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Gina Spang - this month's sponsor!

Gina Spang is a long-time member and volunteer of the Italian Community Center. She is the founder and principal of Spang Strategies, LLC. With more than 25 years of experience in the construction industry, Gina works with clients to move their projects forward in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner. Gina is a past President and Vice-President of the Italian Community as well as a past Director-at-Large. Gina is currently Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee and a member of the Festa Advisory Committee. She has provided leadership and guidance in her role during Festa as Operations Manager, Ground Control and Gate Control. Thank you, Gina. Your knowledge and expertise is a great asset to the Italian Community Center.

Election Nominees

At the April 13th General Membership Meeting, Co-chairs John Alioto and Jessica Stocks, presented the slate of nominees. President: Sandy Winard (unopposed), Vice-President: Marie Andaloro-Lieber (unopposed), Secretary: Susie Christiansen (unopposed), Treasurer: Lisa DeSantis (unopposed). The two members running for Sergeant-at-Arms are Tracy Balistreri and Sal LoCoco. The following were nominated for Directors-at-Large: Gina Jorgensen, Christina Ziino, Craig Lieber, Liz Ceraso, Ted Catalano and Joanne Czubek. Members should expect to receive ballots in the mail within the next few days.

Gallery Night at the ICC

Artists Richard Lazzaro, Andre Ferrella and Antonio Testolin displayed their artwork in the ICC Board Room and were in attendance on Friday and Saturday, April 21 & 22, for Third Ward Gallery Night and Day, and on Sunday for Taste of Italy. The exhibit, *It's About Time*, will remain in the Board Room for the month of May for all to view and appreciate.



ICC Happy Hour

ICC Happy Hour will be held on May 24th from 4:00 - 7:00 at Meyer's Restaurant located at 4260 S. 76th Street. Special pricing will be available to ICC Members and friends. Please come and share some camaraderie with fellow ICC members and invite others to join in the fun.

Taste of Italy

The April 23rd event was a smashing success, reports Co-Chairs Marie Lieber and Christina Ziino. Record breaking crowds enjoyed a variety of food and beverages. "We don't think we've ever had this many people since we took over" replied Marie and Christina. Besides great food and drinks, entertainment was provided by dance groups Tradizione Vivente and I Bei Bambini, and singer Greg Rogalinski who brought some of his singers and "Elvis" to perform. A very special thanks to all the volunteers who made this event a tremendous success. "We are also grateful for those companies and individuals who donated products," commented Chris & Marie. Without the volunteers and donors, Taste of Italy would not be the successful event all have come to enjoy.



Chris & Marie pose with the large "Thank You Donors" poster.

ICC Movie Night

Our Friday May 12th movie, "A Dog's Way Home", is being sponsored by Tony and Barbara Lupo. Admission is free for all. Doors open at 6:30 pm with the movie starting at 7:00 pm. Hot dogs, snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. The movie centers around a dog named Bella, a pit bull, who was sent to the owner's aunt to live in New Mexico to avoid capture by Chuck of Animal Control. Missing her owners, Bella traveled over 400 miles in an attempt to reunite with her owners, Lucas and Terry, experiencing many difficult situations along the way. (Tissues will be available to use during the movie!)

Culture Committee

Susie Christiansen, the current Chair of the Culture Committee, shared the vision and plan of the Committee with the members at the April GM Meeting. "The Culture Committee will focus on making prominent all of the things that make the Italian Culture so special – art, food, music, language, traditions, religion and dance" reported Susie. One of the upcoming events the Committee is working on is a trip to Chicago to see the Pompeii Exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry. Look for further information in upcoming weeks from the Culture Committee.

ICC Brewer's Game

Don't forget to sign up to attend the June 11th Brewer's Game. It is a 1:10 pm game and we will be organizing transportation from the ICC. Limited ADA seating is available. Detailed information can be found at iccmke.com.

Mother's Day May 14th



Mothers are like glue. Even when you can't see them, they are still holding the family together. Whether you are fortunate enough to have your mother near, or your mother is smiling down upon you from above, take a moment to send your love and thank her for helping you be the person you've become!

From the Executive Officers, the Board of Directors and Italian Times, Jr. staff,

Happy Mother's Day

With Heavy Hearts we announce the passing of long-time members:



Francesca Yolanda Firle passed away on April 10, 2023. She was the sister of Mary Ann Maglio and Rose Carol Kubiak (who predeceased her). Her children, Charles Firle, Rose Firle-

Schulte and Anthony Firle, say that their mother, as an elementary school teacher, "touched and impacted the lives of numerous families and children..." Francesca was proud of her Italian Heritage and an active member of Ladies of Pompeii (who honored her with the "Angel of the Year" award in 2003), Holy Crucifix, Three Holy Women and Ladies of Unico. In addition, she was a volunteer at Festa since its inception in 1978.



Joseph Bonfiglio, long time member of the Italian Community Center, passed on April 24, 2023 at the age of 93 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Barbara. His children, Pat Piotrowski, John, Cathy Schmidt, Mike, Bob and Mary Bonfiglio, remember their father as enthusiastic with an infectious smile and contagious laugh. Joe was a retired MPS Choir Director and Music Teacher, as well as a member of the Milwaukee Choristers. He also left 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam:

For Tony Zingale:
Jon & Dana Butts
Jimmy & Linda Spataro
Rose E. Spang
Joanne & Ron Czubek
Ted & Ro Glorioso
The Thursday Night Bowlers
Rosemary DeRubertis

For Francesca Firle:
Jimmy & Linda Spataro
Michael & Deborah Behling

For Tureda Crivello:
Ted & Ro Glorioso

For Tony Coffaro:
Ted & Ro Glorioso

For Peter Frank Sorce:
The Peter T. Sorce Family

Our deepest sympathy and continued prayers go out to their family.

Scholarship Awards & Dinner

The Milwaukee Chapter of Unico and The Milwaukee Ladies of Unico invite you to attend the annual scholarship event on Tuesday, May 16th, at the Italian Committee Center. The scholarship recipients are: Anna Muma, Massimiliano Muro, Cooper Wood, Ashley Davies, Brayden Joecks, Olivia Kuth, Sophia Rampulla and Maria Vella. In addition, the Italian Studies Award is being presented to Daniela Chiapetta, and the Citizen of the Year award will go to Michael DeMichele, philanthropist, member of Downer Avenue, Third Ward Boards, and co-owner of Lupi and Iris restaurant. The Milwaukee Ladies of Unico will also make a donation to Gianni Vaccaro, founder of saucemke.org (who was featured in last month's Italian Times, Jr.).

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