



The News

April 2022
Volume 40 No. 4

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

Easter Sausage Sale

Pick up April 9th, 2022 10am-1pm



We will begin taking orders for sausage
March 16th thru April 5th deadline

Call 402.493.8888 or email
secretary@omahaitaly.com.

Please include: name, phone number,
regular or hot sausage and number of
peppers and olives. Emails will be replied
to, phone messages will not. More info inside.

Spring Pasta Dinner

April 24th 2022

12pm-6pm



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

Membership Meeting April 11th 7:30p Il Palazzo
Easter Sausage Sale April 9th 10am-1pm

Spring Pasta Dinner Sunday April 24th 12pm-6pm
Membership Drive thru June 2022

Enroll a new member, prize to whomever enrolls the most.

March Membership Meeting Minutes

The General Membership Meeting was held on March 14, 2022 and called to order by President Dr. Terry Bolamperti with 24 members in attendance. It was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Lou Buda and Jim Mazzei as flag bearers. There was a moment of silence for prayer for ill members. Welcomed was member Gina Ricci-Lypaczewski who attended her first membership meeting. She has been a member of the Society for many years. She is originally from Montreal, Canada growing up in a close traditional Italian family. Her grandparents immigrated from the Potenza and Basilica area of Italy. Her late husband worked for Kiewit and their family moved to Omaha in 1993 when he was relocated to the Kiewit headquarters. Her children, Nicolo and Angelo grew up in America. Gina said that she loves everything Italian. She loves the food, the people and the family values. She is very proud of her Italian heritage. Gina and her friends attended the 40th Anniversary Gala, genuinely enjoyed it and felt an atmosphere of Italianesque throughout the night. Gina was welcomed by all in attendance. The February meeting minutes were read and approved. The Treasury Report was approved. Old Business was discussed including The Carnevale held on March 1st at Pasta Amore to a sold-out crowd. The delicious dinner was prepared by Leo Fascianella. The King and Queen of Carnevale selected were Fred and Mary Jo Romano-Petersen. An interesting fact was that that Mary Jo's late parents, Connie and Joe Romano, were crowned the very first King and Queen at the first AIHS Carnevale at our original home on 14th and Pine St. in the 1990's. We next reported on the 40th Anniversary Gala held on Saturday night on March 12, 2022. Members enjoyed the "The 40 Years of Memories" slide show which was shown during the meeting. Everyone at the meeting attended the Gala and all were very complimentary of the event. The Founding Members of the Society were recognized and honored at the Gala with gifts and a short program. Terry Bolamperti thanked the Gala Committee for all their hard work organizing the Gala for the last two months and also those members that worked the Gala throughout the night including the greeters, those running the bars, those helping as servers and platers and also the silent auction volunteers. He also thanked Leo Fascianella and the kitchen crew who prepared and served a delicious, well plated dinner to the 250 guests in attendance. Also thanked were the advertisers in the program booklet and also the lead sponsors, Rotella's Bakery, Arby's and Security National Bank. Lou Rotella was also thanked for the donation of the fresh bread for the dinner. New Business was discussed including the upcoming Easter Sausage fundraiser which will be held on April 9th and the Spring Pasta Dinner which will be held on April 24th. Volunteers will be needed for both events. Please call the office if you can help in anyway. A Membership Drive to recruit new members will take place till June. All members will be asked to recruit new members to join the Society. It was suggested from the floor to offer a prize of a couple bottles of wine to the member enrolling the most new members. What a great idea. The Meeting was adjourned. The Piece of the Pie winners drawn were Toni Bac and Jim Mazzei. Members then enjoyed camaraderie and antipasti of sausage slices in pepper sauce prepared by Larry Belfiore. Hope to see you all at the next meeting on April 11, 2022. Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti

**2022 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman of the Board: Toni Bac
President: Dr. Terry Bolamperti
Vice President: Jeff Ladwig
Treasurer: Joe Garrett
Secretary: Nikki Sandmeier
Board Member: John Potera

Newsletter Help Wanted

We are looking for someone to take over creating the monthly newsletter. The club secretary will assist in preparing the pages.

This is a great way to help our Society from home and it only takes a few hours a month.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Spring Sausage Sale Order now until April 6th deadline

Pick up Orders Saturday April 9th 10am-1pm

Email or phone orders to: secretary@omahaitaly.com 402 493-8888 x1

Sausage Regular or Hot - \$30/5# Bag

Cracked Sicilian Olives - \$13/qt

Peppers - \$14/qt

Meatballs - \$22/bag (25ct)

Cheese Pizza - \$20

Salad Dressing - \$4.50

AIHS Cookbook - \$25

**BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE
FOLLOWING INFO IN THE EMAIL OR
VOICEMAIL WHEN PLACING YOUR
ORDER TO ENSURE ACCURACY:**

- **FULL NAME**
- **CELL PHONE #**
- **HOW MANY 5 LB. BAGS OF SAUSAGE**
- **REGULAR OR HOT**
- **BULK UPON REQUEST**
- **QUANTITY OF OLIVES, MEATBALLS,
CHEESE PIZZA, DRESSING, AND
COOKBOOKS**



Spring Spaghetti Dinner

Join us

Sunday April 24th

il Palazzo 12pm-6pm

Tickets ONLY available at the door

\$11 Adults and \$5.50 children

**Pasta, Meatballs, Italian Salad,
Bread & Butter**

**Please bring homemade items for
the bake sale.**

***No advance tickets will be mailed
out for this event.***





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The 40th Anniversary Gala

A Night to Remember

On March 12, 2022 more than 250 guests gathered at the Palazzo to celebrate and honor the 40th Anniversary of the American Italian Heritage Society and the founding members. Guests were given a well prepared keepsake Program Booklet with much information including the history of the Society's formation in 1981 to the present. The atmosphere of the Gala was exciting, positive and enthusiastic as members and guests entered through the gallery to the south ballroom which was displayed with over 150 silent auction items to consider a bid on. As they entered the main ballroom the dining area was filled with tables beautifully set and decorated with unique Italian themed centerpieces. Throughout the night a video slide show of 40 Years of Memories was displayed on the two overhead screens. The slide show depicted photos from the past and present events and activities of the Society over these 40 years. It also displayed the generous sponsors and the advertisers in the Program Booklet. During the cocktail hour guests enjoyed Italian home-made antipasti, wine and beverages as they all experienced warm camaraderie with each other while entertained with the soft music from a strolling mandolin player. There were many comments on this event having such a genuine Italian atmosphere. It was truly a night to remember.

We were honored to have Father Carl Salanitro give a meaningful invocation before dinner stressing the importance of preserving our Italian heritage. Dinner was served including an Italian salad, fresh Rotella's dinner rolls, mostaccioli Marco Polo with beef tenderloin in a mushroom demi-glaze sauce with grilled asparagus. Ricotta cream-filled cannoli and homemade biscotti and coffee was served after dinner. The delicious meal was prepared and served by one of the best, Chef Leo Fascianella and volunteers of the Society. After dinner, emcee Loren Tobia, introduced AIHS President Terry Bolamperti who presented the program of appreciation and introduction of honorees of the 40th Anniversary Gala. The President welcomed and thanked all for attending this event. Thanks and gratitude were expressed to the generous sponsors, advertisers and businesses that donated gifts for the Gala, especially to the oral auction donors, Moore Sound Company, Pasta Amore, The Bartolomei Family and the Chicago Cubs. Special appreciation to the main sponsors were given to Lou and Kathi Rotella from Rotella's Italian Bakery, Alan and Deanna D'Agosto and Andy and Susie D'Agosto from Arby's and Bruce Plath from Security National Bank. Representatives of the Italian organizations attending the event, including the Sons and Daughters of Italy, the Santa Lucia Festival Committee, the Santa Lucia Band and the Siculo Foundation, were thanked for offering their support to the American Italian Heritage Society.

President Terry Bolamperti then honored the cherished members of the AIHS including our current members, many of whom were present that evening, and also our past members that are deceased who offered their time and services to our Society. Father John Pietramale was then asked to come to the podium. He offered a very touching prayer in memory of our deceased members and their families who immigrated to America. Recognition and honor was also given to past Presidents of the Society, past Chairmen of the Board and past recipients of the Dan Polley-Lou Buda Award as AIHS Members of the Year. The first members, the Charter Members, many of whom were in attendance were also recognized and honored.





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Special recognition was given to the 8 individuals who came together in 1981 at 510 Pine Street around a kitchen table with an idea to try to preserve their Italian heritage. Their idea turned into a vision. They told others and then invited friends and other Italians to Cantoni's Grill to share their vision. All in attendance joined that night and **the American Italian Heritage Society was born**. The Founding Members of the Society were then respectfully honored at the 40th Anniversary Gala as President Terry Bolamperti congratulated each individually and presented them with a gift. The Founding Members recognized were Theodore Bolamperti and Jeaniene Tomasello-Bolamperti, Raydelle Kaline-Meehan, Mary Jo Romano-Petersen, Angelo Perry and deceased Founding Members Paul Blazeovich, represented by grandson Lucca Blazeovich and Toni-Capellupo-Blazeovich, represented by her brother John Capellupo and finally Ermenegildo Cortese who was represented by his daughters Liz Fortina and Theresa Albracht.

The Founding Members received a much deserved applause and photos were taken. Raydelle Kaline-Meehan gave a short talk on the early beginning of the Society and focused on the creativity, talents and efforts of the first members who all worked together to hold the first Festa Italiana in 1982 at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. This event gave the Society city-wide recognition. Ted Bolamperti then gave a talk about the early accomplishments of the Society and mentioned a long list of individuals who were instrumental in the success of the mission of the Society throughout the years. They were applauded once more by those in attendance.

President Terry Bolamperti then continued to thank several Charter Members attending the Gala. Also thanked was Leo Fascianella for preparing and serving the dinner and those members who volunteered to help Leo in the kitchen. Thanks was also expressed to those that helped with set-up, those volunteering at the bars, the photographer who captured the evening in photos, those responsible for acquiring the silent and oral auction gifts, the greeters and those working the silent auction the night of the event and also those putting together the Program Booklet and the 40 Years of Memory slide show. Special thanks to the 40th Anniversary Gala Committee who spent months in preparation and appreciation was extended to any member that helped in any way to make this Gala the success that it was.

The auctioneer then took over and the oral auction took place and the high bidders received their gifts. We appreciate the generosity of all those that won the bids on the silent and oral auction donated gifts. Camaraderie continued throughout the evening as guests claimed their gifts.

The Gala was a great event. It was a night to remember.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Thanks to the 40th Anniversary Gala Volunteers

There were many, many volunteers who worked tirelessly who made the 40th Anniversary Gala possible. To start off I'd like to thank Toni Bac and the pizza crew, Larry Pence and the mini- meatball crew and Jimmy Mazzei and Paul Burley and the sausage and pepper crew who were responsible for the antipasti served at the Gala. I would like to thank John Portera's bartenders including Joe Daniels, Jennifer and Tom Rench, Dawn Zaller, and Rick Koch. Thanks should also go out to the greeters and the Silent Auction attendants and cashiers including Jen Rauscher, Ted Nestrall, Tammy Klimisch, Rose Leo-Koch, Dawn Abboud and Emma Leo- Mueller. The auctioneer, Scott Jarman is thanked for offering his services pro bono for the oral auction. Sincere appreciation goes out to Father Carl Salanitro for his meaningful invocation before the dinner and to Father John Pietramale for his reverent prayer in memory of our deceased AIHS members. I am grateful to the emcee Loren Tobia. I thank the Founding Members and their families for starting the Society and for taking part in the Gala celebration. Thanks goes out to our photographer Steve Bode. Very much appreciated is Chef Leo Fascianella for all his expertise in preparing the excellent meal for the Gala guests. His kitchen crew of Society volunteers included Jim Mazzei, Tom Clark, Bob Rodino, Mike Bertino, Nick Bolander, George Grillo, Missy Orlando, Nikki Capellupo-Sandmeier, Roy and Diane Kuncl, Larry Masilko, Ted Thompsen, Ted Bolamperti II and Tyler Youde. Once again we thank Lou Rotella for donating the fresh dinner rolls. Much appreciation is due to Joe Garrett and Tyler and Chaella Bolamperti-Youde for putting together the slide show of the sponsors and advertisers in the Program Booklet along with the 40 Years of Memories slide show of over 450 photos. Thanks to Bob and Talia Bolamperti-O'Malley for their help with soliciting, picking up and displaying silent auction gifts.

Lastly, I'd like to express sincere thanks to those members of the 40th Anniversary Gala Committee that worked for over two months on organizing the Gala, producing the Program Booklet, contacting sponsors, donors, advertisers, along with picking up supplies, polishing silverware and glasses, making illuminated wine glass centerpieces for the tables (nice creative job, Mary Kay), making guest table seating lists, setting up the ballroom tables, setting up the silent auction tables and the silent auction gifts, writing auction description sheets and many more tasks too numerous to mention. This dedicated 40th Anniversary Gala Committee included Jim and Toni Bac, Gary and Mary Kay Ford, Larry and Barbara Pence, Carmen Grosse, Bob Rodino, Jim Mazzei, John Portera, Teddy Bolamperti II, Joe Garrett and Jeff Ladwig. As you imagine it takes many, many people to put on a successful event like the Gala. I am grateful to all that took part in any way. Thank you.

One last thank you goes out to my dear wife, Micky Scalise-Bolamperti for all her help in this event. I thank her for putting up with me for all the times I was gone at meetings and food preparations and many other necessary tasks. I actually thank her for putting up with me for the last 40 years of volunteering for the Society. Thanks Micky!

I want to sincerely express my thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers that helped in any way to make the Gala a success and for all those dedicated members that helped throughout the years to make the Society the success it has been for all these 40 years. **Mille Grazie a Tutti.**

Terry Bolamperti, President and 40th Anniversary Committee Member





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY





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PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, Tom Morinelli, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Teri Carlino, Lou Marcuzzo, Lou Buda, Dee Mascarello, Joe Daniels, Maria Leo, Margo Pirruccello and Geno Crisafulli.

Memorial: Keep these members who have passed away in your prayers.

Grazie/Thank you

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

Membership Dues Membership renewals will be coming in the mail soon. Recruiting new member is how we build the Society, welcome your family and friends to join our Society.

Scholarship Application Deadline May 1st

AIHS SCHOLARSHIP: We will be offering two generous scholarships. 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

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 \$25, 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. Hy Vee is among businesses that donate a % to AIHS for your purchases.

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