



December 2019
Volume 37 No. 12

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



Milan's Cathedral (Duomo di Milano) is dedicated to *Santa Maria Nascente* – Mary of the Nativity. The Duomo took 579 years to complete starting in 1386 and completed in 1965. The Duomo is the largest church in Italy and the third largest church in the world. Only St. Peter's Basilica of Vatican City and the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida of Brazil are larger. The inside of the church is a museum of architecture and religious art offering decorated columns, stained glass, paintings, sculpture, and relics!

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**Sausage Sale**

Sat. December 7 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

December Membership Meeting & Cookie Exchange

Monday, December 9 at 7:30

Please join us for the December Meeting and our Italian Christmas Cookie exchange. Members are encouraged to make two to three dozen of your favorite Italian cookies and or other desserts to share with all the members.

Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 5

12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Reminder: No January Member Meeting

**NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT**

The General Membership Meeting was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Lou Buda and Vinny Romano as flag bearers. Since it was Veteran's Day all veterans were asked to stand and they were thanked and applauded for their service to the country. There were approximately 36 members in attendance. Welcomed was longtime member Jeff Ladwig who was attending his first membership meeting. Jeff and his family have volunteered for many years with his mother, Cookie Ladwig, at the Pasticceria Booth at the Festa. The previous month's meeting minutes were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was given and approved by the membership. We showed a good profit this month due to revenue from the Festa. Also discussed was the revenue from the November Spaghetti Dinner.

Old Business was discussed including the Festa. No final report can be done since there are many bills yet to be paid. The November 3rd Spaghetti and Meatball & Sausage Dinner report was discussed. The event was a success with over 850 dinners served. We also had increased sales at the bake sale, the bar and T-shirt booth. All the volunteers who helped at the dinner and made it a success were sincerely thanked. At the event, AIHS food specialties were also sold and sales were very good.

New Business discussed included a revision of the AIHS cookbook, "A Taste of Italy". A committee will be formed and headed by Toni Bac, George Grillo and Ann Marie Falco-Marr. We do have the original "A Taste of Italy" cookbooks available for sale at the AIHS office. The sausage fundraiser was discussed which will be held December 7th. Volunteers will be needed and several members signed up to help.

Board Elections were held at the meeting and Terry Bolamperti, John Mangiameli, Nikki Capellupo-Sandmeier and Jeff Ladwig were elected as new Board Members for 3 year terms.

The Italian cookie exchange will take place at the December 9th meeting. All attending were encouraged to bring homemade Italian cookies to share. Members were reminded of and invited to attend the Epiphany Celebration which will be held on Sunday January 5, 2019 at the Palazzo.

The meeting was adjourned and the Piece of the Pie winners were drawn. The winners were Lou Buda and Jeff Ladwig. Sausage and Italian salads were prepared and served by Tom Morinelli, Tom Clark and Terry Clark. All were encouraged to attend the next meeting on December 9, 2019.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

AIHS BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Board Elections were held at the November member meeting. All nominees were voted in and approved as new Board members.

Congratulations and welcome to the Board Jeff Ladwig, John Mangiameli and Nikki Sandmeier. Terry Bolamperti was re-elected.

SAUSAGE SALE PICK-UP REMINDER

If you ordered our Society's fresh Italian sausage, please remember pick-up is **Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Sausage \$28 / 5 pounds

Peppers: \$14 / quart

Olives: \$12 / quart

AIHS food specialties will also be for sale including spaghetti sauce, meatballs, salad dressing and fresh Rotella's sausage buns.

We still need help cutting meat!

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

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

Call 402-493-8888 if you can help.

JOIN US FOR THE 2018 EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Sunday, January 5 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pasta & Meatball Dinner served at 1:30 p.m.
Cash bar will be available.

The Epiphany is one the best family events we hold!
It's a true ethnic event and part of our Italian culture.
The Befana and Santa will be visiting and giving bags of treats to children under age 12.

Free for all members, guests are welcome and a donation of \$7 to \$10 per person is appreciated.

Reservations are necessary. Please indicate the number of adults and children under age 12. Call 402.493.8888 or email secretary@omahaitaly.com.
Deadline: Jan. 2



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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

NOVEMBER SPAGHETTI DINNER REPORT

Our fall Spaghetti and Meatball/Sausage Dinner was held on Sunday, November 3, 2019. It was a very successful event and over 850 dinners were served. We want to thank all the members who sold tickets and attended the dinner. In addition we'd like to thank all the non members, friends and neighbors who attended. All your support is truly appreciated.

The food was delicious and enjoyed by all who attended. As usual we received many positive compliments on the food from the guests that attended. We want to thank Bob Rodino and his crew for cooking the sauce. Thanks also goes out to the crews who made the meatballs, sausage, salad dressing and those who precooked the pasta and helped set up the hall including Gary Wasinger, Larry Pence, Jimmy Mazzei, Augie Polito, Paul Burley, Wayne Moore and Dawn Abboud. Thanks goes out to Rose Leo-Koch, Cookie Ladwig, Mary Kay Falco-Ford and the Bake Sale crew and also Sam and Lucy Marasco for their help on the T Shirt sales. Thank you to all those who ran the front desk selling tickets and specialty food sales including Emma Leo-Mueller, Ted Nestral, Lisa Bolamperti-Garret, Missy Orlando and her mother Rosemary Johnson. Also appreciated was John Portera and Joe Daniels who set up and ran the bar and George Grillo and his crew who ran the Take-Out Serving area. Thanks to the large crew who worked the Serving Line including John Mangiameli, Carmen Grosse, Tom Morinelli, Gino Crisafulli, Tom Clark, Pat Peterson and Toni Healey and Nikki Capellupo-Sandmeier. Special thanks also goes out to Bob Rodino, Mike Bertino and Jimmy Caniglia for all their help in the kitchen cooking and preparing food for the dinner. Thanks to Terry Clark, Micky Bolamperti, Janelle Grieco and her daughter who made salads for the dinner and take-out orders. A very special thanks goes out to all those who helped with clearing tables and those very few who stayed late with banquet hall and kitchen clean-up.

At this busy dinner we also sold AIHS specialty foods which includes spaghetti sauce, meatballs, sausage and salad dressing. Sincere thanks to all those who helped prepare and package all these food products. We made a good profit on these items along with the profit made from the successful and busy Spaghetti Dinner.

It takes many, many volunteers to put on this event and we want to thank each and every one of you who helped in any way as not every name may be recognized. The success of this Spaghetti Dinner is due to our wonderful, dedicated and hard working volunteers. We can't thank you enough for all the service you offer to the Society throughout the years.

Many thanks once again to member Lou Rotella of Rotella's Italian Bakery for his generosity in donating the bread for the dinner. His continued support is sincerely appreciated.

Mille Grazie.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

ITALIAN CHRISTMAS DISH

In Italy, Christmas Eve dinner is traditionally lighter with no meat and a lot of seafood. Salted cod, known as baccalà, is one of the famous Italian classics. Below is a recipe from the AIHS cookbook, "A Taste of Italy," from Lucille Gibilisco and Milena Donelan.

Ingredients:

- 2 lbs cod fillets
- 2 cups canned tomatoes, sieved
- 1/4 cup pitted and chopped green olives
- 2 tablespoons of capers
- 1 tablespoon of parsley
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1/1 tsp oregano



Place cod fish in casserole dish and set aside. Combine the remaining ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour over cod in casserole. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes at 350 degrees or until fish flakes when gently pierced with fork.

"A Taste Of Italy" for sale for \$23.50 tax included, if anyone needs a Christmas gift idea.



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PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including George Scalise, Teri Carlino, Helen Rotella, Gary Ford, Jim Capellupo, Ted Bolamperti, Romana Olivotto, Kim Neppl, Dick Wieler, Fred Pisasale, Marie Shafer, Lou Marcuzzo, and Betty Grillo.

Our condolences and prayers to the family and friends of Phyllis Stessman and David Harris, son of charter member Madeline Harris and brother of member Patty Harris-Wilson. Please contact Diana at the office to add to this prayer list. 402.493.8888.

IMPORTANT BOCCE UPDATE

The AIHS will NOT be hosting a winter bocce league at the Palazzo in 2020. Having the carpet removed and leaving a polished concrete floor, the league was unable to establish a workable playing surface. Other indoor games were discussed to replace bocce. At this time NO other game is being planned for the Palazzo in 2020. Watch the News for future Bocce updates as they become available. Anyone with questions or feedback can contact Tom Morinelli at 402-312-5959 or tmorinelli@hotmail.com.



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**SONS OF ITALY**

Congratulations to the Sons of Italy for being able to host their first meeting in their newly renovated building since the fire nearly three years ago.

The Sons of Italy hopes to start their Thursday and Friday meals in mid-January 2020.

We encourage all our members to show their support.

TAGG UPDATE

Thank you everyone who has participated in TAGG. We have raised \$500 so far. Let's keep it going!

If you haven't done so already, download the TAGG app on your cell phone. Anytime you visit a participating TAGG business (there are a lot!) submit a photo of your receipt and select American Italian Heritage Society as your organization,

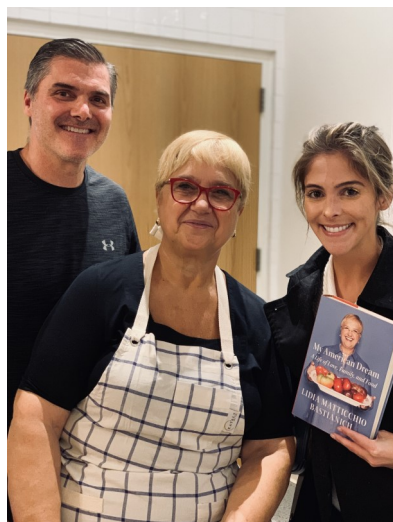
Most businesses and restaurants donate up to 5%. It is very easy to do and help us greatly.



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EMMY AWARD-WINNING ITALIAN CHEF, LIDIA MATTICCHIO BASTIANICH

AIHS member Dr. Matt Bolamperti recently traveled to Chicago to visit his daughter Kari, and she treated him to a cooking class! The course was held at Eataly - Chicago, which is a vibrant Italian marketplace featuring an array of cafes, counters, restaurants, and a cooking school. Upon reaching the cooking school, they learned that the original class they signed up for, a pasta-making class, had been canceled. Matt and Kari were initially very disappointed. However, much to their surprise, the class was replaced by Emmy Award-winning Italian Chef, Lidia Matticchio Bastianich. They enjoyed learning several dishes, including stuffed mushrooms, penne rigate with broccoli rabe, chicken in lemon-caper sauce, and a free form plum tart. All of the dishes were served with a wine pairing, too. The class lasted for 2 hours, and Dr. Matt said that Lidia reminded him very much of his grandma Palma Bolamperti. Lidia was very smart, funny, witty, and an excellent chef! At the end of the class, Lidia asked for questions from the 60 participants. Most of the questions were technical. However, Dr. Matt asked the last question: "what would you serve God for dinner?" She laughed, along with everyone else in the class. She said, "well, I haven't been there yet, but I have cooked for the past Pope and for Pope Francis. I cooked a pasta dish for both, of course!" Lidia was in Chicago for a fundraiser at Loyola University Chicago, and all who participated in her class were fortunate to learn from one of the best!

**AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman of the Board: Lisa Bolamperti-Garrett

President: Dr. Terry Bolamperti

Vice President: Wayne Moore

Secretary: Missy Orlando

Treasurer: Open Seat

Board Members:

Dawn Abboud

Pat Peterson

The American Italian Heritage Society

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