



# *The News*

February 2022  
Volume 40 No. 2

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



*You Are Cordially Invited To Attend*  
***The AIHS 40th Anniversary Gala***  
*Saturday, March 12th*  
*5:30p - 9:30p*  
*II Palazzo 132nd and Fort Street*

***Cost: \$65 / person \$500 for table of 8***

**\*Includes Antipasti, Dinner, Dessert and Complimentary Cocktails and Wine  
Dinner will be prepared by Chef Leo Fascianella**

**Program:** Selected Speakers and Entertainment

All members are invited to attend this 40th Anniversary Gala.

We will celebrate with special recognition of Founding members,  
Charter Members and Special Long-Term Members.

A brief program will include presentation of the progress of the Society.

There will be entertainment before and during dinner.

During the cocktail hour and dinner, there will be a silent auction  
with various interesting items available to bidders.

In closing an oral auction will be held with unique and  
premium gifts available to those bidders in attendance.

*Please support this AIHS event with the purchase of your dinner ticket/table purchase, raffle gift donations with a \$40 - \$50 plus value as well as guest pass vacation time share gifted weeks.*

\*Additional Event Details in the March Newsletter

## **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](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com).



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Membership Meeting Feb 21st 7:30p at The Palazzo**  
**Carnevale at Pasta Amora March 1st, 2022**

**AIHS 40th Anniversary GALA March 12, 2022**  
**Easter Sausage Sale April 9th, 2022**

**PLEASE NOTE: THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED FROM FEBRUARY 14TH (DUE TO VALANETINES DAY) TO FEBRUARY 21ST.**

**AIHS President's Message**

I'd like to wish all members a healthy and happy New Year. I was unable to address this last month. I want to wish you well during these difficult times of the continuing Covid 19 pandemic. Let's hope and pray that 2022 will be a better year than what we've experienced in the last two years.

2021 was a tough year for the Society. It was the 2nd year of the pandemic and several meetings and events had to be cancelled. We had multiple fundraisers in the first half of the year that were held as Drive -Thru events. The Epiphany Celebration, St Joseph's Day event and the members summer picnic were cancelled. As the summer progressed the Covid 19 seemed to ease up somewhat and we were very blessed to be able to successfully put on our signature event, La Festa Italiana on Labor Day weekend. Wedding receptions were cancelled in the first half of the year but we're getting booked more in the late summer and fall. We were also fortunate to have successful Sausage fundraisers and Spaghetti Dinners in the fall.

Our mission is to promote Italian culture and heritage but in the last two years we were unable to fully accomplish our goals. We were unable to have Wine Tastings and Food Experiences, cooking and language classes, genealogy updates nor informative speakers at our meetings. Now that the pandemic is easing up we plan to revitalize some of these programs that enhance our mission goals. We hope to get back to "normalcy" sometime this coming year. Also our wedding and event rentals look to be improving and we expect encouraging growth in income. We want to remind members to always try to enroll new members to keep our Society growing. We always appreciate and welcome younger members join and to participate in AIHS functions throughout the year. The young members are the future of the Society. Always please invite your grown children, grandchildren, friends or co-workers to become active members.

The future looks bright as we look forward to a busy year with get-togetherness enhancing camaraderie among members. Please attend monthly meetings and participate in our many planned functions.

We now come to our 40th Anniversary of the American Italian Heritage Society. We incorporated in October of 1981. We could not have it last year (the actual 40th) due to Covid. The 40th Anniversary Gala will be held at the Palazzo on March 12, 2022. We invite all members to attend and celebrate this special occasion. Details are in this Newsletter.

I hope you all have a healthy and prosperous 2022. Hope to see everyone at the milestone event of the Society, the 40th Anniversary Gala. Mille Grazie and Buona Fortuna per Cent'anni.

**2022 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS Newsletter/Website Help wanted**

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

**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.



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

*Join us for Carnevale at Pasta Amore  
with Chef Leo Fascianella**Menu*

- 5:30 **Antipasti** Salami cheese and olives and bruschetta
- 6:11 **Insalata** Grilled Romaine salad
- 6:30 **Pasta** Lasagna Rosalia
- 7:11 **Carne** Filet with Brandy mushroom sauce, grilled veggies
- 7:30 **Dolce** Sicilian Cassata cake
- 8:11 Crowning of the King and Queen of Carnevale  
Merriment and Dancing to Live Music



*The Bishop of Carnevale will start the event at 5:30pm, join us for pageantry, food, drinks & live music.*

*Costumes are encouraged, but not required.*

**\$35/person**

Tax and gratuity and drinks not included.

**RSVP to 402-391-2585**

**\*Limited availability**

*Carnevale in Venice Italy*

Since the 5th century, the people maximized the opportunity during last days before the beginning of the Lent to amuse themselves and savor the pleasures and joy of life. In **1094** carnival was already mentioned in a charter of the doge Faliero and in **1269** the Senate approved that they should designate the day before Lent as a holiday (Martedì Grasso-Fat Tuesday).

Carnevale is celebrated in Italy and many places around the world the weekends before the beginning of Lent with a final party/holiday Fat Tuesday. The name is said to derive from the words carne vale - 'farewell to meat'.

This year in Venice, Carnevale begins Sat Feb 12th and concludes Tuesday March 1st. Every day there are multiple events including treasure hunts, concerts, dances, balls, dinners, opera, dance lessons, gondola rides. Guests can rent costumes and attend mask making workshops or take tours of Venice.

**Society Specialty Foods for Sale**

5# bags Sausage (Hot and Reg) \$30 & Quarts of Pasta Sauce \$9.

To make your purchase contact our AIHS Office Manager Jen Rauscher at:

Ph: 402-493-8888 x 1; Email: [Secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:Secretary@omahaitaly.com)



## Member Spotlight: Energy, Precision, Passion Define Dr. Ted

By Mary Zgoda

While Dr. Ted Bolamperti doesn't like to talk about himself, he lights up when he's asked to talk about the American Italian Heritage Society and La Festa Italiana.

Ted or Dr. Ted, as many call him, is one of the founders of the Society, which will be celebrating a landmark this year at a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala at the Society's event venue the Il Palazzo on March 12.

For everybody who knows Ted, he is energetic with a capital "E." He is precise in everything he does. He is very dedicated to anything he pursues. The Society and the Festa Italiana are two of his passions and they have been for 40 years.

The AIHS and the Festa Italiana have been a family affair for Ted's large family since the beginning. He has served in many roles over the years, including president and chairman of the board. He served as Festa chair of a separate festival committee until about seven years ago.

His wife Jeaniene, also a founder, helped start (and has been very involved) in the folkdance group. She's organized many special events, dinners, wine tastings and cooking lessons, and for years coordinated the baking of the pastries--biscotti, cannoli, etc.-- for the Festa. High school sweet hearts, Ted and Jeaniene will be married this year for 61 years. They have seven children, 21 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Dr. Ted is pictured from left to right with his daughter Lisa Garrett, son Teddy Bolamperti and grandson Joe Garrett.

Their adult children and spouses and now their grandchildren all are involved and typically work at every Festa as well as other events. Their son Teddy Bolamperti has served on the board of directors and also as chair, their daughter Lisa Garrett just completed a term as chair of the board and now his grandson Joe Garrett has been elected to the board.

## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

### Member Spotlight: Energy, Precision, Passion Define Dr. Ted continued

He had been going strong, but in 2019 still practicing full-time dentistry at the age of 78, he had a stroke. The stroke felled him but not for long. Like everything he does, he went at his rehabilitation with a fervor. Today, he exercises and does physical therapy daily to improve his strength. He retired from his dentistry practice in 2020 but still teaches two days a week at Creighton's School of Dentistry where he has worked (in addition to his dental practice) for 54 years.

Besides his rehabilitation and work at Creighton, he dedicates many hours to the Society doing a variety of activities. Currently he is involved in fund raising activities, ordering food supplies and paper products, and other necessary tasks. For the Festa he secures the refrigeration units for outdoor use, arranges the fork lift for set-up and take down, and prepares most of the sauces, including primavera, marinara, peppers, scampi and chicken Sicilian. He also prepares the spices for the sausage, determines the amount of food needed, perfected the recipes for the spaghetti sauce and the filling for the cannoli, and prepares the marinated Italian olives.



Ted at one of the Festas held at Peony Park.



Asked what he is most proud of on a personal and a professional level, he responded that he is proud of his family, from Jeaniene to their adult children and grandchildren, and appreciates how they have stood behind him and supported him. He is also proud of his faith, his dentistry and professional relationships, and all of the friends who gave him so much joy and help in his career and building the Society.

Looking back over 40 years, he praised the founders. "They were enthusiastic, loved what they were doing, were confident and highly committed. That's what made us strong. It wasn't me. It was those people." He also thanked the first members of the society – the charter members – who gave the founders the desire to move forward.

"Success is the result of one's hard work, competent people around you and diligent planning," he added.

See accompanying article in the next newsletter about the founding of the Society as told by Dr. Ted: **Dedicated Founders Brought Dream of AIHS, La Festa Italiana to Life.**

*Mary Zgoda is a freelance writer and public relations professional. She was a member of the team that developed the Society's first newsletter.*



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**Roasted Peppers**page 226 **A Taste of Italy Cookbook****Nettie M Parise****10 red bell peppers****Salt & pepper to taste****1 12-16 oz can whole tomatoes****1 T crushed red pepper (optional)****2-3 diced garlic cloves****2 T olive oil****1 tsp. sweet basil**

Wash and dry peppers. Set on cookie sheet and place in oven set to broil. Turn peppers as they blacken. When all peppers are black, steam in paper bag. Cool, then remove skin and cut up, removing stem and seeds. Heat oil in frying pan and sauté garlic. Mash tomatoes in a bowl and add to hot oil. Salt, pepper and sweet basil are added next. Cook until tomatoes become thick. Add peppers to tomato sauce, adding salt and pepper to your taste then cook for 15 minutes more.

**Congratulations to The American Italian Heritage Society  
Celebrating its 40th Anniversary  
Short History of the Society**

In 1981 our Society was founded with 118 Charter Members. Our American Italian Heritage Society was officially granted its "Articles of Incorporation" as a non-profit organization from the State of Nebraska in November of 1981. The members of the Society have worked relentlessly for these past years to promote and preserve our Italian heritage and culture. Congratulations to all past and present members for their efforts to make our Society a success for an amazing 40 years.

We have accomplished so much in these years that seemed like it flew by. We have held 37 successful Festa Italiana's, the signature event of our Society and our most profitable fundraiser. We have held food experiences dinners, game feeds, spaghetti dinners, Carnevale festivities, Wine tasting experiences, cooking classes, Italian language classes, folk dancing lessons, genealogy programs, Easter egg hunts for children and many more events. We are a very active Society. We have made our special homemade sausage 3 times a year for all these years as a major fundraiser for the Society. The Society has offered complimentary dinners to its members in the promotion of The Epiphany Celebrations, the membership Summer Picnics and St Joseph Day Celebrations.

We are proud to announce that we have awarded over \$110,000.00 in AIHS Scholarships to children of members over the past 40 years. The monthly membership meeting's offer occasional informative programs, updates and reports of all Society events and most importantly warm camaraderie among members.

In 1982 we bought our original "home" on 14<sup>th</sup> and Pine Street. It served us very well for over 20 plus years. We sold it and bought 8 ½ acres of land on 132<sup>nd</sup> and Fort St. We were homeless for 9 years, with our equipment in storage at Pompeii and all meetings were held at Pasta Amore Ristorante, with fundraising held there and at various Catholic churches.

In 2010 a Capital Campaign was initiated to help defray costs for plans for our new home. Architectural plans were drawn and approved by the Omaha Planning Board and the Omaha City Council. Vacanti & Randazzo Companies broke ground for the new home in 2013. In August of 2014 the building was completed and we had the grand opening and ribbon cutting of our new home, "il Palazzo". All operations of the Society are now held at the Palazzo. The facility is also available for weddings, corporate events, holiday gatherings and many other events to help with building costs.

We thank all our members that volunteered their precious time and efforts which helped make our Society a success. Many of our members have passed away that were so dear to us in our early years. There are many current elderly members that used to do so much to help our Society stay strong and vital. The current members that carry on with enthusiastic service and efforts perpetuate the success of the Society. The younger members that attend and volunteer at our events are the future of the Society.

We are a busy and active Society with a lot of accomplishments in the past. The State of the Society is strong and vital after 40 years of success, we have a great future to look forward to. Sincere thanks and gratitude is extended to all deceased and current members.

Mille Grazie and Buon Anniversario. Buona Fortuna per Cent'anni.

Submitted by AIHS President, Dr. Terry Bolamperti.

**Please show your AIHS support by attending our March 12th Gala. Tickets on sale now!**





## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**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 and Margo Pirruccello.

**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.*

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

**Scholarships**

**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 for either application.

**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](mailto: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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## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**Bereavement for Lucia Buccheri and Family**

Lucia and her deceased husband, Benny were among the very first members to join the American Italian Heritage Society in 1982. They immigrated in 1962 with their son, Joe who was only two years old. Here, they raised a family of three children.

Lucia and her family served the Society with enthusiasm since its early beginning. Even now Lucia continues to cook the famed "Rabbit Stew" for the annual Game Feed, which is now held at Pasta Amore, in conjunction with the Society. The first Game Feed was held in the mid 1980s at the Society's first home located at 14th and pine. Yes, nearly 40 years we have been enjoying this rabbit stew!

For most of these years, Lucia's sidekicks had been fellow Italian immigrants Carmen Nespoli, now deceased and Gina Marus, a group of excellent cooks sharing stories in Italian and laughing with gusto.

Sadly, Lucia and her families are now in mourning in deep grief over the loss of her first born, Joe. Recently, Joe passed away at the age of 54, after battling a chronic ailment for several years. Prayers, sympathy, and condolences are needed for Lucia, Joe's wife Michelle, her two adopted children and Joe's siblings, Tony, and Marie Elena along with Lucy's grandchildren and other family members and friends. Along with prayers, let us be most thankful for all the Buccheri family has done to develop and support the American Italian Heritage Society over the past 40 years. Prayers, blessing and Thanksgiving. Submitted by Dr. Ted Bolamperti



## Pasta Amore

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4:30 p.m. to Close  
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[www.pastaamore.com](http://www.pastaamore.com)



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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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