

Founded 1994



# Il Piccolo Giornale

January-February, 2024

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

Website: <https://www.clubitaloamericano.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ClubItaloAmericanoGB>

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Send comments to: [clubitaloamericano@gmail.com](mailto:clubitaloamericano@gmail.com)

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**This is dual issue January-February 2024**

## **FOUNDERS AWARD 2023**



The Pete and Marlene Feira Founders Award was created in 2019 to recognize and honor individuals who have promoted and furthered the objectives of Club ItaloAmericano to an exceptional extent.

Nominations are sought from club members, the Board of Directors makes recommendations, and then the recipient is chosen by Marlene and her son, Nick Feira. The previous winners were John Contratto, Paul Marino, Lenora (Fiorenza) Rhyner and Merlin and Fatima (Traverso) Baenen.

**Before announcing this year's winner at our Cena di Natale, Marlene read a list of facts about him.**

- \* This person is a charter member of Club IA.
- \* This person has been on the of the Board of Directors, with stints as Vice President and President.
- \* This person put together our monthly newsletter as an interim editor.
- \* This person has organized cooking demonstrations and passeggiate.
- \* This person has held club events at his home, including a bocce potluck and a pizza party.
- \* This person not only chaired our 2022 Spaghetti Dinner, but he also made the sauce and donated the ingredients.
- \* When we needed a sound system, this person purchased a machine with 2 mics and then donated it to the club.
- \* This person enthusiastically shares his deep knowledge of the Italian language, culture, and traditions, such as helping us to understand Italian ways of expression and differences in the regional dialects.
- \* This person contributes his personal knowledge of anything "italianismo," including the contacts he has with his relatives and friends in Italy and his extensive traveling experiences.
- \* This person has given his love and time to Club IA. We are a better club because of his work, dedication, and leadership.

She then announced the winner: **Richard "Riccardo" Daley!**

Unfortunately, Riccardo was unable to attend the Cena. However, members of the Italian language study group were meeting a few days later in Janice Galt's home. They invited Riccardo to join them for a small Christmas luncheon, during which Marlene surprised Riccardo with the plaque wrapped up like a Christmas gift. All three of the club members who had nominated him were there to share the happy occasion.

**Congratulazioni, Riccardo!**

## **A LOOK BACK AT 2023**

In addition to our ongoing monthly activities, here's a rundown of the many activities Club ItaloAmericano has offered for the past year:

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• January - Beginning Italian class - taught by Laurie Stimpson</li><li>• February - Carnevale chaired by Vicky (Piccioni) Sobeck, Patti (Costa) Meyer, Dianne (Coradini), Sutton and Sue Badeau.</li><li>• March - Dinner &amp; a Movie @ the Neville - chaired by Chuck &amp; Lenora (Fiorenza) Rhyner</li><li>• Bring a Friend Night - chaired by Mary (Fascinelli) and Chuck Eifler</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* May - Meet, Greet, and Eat - chaired by Vicky Sobeck, Patti Meyer</li><li>Celebration of Life for Teofilo</li><li>• June - La Prima Passeggiata - organized by Janice Galt and Giovanni Contratto</li><li>• July - La Seconda Passeggiata - organized by Jean and Lou Lucci</li><li>• August - La Terza Passeggiata - organized by Lisa Schroeder</li><li>* Voyage of Discovery Presentation by Adam McClure</li><li>* September - International &amp; Community Festival @ Kroc Center - Mary Prisco, Chair</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green Bay Jazz Concert @ Tarlton D organized by Giovanni Contratto</li><li>Dinner @ Gallaghers, movie @ Rhyners</li><li>Beginning Italian class through UWGB - taught by Lisa Meli</li><li>• October - 15th Musicale - chaired by Giovanni Contratto</li><li>Annual Spaghetti Dinner - chaired by Dom DelBianco</li><li>• December 2 - Cena di Natale - chaired by Marlene (Sparapani) Feira</li></ul> |
|---|--|--|

## FINAL REMINDER - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The \$5.00 discount for paying your annual dues at @20.00/person expires at the end of January. After January 31, the dues will revert to \$25.00/person. Please mail your check to:

Club ItaloAmericano

P.O. Box 12162

Green Bay, WI 54307

At the time of this writing, approximately 2/3 of our membership has paid their dues for 2024!

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES - JANUARY 2024

- Monday, January 1 (New Years Day) - \$6.00 pizza night at the Glass Nickel, 415 Dousman
- Saturday, January 6 - Live at the Met (See Article)
- Saturday, January 13 - Conversation Club - 10:00 to 11:30 - Kress Family Library in De Pere
- Wednesday, January 24 - Presentation by Alberto Aresi - 5:00 pm - Village Grille (See Article)
- Saturday, January 27 - Live at the Met (See Article)
- Saturday, January 6 - Live at the Met (See Article)
- Saturday, January 13 - Conversation Club - 10:00 to 11:30 @ Kress Family Library in De Pere
- Wednesday, January 24 - Presentation by Alberto Aresi - 5:00 pm - Village Grille (See Article)
- Saturday, January 27 - Live at the Met

(See Article)

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES - FEB- RUARY 2024

- Monday, February 6 - \$6.00 pizza night at the Glass Nickel, 415 Dousman
- Saturday, February 10 - Conversation Club - 10:00 to 11:30 @ Kress Family Library in De Pere

## LIVE AT THE MET

This month there will be not one but **TWO** operas showing at the Bay Park Cinema. Both begin at 11:55 a.m.

The first, on January 6, will be NABUCCO by Giuseppe Verdi. The opera follows the plight of the Jews as they are assaulted, conquered, and subsequently exiled from their homeland by the Babylonian king Nabucco.

The best-known number from the opera is the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" ("Va, pensiero, sull'ali Dorate"). \*\*\*Some of you may remember when a group of club members sang this in 2010 for our third-Musicale featuring music from Verdi's operas and again in May 2014 at the unveiling of a bust of Leonardo da Vinci donated by the Paolo Del Bianco Foundation (Florence, Italy) on the UWGB campus.\*\*\*

The second will be CARMEN by Georges Bizet showing on January 27. The 4-act opera is set in Seville, Spain where Carmen works in a cigarette factory. The best-known arias are "Habanera" sung by Carmen and the "Toreador Song" sung by the bullfighter Escamillo.



We will continue with our Italian Idioms in our monthly Il Piccolo Giornale.

Our hope is that you are finding them useful, at times humorous and above all, an addition to your knowledge and appreciation of the Italian language.

As we begin a new year, the idioma italiana per gennaio (January) is:

**Sono andato a Roma e non ho visto il Papa.**

I didn't accomplish what I set out to do.

(lit. I went to Rome, and I didn't see the Pope.)

## PRESENTATION by Alberto Aresi-Mark your Calendars

Following is an introduction to Alberto Aresi's talk (with slides) scheduled for Wednesday, January 24: "It will take you back to Italy, where my son and I went last April, searching for the footprints of my grandfather the architect and an army's officer during WWI.

We landed and visited Milano, notably the Duomo, went to Bergamo for a couple more of the villas he designed in this town.

Next stop, Gandino, where we were invited by the township to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the local public school, one of my grandfather's projects. (We also ended up in the local press and tv news).

Half a day to visit the village of Desenzano del Garda, on the homonym lake, with its medieval castle and ruins of a majestic villa dating back to the Roman age. Moved to the north eastern Alps, visiting the place where the grandfather was sta-

tioned during WWI. The mountain where the first cannon shot of the WWI was fired, the last line of defense against the Austrians, a fortified castle overhanging the valley, sacrario del Monte Grappa, probably the most sacred cemetery of the war, where about 25,000 souls rest forever. Visited Marostica, a village known for the live chess event, Bassano with its famous bridge (and the Grappa), ending the tour in Mantua at Palazzo Te, a masterpiece from 1500. You will hear about architecture, history, geography. [Watch for a separate email with more detailed information.](#)

Grazie, Alberto.

## ARTICLES FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Please feel free to submit articles or pictures for our newsletter. Information for each upcoming month needs to be submitted by the 25th. (think Christmas) of the month. You should email articles as an attachment in Microsoft Word and pictures in a jpeg format.

Questions— call me. Contact information is in our club directory.

## CLUB BUSINESS WEB SITES

We have several club members that are in the restaurant business:

Luigi's Italian Bistro in Green Bay, Tarlton Theatre in Green Bay, Titledown Brewery in Green Bay Thumb Knuckle Brewing in Luxemburg and El Bistro Taco in Green Bay. 2ASolve, which specializes in personal computer, network & data support and consulting, The Bakery.

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

## CLUB BUSINESS WEB SITES

2A Solve in De Pere, <https://www.2asolve.com/>

El Bistro Taco in Green Bay, <https://el-bistro-taco.business.site/>

Luigi's Italian Bistro in Green Bay, <https://www.luigisitalianbistrogreenbay.com/>

Tarlton Theatre in Green Bay, <https://thetarlton.com/>, <https://www.facebook.com/thetarlton/>

Titledown Brewery in Green Bay,

<https://www.titledownbrewing.com/>

Thumb Knuckle Brewing in Luxemburg.

<https://www.thumbknuckle.beer/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/ThumbKnuckleBrewingCo/events/>

<https://www.thebakerygb.com>

## 2023 CENA DI NATALE

### (Recap) by Sue Badeau

The 2023 Cena di Natale was held on Saturday, December 2 at the Green Bay Yacht Club. The evening began at 5:30 with antipasti and conversazione. Music by the Gin and Tonic Tones along with the festive décor was conducive to the spirit of Christmas.

Once seated for dinner, in lieu of a benediction, a rendition of "Caro Gesu Bambino" was performed by Pat (Coscarelli) Gattone on keyboard, her daughter, Mary (Gattone) Rehberg on flute, and Pat's granddaughters, Elizabeth Rehberg and Crystal Winters as vocalists.

The primo piatto consisted of trottale pasta with mushrooms, marsala and mascarpone, Italian bread and olive oil. The secondo piatto was a choice of shrimp skewers with a lemon dill sauce or pastry wrapped stuffed pork loin. The bright tasting insalata included fresh pears, gorgonzola, and a balsamic vinaigrette. A delectable amaretto cake with lemon filling completed our dining experience. Once again, Kim Zimmerman and her staff created an amazing pleasure for the palette.

The evening was of course enlivened by singing of traditional Christmas songs sung in Italian, the most rousing of which was "I Dodici Giorni di Natale", encouraged by chorale directors Marlene Feira and Mary Prisco. Linanna (Lynn) Thompson and Gianina (Janice) Galt also entertained us with an original Italian rendition of "The Night Before Christmas".

The 2023 Founders Award winner, Riccardo Daley, was announced. Riccardo's many contributions to the club, in service, leadership and other generous giftings were some of the reasons Riccardo was chosen as this year's recipient. Congratulations, Riccardo!

With heartfelt appreciation, many thanks to the Cena di Natale committee:

Marlene Feira, chair, Nancy Fowle, Judy Tamplin, Susan Davis, Mark & Luann Finco, Mary



Pricso, Chuck Rhyner, Dianne Sutton, Sue Badeau, Carol Wein-  
hauer, Vicky Sobeck, Patti Meyer, Janice Galt and all who helped  
with the cleanup!



Photos from Cena di Natgale











*Italian culture and history*

## **Venezia**

italia.it

Elegant, inimitable, exciting and romantic, precious: this is Venice, the gem on any tour of Italy where churches, palazzi, ancient bridges, monuments and piazzas confirm its artistic and cultural vitality. All has testified to and continues to testify to the long history of the city. Venice's beating heart is Piazza San Marco, Europe's most elegant living room, which is surrounded by works of indisputable mastery and prestige: the imposing Campanile Bell Tower, and the Basilica with its five portals and decorations in marble and mosaics hinting at the pomp and extravagance of the interior; the Palazzo Ducale, symbol of the various golden temples of La Serenissima ("The Most Serene Republic of Venice"), the Moors' Tower, famously known as the Clock Tower, given the highly-evolved engineering that for centuries has marked the time for Venice; and the Ala Napoleonica housing the Museo Correr.

Several historic cafes yield onto the piazza. Not to be overlooked is the marvelous Caff Florian: opened in 1720, it is the oldest cafe in Italy. The elegant interiors are remarkable for their use of stucco, their paintings and mirrors. And among the illustrious clientele that sat at Florian's tables throughout the centuries, Giacomo Casanova, Lord Byron, Ugo Foscolo and Gabriele d'Annunzio must be mentioned.

Not far from Piazza San Marco lies Campo Santo Stefano and the same-named church.

Venice's campi are historic piazzas, often embellished with central monuments of significance, and dominated by splendid religious buildings, from which the campi often take their name. The streets, rather, are called calli (Italian singular, calle), typical of Venice's plan in which on both sides of the street, one passes





uninterrupted stretches of a single building.

The Venetians say that the best way to know their fantastic city is to take any calle and walk it with your “nose in the air.” That way you can observe everything in front of you without consulting a map, and without missing a beat; don’t be afraid to get lost, as the enchanting paths will always take you back to Piazza San Marco! From here, walking over the Bridge of Sighs to enjoy a breathtaking view of the lagoon, one arrives in the Castello sestiere (neighborhood). Castello abounds with architectural and artistic jewels like the Churches of Santa Maria dei Miracoli and of San Zaccaria, and the Church of San Giovanni in Bragora, considered by many to be one of the most beautiful in the city. Continuing a walk through the calli, visitors will come across the not-to-be missed Arsenale, for centuries the largest in the world. Constructed in the 12th Century and then expanded along with the city’s important political and commercial development, today it hosts the Biennales for Art and Architecture.

The Venice Film Festival, on the other hand, runs inside the Palazzo del Cinema on the island known as the Lido.

From Piazza San Marco, the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore and its high tower raised up on the monumental complex are all visible. It is a masterpiece by several important architects, including the highly-esteemed Andrea Palladio. A museum under the sky, it can be seen in all its glory as one sweeps through the waters of the Canal Grande, the city’s main thoroughfare that begins at the triangular Punta della Dogana, the ancient port of this Marine Republic. Exactly four bridges cross the canal: the Ponte dell’Accademia, the Rialto Bridge (the oldest and most

famous of the bridges), Ponte degli Scalzi (the Bridge of the Barefoot) and Ponte della Costituzione.

The aforementioned Punta della Dogana is the point at which the Canal Grande and the Canale della Giudecca become one (or separate, depending on your perspective). The Dogana da Mar complex is here and, together with Palazzo Grassi, is the seat of the François Pinault Foundation; these are centers for excellence in the category of Contemporary art, in Italy and internationally.

The Peggy Guggenheim Collection is also a huge must; located inside the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni, it holds important artworks from the 20th Century. Continuing in the same direction, one finds other important museums: the Galleries of the Accademia, inside the majestic complex of the Scuola Grande de la Carità, which also comprises the homonymous church and monastery; and Ca’ Rezzonico, one of the most awe-inspiring palaces from the Renaissance and location for the Museum of 18th Century Venice. Remaining in the western part of the city, we can see all the sestieri (Venice is divided into these six diverse zones): Cannaregio, Castello, Dorsoduro, San Marco, San Polo, and Santa Croce, which boasts the most famous campi - or piazzas - in the world, the ones framed by fascinating religious structures and elegant noble palaces.



## The Venice of 118 Islands

Around Venice itself lie the more than one hundred other islands making up this lagoon city - the predominant ones being Burano, world-famous for its lace; Murano and its glass production; Pellestrina, characterized by sand dunes and reed groves; and Torcello, one of the oldest human settlements in the area.

