



February 2019
Volume 37 No. 2

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



Menu

Prosecco
Bruschetta

Caponata - cheese & olives
Grilled Caesar salad
Pumpkin lasagna
Herb crusted tenderloin
w/ grilled vegetables
Raspberry chocolate mouse
Chiacchiere

Pasta Amore & AIHS present

Carnevale

Tuesday, March 5

Pasta Amore - 11027 Prairie Brook Rd

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Commencement at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for pageantry,
food, drinks & live music!
Costumes are encouraged,
but not required.

\$41.00 / person

\$37.00 / AIHS members

Tax and gratuity not included.

RSVP to 402-391-2585

Limited availability

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**Winter Bocce Ball - Page 6**

Wednesdays from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

February Membership Meeting

Monday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Carnevale at Pasta Amore

Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m.

**CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY**

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Epiphany Celebration held at the Palazzo on Sunday, January 6, 2019. Approximately 275 people attended including members, guests and Society volunteers. This is by far the best family event of the AIHS with over 70 children there having a lot of fun. It was very heartwarming when the Befana had all the children dancing the Tarantella with her.

Emma Leo-Mueller was our Chairperson once again this year. She and her group of volunteers worked very hard to make the event so special. We can't thank her enough for chairing this event for the last several years. The meal was fantastic, as always, with mostaccioli and meatballs, Italian salad and bread and butter. Members brought a vast array of desserts and cookies. Thanks to all the members that took the time to make the homemade goodies. The Society also served complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks. There were two food lines utilized and all the guests were served in twenty minutes.

It was very nice to have new member Elio Sofia, a recent immigrant from Catania, Italy tell the guests how his family celebrates the Festa di Befana in Sicily. He was very happy that our Society promotes and preserves this Italian tradition and keeps it going.

Santa and the Befana arrived shortly after the meal was served. The children were so excited as they anticipated their arrival. The children listened intently as the Befana told the story of how she lost sight of the three wise men on her way to see Baby Jesus. She then lead the children in singing Jingle Bells Italian style. Once again this year, the Befana got all of the 70 children to stand and do the Tarantella with her and Santa Claus. Many adults in the crowd joined in and also danced with the Befana. It was a very festive event. Santa and the Befana then handed out goody bags filled with candy and fruit.

We want to thank Lou Rotella for the donation of bread for the meal and Greenberg Fruit for the apples donated for the goody bags. We also would like to express our gratitude to all the members that volunteered in the kitchen, front desk area, dessert table, the bar, the serving line, kids activities and all those who helped with food preparation and set up and clean up. Special thanks to Gina Ripa and Gary Marasco for their roles in this event. Great job everyone! Mille Grazie!!

- Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti.



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EPIPHANY PICTURES



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RECIPE TO TRY - MANICOTTI

CREPES

6 extra large eggs
3 cups flour
2 cups water
1 tsp salt
Oil for pan

MEAT MIXTURE

2 lbs ground beef
1 medium onion, minced
3 eggs
1 cup Romano cheese, grated
1 or 2 garlic cloves, minced
Salt and pepper to taste
Basil to taste

Use your favorite tomato sauce.



Crepes: Beat the eggs, add salt, water then flour. This will resemble a pancake mixture. Using a large spoon or ladle, spread a thin crepe on hot greased griddle or fry pan, swirl and tilt pan until mixture covers evenly the bottom of pan. Cook for 1 minute, do not flip over or brown. Stack crepes on a flat dish and set aside.

Sauté beef, onions and garlic together, let cool. Add eggs, cheese and basil. Mix well and in the center of each crepe place a small amount of mixture. Fold crepe over and arrange in baking pan that was first spread with a thin layer of tomato sauce. Lay manicotti rolls side by side, nestled together. Cover with a layer of tomato sauce. Repeat this procedure until all crepes are used. Top layer should be tomato sauce. Cover with foil and bake in a 325 degree oven until bubbly, about 30 minutes. Makes 50.

- AIHS Cookbook Page 104

CARNEVALE IN ITALY

Carnevale is celebrated in Italy and many places around the world during the 40 days before Easter and a final party before Ash Wednesday and Lent. The name is said to derive from the words carne vale - 'farewell to meat'.

Carnevale was first celebrated in Venice in 1094 and has been officially sanctioned in that city since 1296. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance Carnevale celebrations were popular throughout Europe. Today, public areas around Venice become the showcase for actors, acrobats and musicians with residents and visitors alike wearing elaborate masks and elegant costumes. One of the largest celebrations in Italy is in Viareggio, a city on the Ligurian Sea. Carnevale in Viareggio is held for the 5 weekends before Lent. The town of Ivrea, in the Piedmont region, has a unique carnival celebration with medieval roots. The carnival includes a colorful parade followed by orange-throwing battles in the center of town.



Carnevale would not be complete without food. In the south of Italy, especially around Naples, the end of Carnival on Fat Tuesday is celebrated by eating Lasagne alla Napoletana. There are a number of sweets that are typical of Carnevale and fried pastries are one of them. They are usually strips of dough that are fried and dusted with sugar or drizzled with honey. On the Amalfi Coast, you might find a drop of limoncello in the pastry dough.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

EASIEST WAY TO HELP US RAISE MONEY!

By simply submitting pictures of your receipts at hundreds of local businesses to the TAGG (Together A Greater Good) mobile app, AIHS receives a percentage of your purchase! It's so easy!

1. Download the TAGG mobile app on your smartphone.
2. Visit participating businesses and snap a photo of your receipt.
3. Choose American Italian Heritage Society for your cause.

**Participating businesses donating 5% of purchase include:**

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THANK YOU TO THE ERNIE MASCARELLO FAMILY!

We want to express our deep appreciation to the family of Ernie Mascarello who directed donations to the American Italian Heritage Society in his memory. We received a generous donation from the family and we are truly thankful. We are always honored and grateful to those families who consider designating donations to the AIHS in memory of their loved ones who have passed.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including George Scalise, Teri Carlino, Helen Rotella, Terri Wortman, Subby Anzaldo, Gary Ford, Jim Capellupo, Gary Wasinger and Ted Bolamperti. Please call Diana at the office to add people to this prayer list.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AIHS SCHOLARSHIP: Applications are now available to members' children attending a credited college. Must be members for 2 years.

THE JOHN SCIGLIANO SCHOLARSHIP: We are now taking applications for any AIHS members' children and grandchildren attending Creighton University in the science program.

If interested, please call the AIHS office at 402-493-8888 for either application.

INDOOR BOCCE LEAGUE

Winter Bocce League has begun on Wednesday nights from 6:30-9:00. All guests and interested participants are welcome to come any Wednesday we are in session. Check our schedule each week on Facebook - il Palazzo Omaha. All matches will be played at AIHS il Palazzo.

Questions: Contact Tom at tmorinelli@hotmail.com or 402-312-5959.

American Italian Heritage Society

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MEMBER FEATURE: MADELINE BERTINO-HARRIS

As Madeline Bertino-Harris sits across her kitchen table, she begins to giggle -- that's what she feels when she's talking and reminiscing about the good times she and her late husband Jim Harris had at the American Italian Heritage Society.

Madeline's parents Bernardo and Madeline Bertino came to America from the northern coast of Italy in the early 1900s. Her parents lived in a little house on 10th Street. After some time, they were able to purchase their first home in the St. Ann's Parish where she and her brother John Bertino were raised. Sadly, Madeline lost her mother when she was eight.

Jim and Madeline were married in 1947 at St. Ann's church. They acquired her parent's home and went on to raise their family. They have three children: David, Patricia, and Mary. In 2007, Jim passed away from cancer. She is so proud of her home and the memories it holds, which you can feel when you walk through the door.



Madeline recalls Yolanda Capellupo as the driving force to get her involved in the club. She stated whenever Yolanda was calling on the phone her children would say, "It's Yolanda! She has something for us to do for the club". Joining in 1981, Madeline and Jim were Charter Members. After Jim retired, he became active in the Club with fellow member Rich Donelan volunteering at many events. Madeline spoke of the many good friends they had, including the Marchellos, Donelans, Melinas and many of the Bolampertis -- Ted and Jeaniene, Richard and Jeanette, John and Jane and Terry and Mickey.

Madeline said she and Jim were behind the scenes at events helping with catering and clean up. She recalls monthly meetings being held at many different locations until the purchase of the building on 14th and Pine Street, which was the first home of the Society. They were both involved in the Festa baking and truly enjoyed it. Two of their three children belonged to the Club until marriage and children came. Many of her grandchildren were in the folk dancing and loved the experience. She said the Club brought us all back together again, and for that she is thankful.

She broke her hip a few years ago and can no longer help, however you will see her and her family attending events. They were all at this year's Epiphany. She fondly remembers the Society's first feast of the Epiphany in January of 1982.

Lastly, Madeline said the joke in their house was if anyone asked what nationality they were, they would say "Some English, some Irish and Italian... we're Italian mostly". She said she is about the last person left in the St. Ann's neighborhood. She wishes all the original members could see our beautiful new home, the Palazzo, that they worked so hard to get.

- Submitted by Diana John-Cotten

The American Italian Heritage Society
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