



June 2021
Volume 39 No. 6

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

AIHS "4TH OF JULY" SAUSAGE FUNDRAISER



June 26th Saturday 9:30a-1p

However you cook or grill Italian sausage, order yours fresh for the 4th of July.

Place your order by emailing: Secretary@omahaitaly.com

Information needed: Name, cell phone number, how many 5# bags, hot or mild, link or bulk, number of peppers and olives.

Sausage: \$30 for 5 pounds

Peppers \$14 / quart Olives \$12 / quart

We need your help!

We cut meat for sausage on Thursday & Friday June 24 & 25th 7:30a-5pm

Saturday, June 26 at 7:00am to 1pm

We must start at 7am on Saturday to ensure orders are ready

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**June Membership Meeting**

Monday, June 14th at 7:30 p.m. at il Palazzo

Sausage fundraiser - June 26th 9:30-1pm.

Must Pre-order by June 23rd

Santa-Lucia Festival 2021 July 8th-11th**May 2021 Membership Meeting Report**

The General Membership Meeting, held on MAY 10, 2021, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Ross Pisci and Jim Caniglia as flag-bearers. Both were Korean War Veterans and Ross was also a veteran of World War II. There were 22 members in attendance. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to remember all of our members that are ill including Diana Cotten, Ted Bolamperti, Lou Buda, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Pat Rodino and Maria Leo and for deceased longtime member, Camilla Seminara, the mother of member John Seminara.

We welcomed members **Ross Pisci, Sal Belfiore and Mary Ann and Salvatrice Sofio** present at the meeting. **Ross Pisci**, longtime member since 1983, will be 95 years old on May 27th. His father from Carlentini and his mother from Messina, Sicily immigrated to Omaha in 1906. He lived and grew-up on 16th and Dorcas St. He said he loved being a member of the Society and always volunteered where needed. For years he helped with sausage making and ran the Seafood booth at the Festa at Peony Park. He relished his memories of running the Dinner Dances and helping Gene Marchello with the food preparations at the old Hall on 14th and Pine St. **Sal Belfiore**, visiting from Surprise, Arizona told us about his grandparents (the Belfiore, Fanciullo and Carlentini families) who immigrated to Omaha in the early 1900's. His Nanna Fanciullo ran a grocery store on 13th and Center St and his Nanno Belfiore's house was near 6th and Williams St. **Mary Ann and Salvatrice Sofio**, attending their first membership meeting, have volunteered in food preparation for the last couple years. Their uncle was Dr. Anthony Sofio, a downtown dentist that served a majority of the Omaha Italians in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. Their grandparents, the Sofio, Salerno and Caniglia families immigrated from Carlentini and Catania, Sicily. Their father Sonny Sofio and their brother ran a liquor store on 19th and Missouri Ave and a bar on 10th and Hickory St. All the above stories were entertaining to those members in attendance.

The **Treasurers Report** was given by President Terry Bolamperti, which was approved by members. He mentioned that wedding receptions will be this month and after since Covid restrictions have eased-up. **Old Business** discussed was the **Pasta Dinner** held on April 25th which was a big success. Thanks to all that helped in any way in this Drive-thru event. **New Business** discussed included the upcoming **Festa Pizza Fundraiser** which will be held on the Saturday June 5, 2021 from 9:00- 11:00 am. Volunteers will be needed for preparation of the pizza sauce, cheese grating pizza making and delivery to customers in the Drive-Thru. The annual **Membership Summer Picnic** will be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We hope to resume this Membership Picnic and the Epiphany Celebration soon as Covid restrictions ease up. The **Festa** was discussed, and the plan is to proceed with the Festa on Labor Day Weekend. Festa Captains will be contacted this month. Festa food prep will be done July July and August. We will have **Sausage Fundraiser** on June 26th. The **AIHS Membership Drive** is resuming as dues statements will be mailed or emailed to all members in May. All were asked to enroll a new member and send in dues promptly.

The **Presentation of the Omaha/Carlentini Sister City Project** was then given by Shari Kanger, Charlie Venditte, Todd Procoppio, Carmelita De La Guardia and Al Vacanti. This project enhancing Italian heritage will be promoted by the Santa Lucia Festival Committee, the Sons of Italy and the American Italian Heritage Society. There will be exchanges between the two cities. Members of each city will visit each other. Some from Carlentini will visit during the Santa Lucia Festival this July. Exchange students from Carlentini and Omaha will study abroad in their Sister City. Local sports events will be shared, respectively. Exchanges of history, foods and ideas are also planned to be shared. This process is in its early stages and more information will emerge as the project expands and grows. The AIHS wishes success to this project and the presenters were thanked for a well-done introduction of this venture.

The meeting was adjourned, and the Piece of the Pie winners drawn were Ross Pisci and John Portera. After the meeting members enjoyed camaraderie and pizza cooked by Larry Belfiore. We welcome all to the next Membership Meeting which will be held on Monday, June 14, 2021.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

DIANA (JOHN) COTTEN

The American Italian Heritage Society's il palazzo has been a second home to Diana for the past six years where she was the administrative secretary. Diana was hired a few months prior to the opening of il palazzo and La Festa in August of 2014. With our new home and a new location for our annual La Festa, Diana enthusiastically endured additional tasks that came with additional confusion: multiple mailings, ordering building and Festa supplies, countless phone calls, invoices and impromptu tours of our beautiful building for anyone who stopped in. Diana did it all. She did a great job of being patient, working hard with enthusiasm and helping the people she served. Wow, she made it happen!

Diana became very close to all she worked with forming close relationships. Her popularity blossomed because of her friendliness when receiving calls or meeting those that came to the office. Diana made everyone feel good and validated. Yes, she loved to talk with everyone and wanted to know more of that person whether they were a member, delivery person or just someone who would stop by to check out the venue. Diana was a true ambassador for il Palazzo and the American Italian Heritage Society.

Diana loved being a part of the events for the Society, Festa and il Palazzo. The pastry preparations were one of her favorite events. There was always laughter when Diana was around. She loved to share stories and listen to others share theirs. This was how Diana brought a comfortable feeling to a room. Even though Diana had a kind smile for everyone she met, she voiced her opinion when she felt it was valid.

The little things in Diana's life mattered the most to her. Her family was the cornerstone in her life. She gave so much of herself by caring tirelessly for so many of them. We thank Diana's family for sharing her with the Society over the past seven years.

Sadly, Diana was diagnosed with a late-stage cancer in March of 2020. She bravely battled the disease for 18 months before succumbing to it on May 17, 2021. She fought the disease with great strength, courage and hope. It was not pleasant for her, but she did not want to give up.

We pray that Diana's family's sorrows will turn into joy. Her love for others, faith in God, and lasting hope in accepting God's will assures her a key in God's Kingdom. Death has no strings on Diana.

Diana's friendliness, joy, caring attitude, and contagious smile will remain in the halls of il Palazzo for many years to come.

Thank you, Diana, from all of those you have touched in some way. God bless and rest in peace and joy.





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

LA FESTA ITALIANA

La Festa Italiana 2021 will be held once again at il Palazzo during Labor Day Weekend, starting Friday September 3rd, 4th and 5th.

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.



The schedule for Festa food prep will be in next months newsletter. Would love to see more members volunteer. If any members or members family have thought about running a booth, NOW is the time. Booth Captains are needed. Please contact Terry Bolamperti.

If you have church youth groups needing projects or students needing service hours, please consider signing them up to volunteer at this event. There is a week long of set up and also tear down. Many Scout troupes have assisted us in years in the past. Please contact the office if you have a youth group that can help.

June Fundraisers

Festa pizza fundraiser, with pre-orders until June 3rd PICK UP June 5th 9a-11a

Sausage Sale pre-orders open June 5th-June 23rd PICK UP June 26th 930-1p

Help is always needed, contact Terry or Tammy in the office if you can help with prep or pickup.

Like all of our fundraisers, proceeds help our Society flourish and enable us to continue celebrating our Italian heritage and AIHS traditions. Please ask your family, friends and co-workers who aren't members if they would like to try our homemade Pizza or Fresh Italian Sausage. They won't be disappointed.. Order for them or send them the details!

AIHS NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE HELP WANTED

We are still looking for someone to help with our monthly newsletter and Website. If you have experience writing and designing in Word/Publisher or Word Press, we ask you please consider volunteering. This is a great way to help our Society from home and it only takes a few hours a month. Please contact Tammy at 402-493-8888



facebook.com/AIHSOmaha



www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

ELANORE "ELLIE" MORINELLI

We are sad to announce that one of the oldest members of the American Italian Heritage Society.

Elanore Morinelli, born in September of 1924, has passed away. Ellie, as she was called, along with her late husband Frank, have been long-time members of the Society since 1983. There were both very active, volunteering for events such as the pasta dinners and the Festa (Frank in the sausage booth and Ellie in the Deli) in the 1980s and 1990s.

They also attended the dinner dances regularly in years past. Up to a few years ago Ellie was helping at il Palazzo at the spaghetti dinners take outs, wrapping bread for the to-go dinners. Ellie always had a warm welcoming smile that made others around her also smile.

Her sons, Tom (Mary), Tony (Melissa) and Jeff are also members of the AIHS. In addition, Ellie's granddaughters, Dana Morinelli and husband Brad Williams and family, Lisa Morinelli and husband Ken Hittel and family, are members as well.

Please keep Ellie and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Pasta Amore**

Open Monday - Saturday
4:30 p.m. to Close

Rockbrook Village 108th & Center
402.391.2585



No Drilling. No Needles.
No Anxiety.

MAHA
LASER DENTISTRY

Dr. Anthony Bolamperti D.D.S.
402.397.3411 • OmahaLaserDentistry.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Tom Morinelli, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Pat Rodino, Teri Carlino, Lou Marcuzzo, Lou Buda, Dee Mascarello, Betty Grillo, Joe Daniels, & Maria Leo.

Memorials:**Diana (John) Cotton****Ellie Morinelli**

Please keep these member of our club and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

* Please call the office to alert us of the illness or passing of our precious club members*

Grazie/Thank you

The American Italian Heritage Society is a qualified 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation for Federal tax purposes.

Please consider including American Italian Heritage Society in your estate planning.

Membership Dues

AIHS membership renewals were mailed this week. It is very important that you complete and mail the information form with your current phone numbers and email addresses back to us with your check or credit card information. Additionally you will find on the back side a **"Volunteer/Participation form"**

Please review and complete this form as well. Also see **"Suggestions and Concerns"** at the bottom of the sheet and take a moment to fill in suggestions or concerns you may have.

As you well know, **VOLUNTEERING** is the backbone for the American Italian Heritage Society and it's members.

We would not exist in not for our many volunteers through the years! Thank you!

Please promptly mail dues and form to the office at: 5110 N. 132nd Street Omaha NE 68164 or contact the office to renew over the phone.

PLEASE CONSIDER ADVERTISING WITH US!

We are looking for additional businesses to advertise in our monthly newsletter. If you have a business or know of one that would like to advertise in our newsletter, we encourage you to call the office at 402-493-8888 or email secretary@omahaitaly.com.

AIHS COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Our original cookbook "A Taste of Italy" is still available for sale for \$23.50, tax included. There are many great authentic, family recipes and Society specialties.

TAGG (Together A Greater Good)

Download the TAGG mobile app on your smartphone. Visit participating businesses, snap a photo of your receipt. Choose American Italian Heritage Society.

AMAZON SMILE

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Works with Amazon Prime. Select the American Italian Heritage Society as your charitable organization.





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Apple Torte

pg 163 A Taste of Italy

Frances Saitta Oglesby

2 c. diced apples

1 c. chopped nuts

1 c. flour

2/3 c. sugar

1 tsp. baking soda

1/2 tsp. salt

1 tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. vanilla

3 T. butter

whip cream

Put all dry ingredients in a bowl; add apples and all but a handful of nuts. Add melted butter and vanilla; toss until well mixed. Place in 7x11 inch pan or pie pan. Bake 350 for 20 minutes. Layer with whipped cream, top with remaining nuts. On the ingredients list, vanilla and whip cream were omitted in the cookbook.

Anna Patrick

Terry to write something



2021 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board: Lisa Bolamperti-Garrett**President:** Dr. Terry Bolamperti**Vice President:** Jeff Ladwig**Treasurer:** Nikki Sandmeier**Secretary:** Toni Bac**Board Member:** Melissa Orlando

The American Italian Heritage Society
5110 North 132 Street • Omaha, Nebraska • 68164
402.493.8888 Fax: 402.493.1502



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

5110 North 132 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Return Service Requested



buona festa del papà

Happy Father's Day!

Serving families for over 132 years.

**Heafey Hoffmann
Dworak | Cutler**
MORTUARIES & CREMATORY

402-391-3900

www.heafeyheafey.com



*Omaha's only Italian-inspired venue. Host your
next wedding or special event with us!*

Call 402 819-8792

