect spoken by the people living during the last years of the Roman Empire. Italian has more Latin words than any other Romance languages, and its grammatical system remains similar to Latin. Latin is still the official language of the Vatican City in Rome.



Spanish Steps, Rome

- The capital of Italy is Rome (also known as the Eternal City) and is almost 3,000 years old. It has been the capital since 1871 and is home to the Dome of St. Peter's, the Sistine Chapel, the Coliseum, and the famous Trevi Fountain.
- **Italian Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simon (1475-1564)** was once thought to have painted in somber shades, but after his frescos on the Sistine Chapel were cleaned, it was discovered that he actually paint-

ed in bright colors, such as purples, greens, and pinks. Centuries of dirt and smoke from candles had toned down the bright colors. Some art historians argued that the restorers went too far in their cleaning efforts and removed the dark shadows **Michelangelo** intended.

- Over 50 million tourists a year visit Italy. Tourism is vital to Italy's economy and provides nearly 63% of Italy's national income.



Piazza Erbe, Verona

- The pre-dinner passeggiata (evening stroll) is one of Italy's most enduring leisure activities where Italians stroll about the streets to see and be seen.
- When European Jews were being persecuted during WWII, it was not unusual for some Jews to hide in Italy's ancient catacombs.
- **The Shroud of Turin** is an ancient piece of linen cloth believed to bear the faint imprint of a male body, perhaps Jesus Christ after he was killed. It has been in the **Turin's San Giovanni Cathedral** for at least 420 years. While scientists have determined the shroud was made no earlier than the 1200s, others continue to debate when and how the shroud was created.
- In the 1930s and 40s, Italian fascist **Benito Mussolini (1883-1945)** tried to

eliminate foreign words from Italian. In soccer, "goal" became "meta" and Donald Duck became "Paperino." Mickey Mouse became "Topolino" and Goofy became "Pippo." While the ban was not permanent, the Italian names remain common.

- Begun in **1560 for Cosimo I de Medici, the Uffizi Gallery in Florence** is one of the oldest museums in the world and contains famous works by **Michelangelo, Botticelli, and da Vinci**.
- Approximately 85% of Italians are Roman Catholics, with Protestants, Jews, and a growing Muslim community making up the minority.
- Soccer is Italy's most popular sport, and the famous **San Siro Stadium in Milan** holds 85,000 people. Italy has won the World Cup four times (1934, 1938, 1982, and 2006), making the country's team second only to Brazil's in number of wins.
- Soccer was introduced to Italians in the late 1800s by the British, but it was not until the 1930s under **Mussolini** that the sport took off on an international level.
- Soccer fans in Italy are called **ifosi**, meaning "carriers of typhus." Italian soccer fans are known for their rowdy behavior and lack of inhibition.
- In 1454, a real human chess game took place in **Marostica, Italy**. Rather than fight a bloody duel, the winner of the chess game would win the hand of a beautiful girl. To commemorate the event, each September in even-numbered years, the town's main piazza becomes a life-sized chess board.
- Italy has hosted the Olympic Games three times. The 1956 Winter Games were held at **Cortina d Ampezzo, Zuel, and the Dolomite Alps**. The 1960 Summer Olympics were held in

Rome, and Turin hosted the 2006 Winter Olympics.

CLUB ACTIVITIES 2017

September 6, Wednesday.....La Terza Passeggiata

Chair: Lee & Bev (Cavasin) Maigatter

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

October 24, Tuesday..... Musicale X

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 19 October.

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 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

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.

