

# Amichevole Novita (friendly news)

CATHERINE TRIPALIN MURRAY

There are some things in life that are just meant to be, like the day Ross DePaola, a newcomer to Madison from California, looked over his backyard fence at a garden of tomato plants and met Ross Parisi who not only welcomed him to Monona, but also shared pertinent information about the Italian Workmen's Club. Frank Rane was President back then and with Tony Bruno as his sponsor, DePaola was sworn in as a new member. Unknown at the moment the caliber of person Ross DePaola was, they soon found out through his pride in being Italian, enthusiasm as a member, and genuine interest in doing whatever he could for the benefit of the club. And, as they say, the rest is history.



Ross DePaola was born in the Italian-dominated city of Syracuse, New York. His grandfather, Rosario, born near Messina, Sicily, immigrated to America in 1921. Ross's father, Nicholas, a WWII Navy veteran, met and married Susan Angiolillo in Syracuse and the couple were blessed with seven daughters and three sons, one being Ross.

Ross DePaola also served in the military as a Navy radioman on the USS Oklahoma in Yokouska, Japan, and USS John Paul Jones in San Diego before retiring from military duty as a Vietnam veteran. He received a degree in Environmental Studies and Planning in 1983, with a minor in Physics, established his own business, taught classes at Sonoma State U, was President of Northern California Solar Energy Association and board member of the California Association of Building Energy Consultants.

Life in Madison has been good to Ross, his wife, Penny, and their daughter, Laura.

As owner of Integrated Energy Services for the past 25 years, he conducts his window testing company at his home as WESTLab. Currently, Ross chairs the Commercial Energy Conservation Code Council that sets building energy code standards for Wisconsin. For recreation, Ross likes to garden, make wine, play guitar and volleyball.

As for the Italian Workmen's Club, he started out as the club photographer, took over the Men's Membership and Mailing lists, designed a data base and automated the process. Ross has served as Vice-President, served four terms on the Council, and 10 years as a member of the Festa Italia Committee. In 2007,



he was selected as the Columbian of the Year, a prestigious award for one's dedication to the preservation of Italian heritage and culture.

To you, Ross DePaola, Congratulazioni! We raise our glasses in fine Italian fashion and wish you two very productive and memorable years as President of the Italian Workmen's Club. Salute! ■

## CALENDAR of Events

- Jan 11 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jan 18 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Feb 8 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Feb 15 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Mar 5 – International Festival, Overture Center
- Mar 8 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Mar 15 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Mar 20 – Sauce tasting contest
- Mar 22 – Greenbush Day (UW Welcome Center)
- Apr 9 – Wine and cheese tasting
- Apr 12 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Apr 19 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Apr – Easter Corn party
- May 10 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- May 17 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jun 3-5 – Festa Italia; Anniversary Party for Older Members
- Jun 14 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jun 21 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jul 12 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Jul 19 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Aug 9 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Aug 14 – Club picnic, McFarland Bocce Courts
- Aug 16 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Aug 21 – Bayview Triangle Festival
- Sep 13 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Sep 20 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Sep – Golf tournament, date TBA
- Oct 11 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Oct 18 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Oct – Columbus Day dinner, date TBA
- Nov 8 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Nov 15 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm
- Nov – Thanksgiving Corn party
- Dec 10 – Adult Christmas party
- Dec 11 – Children's Christmas party
- Dec 13 – Council meeting, 7:00 pm
- Dec 20 – Membership meeting, 7:00 pm

This calendar is brought to you compliments of Jim Sirianni, IWC member and Business Manager with UBS Financial Service, Inc.

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Please clip and post this calendar.