



November 2018
Volume 36 No. 11

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

SAUSAGE SALE

**Saturday, Dec. 8
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Sausage: \$27 / 5 pounds
Peppers: \$13 / quart
Olives: \$11 / quart



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Thursday, Dec. 6 & Friday, Dec. 7
from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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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**Spaghetti Dinner**

Sunday, November 4 - 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$9 - Children \$4.50

Takeout available - please bring own containers

Members please bring desserts for Bake Sale.

****Society Specialty Foods for Sale at Spaghetti Dinner****

Members have asked for our popular food items to be available for purchase. We are making the following items **fresh** for you to purchase: **spaghetti sauce, meatballs, sausage, peppers, olives and salad dressing.**

November Member Meeting

Monday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.

December Cookie Exchange

December 10 at Member Meeting

**OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

The General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Lou Buda and Steve LaGreca as flag-bearers. There were 33 members in attendance. New members were welcomed including Denise Marietta-Adams and Elio Sofia. Denise and her family have just moved back to Omaha from Arizona. She's originally from Brooklyn, NY. Her mother's family were from Trieste and her father's family from Naples. She was an member in 1981 and volunteered for the Festa when it was held at Peony Park. Elio Sofia has been in the US for only 12 days and is from Catania, Sicily. He has spent a lot of time in Carlentini, where a lot of our members' families are from. He left his parents and family members to come to America to start a new life. He is currently looking for work and he has experience in the film making business. His story reminded a lot of us at the meeting of what our grandparents went through when they came to America many years ago.

The Treasure's Report was given by Terry Bolamperti on behalf of Treasurer Denny McGuire and approved by the membership. Old business was discussed including the cooking and language classes which will be considered after Christmas. A detailed Festa report was given discussing booth revenues and all aspects of the event. Terry Bolamperti once again thanked all volunteers that helped in any way.

New business was discussed including a short presentation by Terry Bolamperti honoring Christopher Columbus on the holiday commemorating his Discovery of America. Revision of our "Taste of Italy" cookbook was discussed. A committee will be set up to take on this task.

The Spaghetti Dinner will be held on November 4th and all are asked to attend, sell tickets and to volunteer if possible to make it a success. Many signed up to help at the meeting. Also, it was announced that AIHS specialty food items will be sold at the Spaghetti Dinner, including sauce, meatballs, sausage, peppers, olives and salad dressing. We will also be selling Italian pastries at the Bake Sale along with Festa T-shirts and sweatshirts. Please support the Spaghetti Dinner.

There will be a Italian History Harvest program presented by a UNL professor and his students on Sunday, October 28th at the Santa Lucia Hall from 1:00-5:00 pm. They will interview Italians who have history to share about Little Italy in Omaha. Artifacts and oral history are most welcomed. Members of the AIHS, Sons of Italy and the Santa Lucia will participate along with any other Italians interested.

The Board Elections were discussed and nominations from the floor can be taken at this October meeting. Member Pat Petersen accepted his nomination and will run for the Board. Lisa Garrett was nominated last month. Board Elections will be held at the November membership meeting.

The meeting was adjourned and the Piece of the Pie winners were drawn. Festa pizza and soup was prepared and served by Wayne Moore and Rosetta Leo-Koch. We welcome all members to attend the next meeting on Nov. 12.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

BOARD ELECTIONS

According to the Bylaws, Board Elections will be held at the **November 12 Membership Meeting**. Nominees are approved by the vote of the general membership. Members who are up-to-date on their membership dues will be given a ballot to approve/disapprove individual nominees. After voting, ballots will be counted and results will immediately be announced and reported to those in attendance. If any member is unable to attend, an absentee ballot must be returned to the AIHS office by the Friday, November 9 in a sealed envelope marked **BALLOT** on the front with **both printed name(s) and signature(s) on the back for validation**. Absentee ballots will be validated by the Secretary and/or the Nominating Committee.

LISA BOLAMPERTI-GARRETT: I have been a member of the AIHS for over 30 years. I have been involved with AIHS in many ways such as spaghetti dinners, the Epiphany, sausage sales and others. My biggest contribution over the years has been my involvement with La Festa. Starting out, I was a folk dancer, food runner, captain of the Food Line then became the choreographer for the popular Festa Productions. Recently, I have been a member of the Palazzo Operating Committee, the captain of the Front Gate and now the Volunteer check In. I'm married to Jim Garrett, the Emcee at La Festa for over 20 years. Our 4 boys, Sam, Joe, Nick and Tony have been involved with the AIHS and La Festa since they could walk. Italian culture is a cornerstone of our family. I feel that my over 30 years experience as an active member, patron, and participant will be an asset to the AIHS Board of Directors and the mission that AIHS was created for.

PATRICK PETERSON: I've been a member of the American Italian Heritage Society for about 1 1/2 years. I've been married to my high school sweetheart Anita for 39 years. We have 3 incredible children all in their 20's and my youngest son Niccolo, also joined the Society with me. I retired in 2015 after 39 years with Kellogg's Cereal Company, where I worked in Production for 25 years and the remainder as a Full Time Trainer and Quality Control & Food Safety. I'm a volunteer with the SVdP Society and the Nebraska Humane Society. All of my maternal great parents are from Carlentini and Lentini Sicily. I've been active member in the Society since joining and enjoy sharing our Italian Heritage. My focuses are on strengthening our Society and a passion for how to encourage the next generation of Italians to become involved and to learn more about their Italian Heritage. I believe the only way to keep this great organization alive is to teach young people the importance and pride of their Italian Heritage.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT
FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Circle One**

Lisa Bolamperti-Garrett For Against

Patrick Peterson For Against

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FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Circle One**

Lisa Bolamperti-Garrett For Against

Patrick Peterson For Against

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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

REPORT ON THE 34TH LA FESTA ITALIANA

Huge Crowds - Great Fun and Entertainment - Authentic Italian Foods - Fine Wines and Beers - Delicious Desserts – Reminiscent Photos – Warm Camaraderie.

These words describe the Festa Italiana this year. The Festa Committee organized and planned a well-run Festa at the Palazzo. Operations ran smoothly and efficiently by Festa Chairmen Larry Pence and Terry Bolamperti. It was a great Festa with enthusiastic volunteers and huge, fun-loving, hungry crowds. Special thanks go out to all the crew that was responsible for unloading the Festa truck, repairing booths that needed it and setting up all the outside booths, bars and tents and equipment needed for both inside and outside. We thank Ted Bolamperti Sr. who was involved in most all aspects of food prep and ordering of supplies needed for this event.

Kim Neppi took care of the advertising needed for the Festa resulting in big crowds at the gate. Jim Garrett once again did a great job as MC all weekend at the Festa. Denny and Mary McGuire and their crew manned the entrance gate of the Festa and were kept busy all weekend welcoming guests as the shuttle buses continually dropped them off at the gate. Lisa Bolamperti-Garrett and her crew checked-in the many volunteers who worked the Festa all weekend. Jimmy Mazzei and Terry Pirruccello and their maintenance crew kept extremely busy all weekend fixing and repairing problems that came up.

A multitude of authentic Italian foods were prepared by members and many compliments were given by guests. As the Festa opened, huge lines formed at the Food Lines. Gaye Capellupo and Nikki Capellupo-Sandmeier (Friday) and Gary and Mary Kay Falco- Ford (Saturday and Sunday) chaired the Outside Food Line. Captain Toni Bac and first-time captain Sam Troia handled the Inside Food Line very proficiently. The pasta, meatballs and sauce were delicious. The freshly baked pizzas and our famous AIHS sausage and peppers were a hit as well as Chicken Sicilian, Chicken Primavera, garlic cheese bread, tomato bread, and Italian salads.

Bob Rodino once again efficiently ran the kitchen with all of his hard-working kitchen crew. The kitchen is truly the heartbeat of the Festa. The Deli served a variety of items including fried ravioli, braciolo or fasomauro, and stuffed peppers. Deli Captains George Grillo and Jimmy Caniglia and their crew also served olive scuciadi or cracked Sicilian olives, chichede, semenza and cumpettes. These foods bring back lots of memories.

All the outside booths were decorated festively with Italian colors, lights and flags. Outside food lines were crowded and runners kept busy keeping the lines supplied. The Pizza Booth manned by the Larry Belfiore and Sal Belfiore families was active making freshly prepared pizzas and selling them as fast as they could bake them. The Sausage and Peppers and Meatball Sandwich booth was run by Captain Bob Peklo and family. We had many compliments as usual for our AIHS sausage and pepper sandwiches. The Seafood Booth, run by Dawn Bolamperti, Daniel Ripa and Sal and Joann Risicato, offered freshly prepared sautéed scampi and fried calamari. Naina Bolamperti-Schneckenberger kept all the paper goods and plastic ware supplied to all booths throughout the Festa. This helped Captains run their booths more efficiently. The bars were run by Captains Wayne Moore, Ed Wortman, Kris Wortman-Pickett and Bob Eichelberg. These bars served a lot of local and Italian beers, wines and liquors. The beverages quenched everyone's thirst and enhanced the festive atmosphere.

A variety of sweet desserts were offered at the Festa. The Pasticceria, headed by Rose Leo-Koch and her crew served thousands of homemade Italian pastries including cannoli, biscotti and pizzelles. The Steve LaGreca family served several flavors of soft serve Sorbetto in addition to Spumoni. Micky Scalise-Bolamperti and family and the Maria Scalise- Fillippeli family ran the ever-popular Fried Dough Booth serving fresh hot fried dough as fast as they could make it to a line that never seemed to end.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Festa is a family-oriented event with many, many children attending. The children's activities area was chaired by Lisa Marescalco-Keres and included an obstacle course and bounce house, face painting, fun tattoos, clowns, balloon sculpting, painting and coloring. The children were kept very busy and had a fun time. Mary Thompson and her crew entertained the crowd selling pickles and gift items. Many guests young and old attending the Festa enjoyed the Bocce Ball Court managed by Tom Morinelli. There was a celebrity Bocce Ball competition on Friday night. On Sunday there was a tournament with competition between Sons of Italy, the Santa Lucia and the AIHS. Our Society won the tournament and has bragging rights for one year!

Lucille Gibilisco and Diane Russo once again displayed a meaningful Pictorial History. World War II service men and family wedding photos are always a hit. Lucille also displayed many of the old grade school class photos and Society events. It was a great pictorial history and it brought back good memories for many.

Sam and Lucy Marasco family along with Lou and Sue Buda chaired the T-Shirt Booth. It was very successful and they nearly sold out of many of their items. The new and original designs were very popular to those in attendance.

The Food Demonstrations were organized by Larry Pence. The presentations were well attended by many who learned and watched food demonstrations given by Jimmy Caniglia, George Grillo, Chef John Kennedy, Chef Ethel Merriman, and Chef Leo Fascianella. Everyone was pleased with the demos and also enjoyed the samples.

The entertainment was lively and festive with local performers throughout the Festa. Subby Anzaldo has booked most all the entertainment for the Festa for the last 34 years. We appreciate all that Subby has done throughout the years. Always a delight is the performance of the popular Santa Lucia Marching Band and La Banda. New this year was Daddy Mac and the Flak on Sunday afternoon. The Big Bands rocked the crowd each night to close the Festa. Bellino Fireworks wowed the crowd with an exciting show of fireworks on Friday and Sunday night. We received many comments that our fireworks show is the best in the city.

The Sunday morning Festa Mass was Celebrated by Father Scott Hasting. The AIHS choir, led by John Digilio sang mass responses and several Italian songs. It was a solemn and uplifting ceremony. The Palazzo ballroom was nearly full with over 175 in attendance. The mass was offered in memory of the deceased members of the AIHS.

Guests were welcomed by Ann Marie Falco-Marr and Mick John at the Information Booth. They recruited 25 new members at the Festa. Emma Leo- Mueller and her crew kept busy all weekend working the money room late into the night. We are very grateful to Sergia Muellner and her family who ran the Volunteer Dining area. They served all volunteers throughout the weekend with a smile.

The AIHS would like to thank all those who took part in the Festa in any way. This includes all who helped in planning, food preparation, in moving equipment and supplies, in loading and unloading vehicles before the Festa, setting up the booths, setting up decorations, putting up signs and banners, setting up the kitchen equipment and for all the many volunteers at the Festa. Thanks to Bob Peklo and his crew for engineering the electrical needs. Thanks also goes out to those who showed up on Monday for the Festa tear down when all of the enthusiasm and energy was nearly all gone. We were very short handed on Monday and thanks to all especially to those who stayed to help late into the night on Monday.

In conclusion, the 34th Festa Italiana was a huge success, with great food, fun and entertainment. It was an expression of Italian heritage. It was a taste of Italy. A big "Mille Grazie" a thousand thanks goes out to all who helped or took part in any way. Grazie e Ciao!!

Submitted by Festa Chairman Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

GET WELL SOON

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

INDOOR BOCCE LEAGUE

Indoor bocce is scheduled to begin in January 2019. League play will be on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. If you played on a team in past seasons, we are looking forward to seeing you again. New teams or individuals are always welcome.

The season will run approximately 12 weeks with some open dates due to scheduling accommodations. All matches will be played at AIHS il Palazzo.

Please let Tom Morinelli know if you or your team is planning to play this season. Call 402-312-5959 or email tmorinelli@hotmail.com.

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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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RE-ELECT



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ASSESSOR/REGISTER OF DEEDS

VOTE - November 6th - VOTE

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AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President: Dr. Terry Bolamperti
Vice President: Wayne Moore
Secretary: Ed Wortman
Treasurer: Dennis McGuire

Board Members:
Jim Leonardo
Terry Pirruccello
Dawn Abboud
Missy Orlando

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL OUR MEMBERS! WE ARE THANKFUL
FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP, SUPPORT AND SERVICE!**

The American Italian Heritage Society
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