



THE ITALIAN TIMES JR.

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Welcome to Alioto Wealth Management Group, this month's sponsor.

Jim Alioto and his daughter, Florence Alioto Prospero, have been longtime members of the Italian Community Center going back to the early 70's. The combined years of Jim and Florence in the financial services industry have provided their clients with a seasoned team and the level of knowledge necessary to help them pursue financial goals and objectives.

A Message From The President

Look for a message from President Sandy Winard in the "Special Festa Issue" coming out in mid May.

Be well,
SW

Festa Update.

Each week, Publicity Chair Tracy Balistreri provides a glimpse of food, entertainment and other fun activities. Go to FestaMKE.com to see everything that has been released so far. Each week until Festa, the Festa website will feature something new and exciting.

Tickets are \$15, but if you plan ahead, you can purchase advance tickets for \$13 each, or a 3-day pass for \$30.

Best Sauce Contest



St. Rita Square is putting the final touches on its Third Annual Milwaukee's Best Sauce Contest. Preliminary judging will be held on May 18th at St. Rita Square, 728 E. Pleasant Street, from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. On Sunday, June 2nd, from noon until 2:00 in the Aurora Pavilion, Festa goers will be able to taste the sauce of the top 6 contestants and vote for their favorite for the coveted "Best Sauce in Milwaukee" honor – cash prizes and awards for the winners. Both meat and meatless Italian red sauces are eligible. Entry fee is \$10. Full details and registration can be found at mkebestsauce.com.

Festa Raffle

First prize is a beautiful blue Vespa, 2nd prize is \$2,000 cash and 3rd prize is \$1,000 cash. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase shortly.

Elections

Christine Conley presented the slate of nominees for the 2024-2025 year. The following were nominated for Executive Board positions:

President: Sandy Winard
Vice-President: Marie Lieber
Secretary: Susie Christiansen
Treasurer: Lisa DeSanctis
Sergeant at Arms: Tracy Balistreri

The above officers were unopposed, so they will serve an additional year, starting August 1, 2024.

Nominations were presented to fill the four (4) open positions for Directors-At-Large. Nominees Bill Stocks and Vivian Balistreri, who were eligible for another term, and Tony Tarantino and Andy Etier, were unopposed and will fill the open positions.

Since there were no contested positions, it will not be necessary to hold an election.

Welcome to the new Directors and congratulations to the Executive Board. Continue the good work. Your dedication and willingness to perform your fiduciary duties will continue to strengthen the Italian Community Center and keep it financially stable in the years to come for our next generation.

Spring Bocce League Tournament Winners

Club Garibaldi #1 from the Wednesday Night League held on to beat Gang Bocce from the Tuesday Afternoon League in a 12-11 victory for the Winter 2023 Session. Tony LoCoco, Jim Lehman, Gary Lisiecki, and Russ Sereno are members of the winning team.

Italian Heritage Day with the Milwaukee Brewers

Ticket for the June 30th Brewers Game against the Chicago Cubs are now sold out! For the \$35 for Members and \$40 for non-members, attendees will enjoy a pre-game tailgate party at the ICC at 11:00 am, and bus transportation to AmFam Field and back to the ICC, and, of course a ticket!

Italian Language Classes

The second session of the Italian Language class started April 9th. Students were asked why they were taking the class. Reasons varied from “going to Italy” to “desire to talk to fellow Italians”. After the current session has been completed, classes will resume in the Fall.



Benvenuti Bambini Workshops

The fourth workshop celebrated pasta making. The kids, with the help of Alex Pawlak from Egg & Flour, made pasta from scratch.



The Culture Committee is planning some fun and exciting funshops for May and June – in May, the children will participate in an Italian Language Scavenger Hunt throughout the ICC, and in June, children will learn about Pompeii and build volcanoes – the funshops will then resume in the Fall.

With Heavy Hearts



Catherine Gazzana, at the young age of 103, passed on April 18, 2024. Catherine and her husband of 75 years, Tony, were charter members of the Italian Community Center. Catherine and Tony, along with their children, Tom, Anthony and Angela (and the late Grace), and later grandchildren, worked at each and every Festa Italiana. She was also a member of Christian Women of the Holy Women Society, St. Joseph Society, Solomon Juneau Club and St. Rita's Parish. Catherine and Tony were also instrumental in starting the Senior Lunches and were Carnevale King and Queen. She truly was a woman who loved and was proud of her Italian Heritage.



Three days after the death of his mother, Catherine Gazzana, Tom passed away unexpectedly on April 21, 2024, at the age of 81. He was the husband of Nancy (Hall) Gazzana for 57 years; father of Laura (Jamie) Gazzana Pagel and David (Stefanie) Gazzana, and grandfather of Lucia and Natalie Gazzana, and Olivia Pagel. Tom happily volunteered to chaperone class trips, coach sports teams and photograph each high school play or musical. He was like a second dad to many of his children's friends, taking pride in their achievements, almost as much as he did for his own kids. Tom held positions at Blue Cross Blue Shield, Managed Health Services, Children's Community Health Plan, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and Cardiac Advancements. He was also involved with the Milwaukee County Child Welfare System, served on the Boards of Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, Children's Family and Community Partnerships and Children's Community Health Plan. He also served on the Board of Clement Manor for over 25 years and was Chairman for 20 of those years. Mayor Tom Barrett proclaimed June 30, 2010, as Thomas M. Gazzana Day, a holiday the family celebrates every year. As with his mother and father, Tom was a volunteer at Festa Italiana for many, many years.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Catherine and Tom Gazzana.

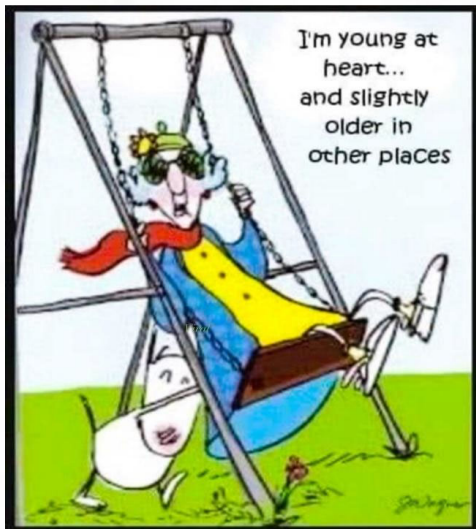
ICC Movie Night

The May 10th movie, *Gladiator*, is being sponsored by Nails by Tracy. Sloppy Joes will be the featured food item. Doors open at 6:30, with the movie starting at 7:00.

Gladiator is a 2000 historical epic. It stars Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix, Connie Nielsen, Tomas Arana, Ralf Möller, Oliver Reed (in his final role), Djimon Hounsou, Derek Jacobi, John Shrapnel, Richard Harris, and Tommy Flanagan.

Crowe portrays Roman General Maximus Decimus Meridius, who is betrayed when Commodus, the ambitious son of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, murders his father and seizes the throne. Reduced to slavery, Maximus becomes a gladiator and is determined to avenge the murders of his family and the emperor.

Bringing a Smile to Your Face



This and That:

Reminder: Renew your membership so you can enjoy all of the benefits the ICC has to offer, and don't forget – registered, paid adult members will receive 2 tickets to Festa!

ICC welcomed new members: Meghan Ferreri and Gary Zandi at the last General Membership Meeting. Welcome!



A Mother's Love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible.

A Mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take.

From the staff of the *Italian Times, Jr.*, the ICC Executive Officers and the ICC Board of Directors, Happy Mother's Day.

Note: The Italian Times, Jr. staff will be working on a special "Festa Issue."

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