

Wickliffe Italian-American Club

The Wickliffe Italian American Club was founded in 1932, and received its non-profit charter in 1933. Our purpose is to promote the social, civic, and cultural fellowship of the Italian heritage.

October 2017

www.wickliffeianda.com



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Rick Continenza
 Vice President: Charles Albertone
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Jim Vincent

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President: Terri Jo Rotondo
 Vice President: Toni Perossa
 Financial Secretary: Donna Yanick
 Recording Secretary: Cheryl Latessa
 Treasurer: Diane Sturniolo

For club information contact Gino Latessa, Club Ambassador at glatessa@marcs.com or 216-789-6393

OCTOBER CLUB EVENTS

- 3 Member Meeting
- 7 Breaking Balls screening at Chagrin Falls Film Fest
- 7 Clambake
- 9 Columbus Day Parade
- 13 Club Night
- 14 Bocce Match with Solon Club
- 15 Club Singles Tournament
- 21 Bocce League Banquet
- 27 Club Night - Grand Finale
- 31 Board Meeting

Check Our Website for a Current List of Events: www.wickliffeianda.com

BUON COMPLEANNO:

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 DANIEL THOMEIER
- 8 JEFFREY SIMON
- 9 OLIVER MARKON
- 9 LORNIE ROTONDO
- 11 RONNIE CONTINENZA
- 12 VICTOR MEZACAPA III
- 13 FRANK THOMAS
- 14 ANTHONY V. CONTINENZA
- 16 CARMEN LATESSA
- 17 RICHARD MATIYASIC
- 19 LOUIS MATTEO
- 22 ANTHONY DIMATTIA
- 26 FRANK TIZZANO
- 28 A. J. DINUNZIO

AUXILIARY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5 DONNA BRASSELL
- 23 BEVERLY LOPARO
- 25 JEAN LATESSA
- 26 JUDY D'ANGELO

GINO LATESSA TO RECEIVE AN AWARD

The Italian American community will celebrate National Italian American Heritage Month in October and will be honoring companies and individuals who have made - and continue to make significant contributions to our community. The celebration kicks off on Monday, October 2, 2017 in the rotunda at Cleveland City Hall. It's a FREE event that's open to the public.

Among this year's honorees is Gino Latessa. He joins an elite group of people who will be honored, this year. It's a fitting tribute to someone who epitomizes the spirit of Italian Americans who immigrated to the United States and made their mark as hard working, prideful, family-centric contributors to the American way of life. He is an ever-present supporter of organizations, causes and individuals who promote and preserve the well-being and legacy of our heritage. He served as president of the Wickliffe I&A for 16 years, has been at the forefront of the Cleveland Challenge Cup of Bocce since 1987, and is a major promoter of programs like "Radio Italia" at WRUW and WJCU's "Memories from Italy" that help preserve our heritage in Northeast Ohio. A 'salt-of-the-earth' guy, Gino 'rolls up his sleeves' whenever and wherever he's needed in the community.

Join us on October 2nd to honor Gino and others who are being recognized in a special ceremony that evening. Visit the website for more information: www.CLEitalianamericans.com.



2017 CLEVELAND CHALLENGE CUP OF BOCCE - RECAP

On a perfect late-August weekend, 104 men's bocce teams from various parts of the U.S. and Canada, assembled at the beautiful grounds of the Wickliffe Italian-American Club to compete for over \$17,000 in prize money, vying to see who were the best players on the circuit. This tournament has become a jewel on the regional and now national bocce scene, not only because the competition is stiff, but the event itself has turned into an annual celebration of all things Italian and especially friends, family, and food! The constant entertainment that runs throughout the weekend has something for everyone - from magicians and animal acts for the kids, to Italian music, Sinatra, and rock music for dancing. It's a lively atmosphere as well as a safe and friendly one. Spectators actually come to watch the bocce players compete, and are knowledgeable about the sport. The players appreciate the support and respect. The game really has a unique niche on the American sports circuit.

The trend over the last few years has been the ascendancy of the younger players - players from their early 20's to late 30's, rising quickly to dominate play. This year however, the veteran teams played solidly and several moved into the final rounds, poised to capture the Challenge Cup. Among them were Palazzo 777 (Detroit/Toronto) and The Matrice Club (from Cleveland/Collinwood) playing in the Loser's Bracket

semi-final, while the Vandra Brothers (4 times champion from Cleveland/Mayfield, and ABV Contracting - the 2014 and 2015 champions (also from Cleveland/Mayfield), were poised to compete to see who would stay undefeated or who would have to play a game in the loser's bracket to get back to the finals.

The Matrice club was on the verge of moving on when they surged out to a 13-6 lead. But the international all-star

team that is Palazzo 777 came back to score 8 consecutive points to grab the win, 14-13. Vandra Brothers jumped out in front early against ABV and never let up, winning 14-2. So that put ABV back into the loser's bracket to square off against the dangerous Palazzo 777. In a see-saw battle, ABV moved out to a 13-10 lead. The next frame required a measurement by the official to determine who had the point. Palazzo then had to try and hit the game point out, but Pat Pezzin from Palazzo 777 missed the hit and ABV won the match.

So that pit the 2012 Champions (Vandra Brothers) against the 2014-15 Champions (ABV Contractors), who beat the 2013 Champions (Palazzo 777) to get to the finals! Got all that? The Vandra Brothers team, consisting of Anthony Melaragno, Bruno Ianetta, Felice Scala, and Renato Patete, had a determined look and a confident air about them. They jumped out to a 9-3 lead over the young ABV team (Michael Frabotta, Domenic Aveni, Dennis Strnad, and Anthony Michael Croce) whose average age was around 25 years old. ABV's normally reliable hitter Anthony Michael Croce, had a rough game, missing on several hits, while Vandra's Bruno Iannetta was not. ABV looked like they were staging a comeback after falling to a 9-3 deficit, but they just couldn't get over the hump, eventually falling to Vandra by a score of 16-10.



WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP



Twelve women's teams took the courts on Saturday morning with two teams remaining Sunday evening. Toccolana # 2 from Rome, NY emerged from the winner's bracket, and Formica Plumbing from Wickliffe, OH, who had lost to Toccolana in an earlier round, worked their way back through the loser's bracket to set up the championship game with Toccolana. Formica Plumbing would have to beat Toccolana twice to claim the championship.

Formica was able to even the score with Toccolana to set up the final championship game. Toccolana jumped out to a 6-3 lead, but Formica came storming back with a 9-3 run, making the score 12 to 9 heading into the 14th frame. The game see-sawed back and forth and ended up tied 15-15 going into the 20th and final frame. With

the hometown crowd solidly behind them, the match came down to the last ball. With Formica Plumbing gathered at center court to discuss their strategy, the crowd was excited with anticipation. Maryann Gaydos stepped up and angled her shot down the left side of the court and the shot appeared quick off the release, but once the ball reached the left wall, it suddenly lost velocity and rolled between the pallino and Toccolana's ball, stealing the point and capturing the Cleveland Challenge Cup of Bocce Women's Division Championship! The crowd roared in appreciation of an exciting match as the team ran toward Gaydos, hugging and smiling in pure happiness! Congratulations to ladies on Formica Plumbing: Rose Matiyasic (captain), Maryann Gaydos, Stacey Anne Bumbarger, and Julie Formica.