



May 2018
Volume 36 No. 5

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

American Italian Heritage Society

The American Italian Heritage Society encourages, promotes and preserves Italian culture and heritage with activities centered upon Italian traditions, foods, language, religious fests, history, folklore, customs, celebrations, music, dance and family genealogy.

Membership Benefits

- Monthly Membership Meetings
Camaraderie with members discussing Italian interests. Guest speakers on such topics as history, culture, foods, travel, oral histories and genealogy.
- Sausage Sales
AIHS makes Italian Sausage three times a year as a fundraiser for the Society.
- Scholarships
Two generous College scholarships given out yearly to active members active children.
- Complimentary Events
The Summer Family Picnic and The Epiphany Celebration offer complimentary dinner and entertainment.
- Educational Classes and Membership Events throughout the year.
- Newsletter
Monthly Newsletter in color, the pipeline for information and communication of Society events and interesting articles on Italian heritage.
- La Festa Italiana
A Celebration of Italian Heritage for the Omaha community for over 35 years.

Please Join AIHS today!

**Call our office at 402.493.8888x1 or email to
secretary@omahaitaly.com for an application. Our website is www.omahaitaly.com**

Enroll a new member during our membership drive!

The Mission Statement of the American Italian Heritage Society

The fundamental purpose of the American Italian Heritage Society is to encourage, promote and preserve Italian culture and heritage with its activities centered upon Italian traditions, foods, language, culture, history, religion, folklore, customs, celebrations, music and family genealogy. Your president and board of directors are dedicated to this mission but we need your moral and financial support to be successful.

The News is a monthly publication of the American Italian Heritage Society, an independent, nonprofit organization, legally incorporated in Nebraska. The deadline for submissions is the second Wednesday of the month. Correspondence and articles can be sent to secretary@omahaitaly.com.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lunch Buffett

Every Thursday from 11am to 1:30 pm
Price \$12.50 - tax included

A Love Story

Friday, April 27 - 6:30pm

AIHS Cooking Class

Saturday, June 2 - 9am to 12pm

Wine Tasting Experience

Saturday, May 5 - 6:30pm - 10:00

AIHS Cook Out

Friday, May 18—6pm to 10pm

AIHS Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 3 - 1 to 5 pm

Santa Lucia Festival June 7-10

www.santaluciafestival.com

**Membership Drive
Enroll a New Member!**

The American Italian Heritage Society is having a Membership Drive from now until June 15th. The Membership Committee has a goal of increasing the membership by at least 25%. Encourage family members and friends to participate and become part of our organization. We are asking that all members **recruit one new member** (single or family) to join the Society. If all our members do this, our membership will double. Let's hope that happens.

Membership applications will now have a section designated to include "sponsor" which can be found at the bottom of the application. Contact Diana at 402-493-8888 to request a application to be sent to you by either mail or email. If you enroll a new member, put your name on their application as the sponsor. The top three recruiting members who get the most new members enrolled will be eligible for one of three prizes that we are offering in this drive.

Prizes for top recruiting members include:

College World Series Tailgate Party for Ten People
\$100.00 Gift Certificate to Pasta Amore Restaurant
10 Pounds of our most popular AIHS Sausage

Recruit a new member today!

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Member Meeting: Monday, May 14 at 7:30

Festa Captains Kickoff Meeting: Wed, May 23 at 7pm

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The meeting held April 9th was called to order by Pres. Terry Bolamperti with 32 members present. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with Lou Buda and Jim Caniglia as flag bearers. Dr. Terry presented the previous month's meeting minutes which were approved. The Treasurer report was given by AIHS Treasurer Denny McGuire which was discussed and approved. He reported that our balances are very close to those of April 2017. He did recommend that we advertise more to get venue rentals.

Old business was discussed including the membership drive. The membership committee is suggesting that all members recruit a new member to join the Society. Prizes for the top 3 recruiters was once again announced (see membership article above). Dr. Terry gave a report on St. Josephs Day celebration which was well attended. Over \$550.00 was collected by those who attended. After costs are deducted, the rest will be donated to St. Vincent DePaul to help the poor in honor of St. Joseph. Lucille Gibilisco was recognized and thanked for her 30 some years of chairing this event.

Tom Morinelli gave a report on the Bocce Ball League. The March Sausage Fundraiser was successful however many customers had to wait longer than normal due to a power outage in the kitchen and a shortage of Society volunteers. We are asking for more volunteers for the 4th of July sausage fundraiser.

New business was discussed including the popular Beginning Italian Language Class which will be taught by our new member Endri Dadoli. Classes will be held each Wednesday till the 23rd of May. The Cooking Class featuring pasta sauces from three different regions of Italy was received with much enthusiasm. The class was so popular that it filled quickly. Another class is scheduled in early June for those that called after the class was sold out.

The AIHS Wine Tasting Experience will be held May 5 and chaired by Tom Morinelli. There are seats available for this event. The Spaghetti and Meatball/Sausage Dinner will be chaired by Ed Wortman and Jim Leonardo. They reported volunteers are still needed but the event is on track to be well organized.

The meeting was adjourned and the winners were drawn for the Piece of the Pie. Members enjoyed camaraderie and a light meal served by Wayne Moore the Vice President and Tom Morinelli.

We will have a guest speaker at the May membership meeting. Member Clint Rushing will give a presentation on "Financial Planning for the Future". We hope to have some interested young members attend this meeting. Look forward to seeing you there. Ciao

Submitted by: Dr Terry Bolamperti, President



Italian Wine Tasting Experience

*May 5 at 6:30 p.m. \$50/person
RSVP by April 27 to 402-493-8888 ext 1*

Quaffing

Cheese, Fruits, Olives & Bread paired with red wine
Fattoria Di Lucignao Chianti 2014 white wine
Ca'Adua Agavi 2015

Soup & Salad

Fresh Spring Mix Garden Salad, grape tomatoes,
dried cranberries and Italian Dressing. Chicken and
rice soup with artichokes paired with white wine
Balestri Valda Soave Classico 2016

Dinner

Beef Tenderloin Florentine with grilled asparagus
and Pasta Bolognese paired with red wine Perticaia
Montefalco Rosso 2014

Dessert

Zabaione w/strawberries paired with
Nivasco Piemonte Brachetto 2016



**This is a pre-pay event, if you haven't paid yet please contact
Diana at 402.493.8888 x1**

We had a huge response to the Cooking Class for the sauces from three different regions. We added a second class and unfortunately, that class is filled as well. Watch for more cooking classes in the future.



facebook.com/AIHSOmaha



www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEMBERS' SUMMER PICNIC

All AIHS members and their families are invited to our annual summer picnic on Sunday, June 3 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rain or shine -- Lunch will be served at 2:00 p.m.

Complimentary sausage and peppers, hotdogs, snacks, beer, pop and wine will be served. Members are asked to bring side dishes, appetizers, salads, chips or desserts.

We encourage kids of all ages to attend as there will be plenty of activities for them. Horseshoes and bocce balls will be provided. Feel free to bring kid games, baseball bats, balls, gloves, footballs or frisbees. Chairs will not be provided.

Please bring lawn chairs, light tables, coolers or blankets.

RSVP: 402-493-8888 x1 or secretary@omahaitaly.com

**BOCCE BALL UPDATE 2018**

Indoor Bocce season ended March 21st with a tournament and a pot luck dinner. Six teams with a total of 21 players competed on Wednesday nights thru March. The league welcomed three first time participants, including Lou Ann and Rich Norton and Mike Powers.

The Bocce League congratulates Team Turino for winning the league title. Team members included Bob Decker and Jeff & Tom Morinelli. The end of season tournament title was won by Team Sons of Italy. Team

members included are Al & Tony Italia, Dan Matuella and George Grillo.

The season was very competitive and enjoyable. New team members as well as established team members rolled well throughout the season.

The next AIHS Indoor Bocce season is scheduled to begin in January 2019. Watch the Newsletter for updates. Any questions about the "Bocce League" can be directed to Tom Morinelli at 402.312.5959 or tmorinelli@hotmail.com. Let the good times roll!



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Strictly Fun!**Our next Social Event for 2018**

For members and friends

Cook out in our backyard

Friday May 18th from 6pm to 10pm

\$18.00 members \$23.00 non members

Reservations and prepay

by check, are required

Grilled Filet Mignon, baked potatoes,

corn on the cob, salad & spumoni

Bocce ball & Horseshoes provided

(Cards or tables games may be brought)

Inclement weather/we will be inside

The American Italian Heritage Society is proud to be participating in Omaha Gives!

A 24-hour charitable challenge by the Omaha Community Foundation. The online giving holiday will take place May 23 from midnight to midnight.

How can you help AIHS during Omaha Gives!?

- Save the date. May 23, 2018 will be a great day of generosity in Omaha.
- Schedule a gift between May 1 and May 22.
- Make a donation of \$10 or more to AIHS on May 23!
- Spread the word! Tell your friends that you need their help.

• Share/Like the AIHS Posts about Omaha Gives! on FB.

OmahaGives.com/AIHS



La Festa Italiana 2018 will be held once again at il Palazzo during Labor Day Weekend August 31st, September 1st and 2nd.

The **Festa Captains Kick-off Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, May 23 at 7:00 p.m. Organizational meetings will be held periodically for the next few months. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, please contact the Festa Chairman Dr. Terry Bolamperti at 402-333-6815 or terry@bolamperti.com.

We really need volunteers for all our food preparation and baking. This is a good way to get to know Society members and learn how to bake our traditional Italian cookies. For dates and volunteer opportunities, **please contact Diana at 402-493-8888x1 or secretary@omahaitaly.com**.

**Pasta Amore**

Lunch: Tues-Fri 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner: Tues-Sat 4:30 p.m.-Close

Closed Sunday & Monday

**Rockbrook Village 108th & Center
402.391.2585**

Come and enjoy lunch or dinner!




THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers these members who are ill, including George Scalise, Teri Carlino, Helen Rotella, Romana Olivotto and Ernie Mascarello.

Picture of members Dana Morinelli & Brad Williams' son, Barrett at Grandparents house on Easter Sunday. Catching up on the News. Do you read your Newsletter?

Please read your Newsletter so you are informed of all Social Events and up to date on the News.



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Spaghetti Dinner Report

Our Spring Spaghetti and Meatball/Sausage Dinner was held Sunday, April 15, 2018 the day after an unexpected Spring snow storm. Despite the nasty weather we had a very good crowd of nearly 750 attending. We want to thank all the members who sold tickets and attended the dinner. Your support is truly appreciated. Special thanks goes out to the co-chairs Ed Wortman and Jim Leonardo. This was the first major event that Ed and Jim chaired and together with their wives did a wonderful job of organizing the dinner and getting volunteers to fill all the positions for such an event.

Due to the fact that there was a scheduled event at the Palazzo the night before, cleaning of the banquet hall and the set up of the entire spaghetti dinner had to be done the morning of. Ed and Jim had it very organized and the event went smoothly. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all who attended. Many positive comments were made by guests. We want to thank Dr. Ted Bolamperti and his crew for preparing and cooking the sauce and meatballs. Thanks goes out to the crew that came in the day before the dinner to precook the pasta. We thank Bob Rodino and his kitchen crew for getting the food out to the serving line and takeout area without any guests waiting any length of time. Thank you to the salad crew. Jim Caniglia and his crew did a wonderful job running the "Takeout" area. Jim Leonardo and his crew served guests quickly and efficiently at the serving line. Rose Koch, Cookie Ladwig, Carmen Grosse and their crew, sold all the homemade Italian cookies, cakes, cannoli and desserts as they worked the bake sale. We appreciate all those members who took the time and effort to bake and bring items for the bake sale. We want to thank all those volunteers who worked at the front desk, the membership table, the bar, those bussing and cleaning tables and those greeting guests. Special thanks also goes out to those helping after the dinner and clean up of the hall and kitchen. It takes many, many volunteers to put on this event and I want to thank each and every one who helped in any way. The success of this spaghetti dinner is due to our wonderful, dedicated, hardworking volunteers. We can't thank you enough for all you do for the Society. Many thanks once again to member Lou Rotella of Rotella's Italian Bakery for his generosity in donating the bread. His continued support is sincerely appreciated.

Mille Grazie, Mille Grazie a tutti!!

Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

MEMBER FEATURE LUCILLE IDA GIBILISCO



Born on Dec 15th, 1927 to Francesco and Adelina Favara, who arrived in America in 1905. They were both born and raised in Carlentini, Italy. Adelina was a housewife and Francesco graduated from a Conservatory of Music in Palermo. He was the first music teacher of stringed instruments in Omaha. The couple had 5 children born and raised here in Omaha. Lucille was the youngest. She had two brothers and two sisters and they have since passed.

Lucille met her husband, Fred Paul Gibilisco at South High School. She thought he was the most handsome boy she had ever met! Since he was 4 years her senior, he left for the Army in 1943 and fought in the China, Burma and India Theater of War. Upon his return, they were married and blessed with three boys and one girl, all born and raised here too.

She and Fred joined the Society May 1, 1986 thirty two years ago next month. They both worked diligently for the Cultural Committee, photography being his special interest. Hers was gathering pictures' of many families, mounting and displaying them at many, many La Festa Italianas. She loved sharing tid bits about this and that.

She and Fred also represented Italian of Omaha to Union Pacific Blend multicultural observances, displaying many Italian artifacts in their lobby.

Lucille had a daycare in her home. She retired from this in 2015 after 62 years of caring for over 200 children and infants. While she misses her daycare children, her 22 great grandchildren help to fill the void.

Lucille was named Woman of the Year in 1998 along with Dr. Terry Bolamperti as the Man of the Year. Her interests were many, Wild Game Feed dinners, Friday Night Lenten Dinners, baking of the cookies, cannoli and pizzas. She Chaired many events, the Autumn Dinner Dance and St. Joseph's Day Celebrations. In fact, 2018 was her last year of Chairing St. Joseph's Day in which she had done for 30 years. She additionally sang in the Choir since it's inception and served as the Co-Ordinator. Lucille also served on the Election of the Board Members Committee.

Fred has been gone since 2007 but Lucille feels she had a beautiful and full life with Fred and her children. The American Italian Heritage Society has been a huge part of their life, meeting and making long time friends and wonderful memories, for all this, Lucille sincerely thanks the American Italian Heritage Society and it's Founding Members.

Submitted by Diana Cotten

AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board: Larry Pence
President: Dr. Terry Bolamperti
Vice President: Wayne Moore
Secretary: Ed Wortman
Treasurer: Dennis McGuire

Board Members:
Jim Leonardo
Terry Pirruccello
Dawn Abboud
Missy Orlando

The American Italian Heritage Society
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402.493.8888 x1 Fax: 402.493.1502



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5110 North 132 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Return Service Requested



Happy Mothers Day/ Buona Festa Della Mamma

**Enjoy Fresh, Authentic
Italian and American Menu
Weekly at il Palazzo!**

**Thursday Lunch Buffett
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

Menus available on OmahaPalazzo.com
or call 402-493-8888 x2



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