



May 2022  
Volume 40 No. 5

# The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

## American Italian Heritage Society Membership Drive

The American Italian Heritage Society encourages, promotes and preserves Italian culture and heritage with activities centered upon Italian traditions, foods, language, religious feasts, history, folklore, customs, celebrations, music, dance and family genealogy.

As we approach 2022 renewals, we want to remind all our members of the benefits of being part of the Society. Please take some time to think of others in the community, family members, co-workers and friends, who would be interested in joining. Membership renewals will be sent in May.

**Please make sure you pay your dues by the June 1st deadline.**

### Membership Benefits

- **Monthly Membership Meetings**  
Camaraderie with members discussing Italian interests. Periodic speakers on such topics as history, culture, foods, travel, oral histories and genealogy.
- **Sausage and Meatball Sales**  
AIHS makes Italian Sausage and Meatballs three times a year as fundraisers for the Society.
- **Scholarships**  
Two generous College scholarships given out annually to active members children.
- **Complimentary Events**  
The Summer Members Family Picnic and The Epiphany Celebration offer complimentary dinner and entertainment.
- **Educational Classes and Membership Events throughout the year**
- **Newsletter**  
Monthly Newsletter emailed in color, the pipeline for information and communication of Society events and interesting articles on Italian heritage.
- **La Festa Italiana**  
A Celebration of Italian Heritage for the Omaha community for over 37 years.

**Please join the AIHS today!**

Call our office at 402.493.8888x1 or email to [secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com)

### **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 May 9th 7:30p Il Palazzo
Guest Speaker Sheri Kanger Sister City Project

Members Summer Picnic June 5th
June Sausage Sale June 25th
Membership Drive thru June 2022

Please support the society by enrolling a new member and paying your dues.

April Membership Meeting Minutes

The General Membership Meeting, held on April 11, 2022, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were very few members in attendance since it was Easter Holy Week. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to remember all of our members that are ill. We also bowed our heads in prayer for deceased members.

The minutes of last months meeting were read and approved. The Treasurers Report was given by President Terry Bolamperti, which was approved by members. He mentioned that rentals of the facility are improving to the point that most all Saturdays are booked from May 15th through November. This is very good news after the last two years of the Covid Pandemic during which rentals of the facility were sporadic.

Old Business was discussed including the 40th Anniversary Gala and the Sausage Fundraiser in the last month which were both very successful. Thanks once again to all those that helped organize and helped put on the Gala which was a very nice event for all that attended. We also want to express our thanks to all the members and friends that made the sausage fundraiser a success including those who volunteered their time and efforts in the food preparation and cooking along with packaging and selling and servicing the patrons. Thanks to all that helped in anyway.

New Business discussed included the upcoming Pasta Dinner which will be held on the Sunday April 24th from Noon til 6:00 pm. Volunteers will be needed for preparation of sauce, meatballs, salad dressing, pre-cook the pasta and cooking and serving the dinner. The annual Members Summer Picnic will once again be held on June 5th at the Palazzo in the Festa grounds. The last Summer Picnic was held 2 years ago in 2019 before the Covid Pandemic. The Festa Italiana was discussed and the plan is to proceed with the Festa on Labor Day Weekend.

The AIHS Membership Drive is resuming as dues statements will be mailed out to all members in May. All were asked to enroll a new member and send in the dues by June 1, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned and at the next meeting we plan on having a presentation by Sheri Kanger on the this years progress of the Carlentini/Omaha Sister City Project. All are welcome to the next Membership Meeting which will be held on May 9, 2022.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti

AIHS Board needs YOU! Are you looking for something exciting to do? Are you a member in good standing for the last three years? Are you interested in promoting Italian heritage here in Omaha? Then we have a great opportunity for you!!! The AIHS board is calling your name. Think about nominating yourself for the Board of Directors! We promise it will be a fulfilling experience. The current board is small but mighty but we would love to add you to our ranks! We are looking for some new perspectives!!

Call Toni Bac for more information if you are interested in helping us in our goal to evolve the board with some new blood and new ideas! I look forward to hearing from you! Toni Bac 402 320-3328.

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 Fundraisers follow-up

The Society has had a very busy March and April. We were very busy at the sell out 40th Anniversary Gala held on March 12, which turned out to be a very nice event. On April 9, the AIHS held a very successful Easter Sausage Fundraiser. Besides sausage we also sold olives, peppers, sauce, meatballs and salad dressing. On April 24, we held our Spring Pasta and Meatball Dinner. The crowd was down from our usual being a comfortable sunny but very windy day after several days of rain throughout the week. Our Spring dinners are unpredictable due to weather forecasts. We had a fair amount in attendance for dinners and take-outs and the Bake Sale nearly sold out. We want to thank Rotella's Italian Bakery for the donations to all of these events. We also want to thank all of our volunteers who consistently step forward and help when needed at these events. We are truly blessed with a great group of hard working, dedicated volunteers. We want to also thank all those who came out to support these fundraisers. We are very appreciative of your continued support. Mille Grazie.



## ANNUAL MEMBERS SUMMER PICNIC

All AIHS members and their families are invited to our annual Summer Picnic

**Sunday, June 5th 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

- Rain or shine -- Lunch will be served at 2:00 p.m.
- Complimentary sausage and peppers, hotdogs, snacks, beer, pop and wine will be served.
- Members are asked to bring side dishes, salads, appetizers, chips or desserts.
- We encourage kids of all ages to attend. Horseshoes and bocce balls will be provided.
- Feel free to bring kid games, baseball bats, balls, gloves, footballs or frisbees.
- Chairs will not be provided. Please bring lawn chairs, light tables, coolers or blankets.
- Il Palazzo 132nd and Fort Street "Festa Grounds" Enter on the South side.

**RSVP: 402-493-8888 x1 or [secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com)**



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, Margo Pirruccello and Geno Crisafulli.

**Memorial:** Please keep long time volunteer, Frank Wasinger in your prayers. He passed away on April 8th. Frank was the son of the late charter member Nina Wasinger, and the brother of members Marijo Malesa and Gary Wasinger .

**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** 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.

**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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# THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

## Member Achievement Tony Garrett

Any member achievements, or celebrating Birthdays 80+, new babies, Anniversaries 50+, submit by 2nd Tuesday of the month. Pictures welcome, send to: [secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com)

After recently receiving a commendation from a state-wide committee for his musical talent with the violin, Tony was awarded membership in the John C. Naatz Chapter of the National Honor Society at Creighton Prep. Membership to this society is based upon scholarship, service, leadership and character. A GPA above 3.5 on a 4.0 scale, along with leadership qualities such as trustworthiness, empathy, competence, enthusiasm, persistence, a drive to succeed and encouragement of others to do the same are prerequisites for membership. Candidates must also demonstrate service to those in need along with good moral character.

Tony is the son of Jim and Lisa Garrett. Jim has been the emcee of La Festa Italiana for many years and Lisa has volunteered at countless AIHS functions and La Festa and recently served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of AIHS. He is the proud grandson of Dr. Ted and Jeaniene Bolamperti. After his graduation from Prep in 2023, Tony plans on continuing to study music and further his violin career at the collegiate level.

Tony is the fourth member of his family to attend Prep. His three older brothers, Sam, Joe and Nick all graduated from Prep. His oldest brother, Sam is attending Law School at the University of Oregon. Joe is a Business Development Manager at Builder Trend and is the current Treasurer of the AIHS Board. Nick was also a member of the National Honor Society and is currently attending UNL and plans on being a firefighter after graduation. All three siblings show scholastic ability, great character and are past recipients of AIHS scholarships. Congratulations, boys on your success!

By Dr. Ted Bolamperti



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## Italian Mural Project

There is an Italian mural project in progress which will be painted on an outside wall of Orsi Bakery on 7th and Pacific Street. It will show several paintings depicting Italian businesses and scenes all common to Italian neighborhoods in Omaha. Jeremy Caniglia is leading the team of artists who include Lita Caniglia, Frank Costanzo, Mary Ensz, Dave Manriquez, John Pecoraro, Marianne Smejkal, Sophia Dilorenzo, Lexi Combs and Sicily Manganaro. Jeremy Caniglia and the artists are working on the design. The Italian mural will be nearing completion later this summer.

## Omaha Sister City Association Recognizes the Italian Community

The Omaha Sister City Association, OSCA, will hold their annual dinner gala at the Palazzo in early May. This will be the first time in our city's history that the Italian community will be recognized by OSCA, validating the hard work and dedication of our ancestors who immigrated to Omaha over a 100 years ago. This special event will formally announce the inclusion of Carlentini, Sicily, Italy, as the newest Sister City to our city of Omaha. OSCA will recognize the first phase with an official "friendship agreement" between Omaha and Carlentini at their gala to be held at the Palazzo. Dignitaries including our Mayor Jean Stothert and Congressman Don Bacon will recognize the newly inducted city of Carlentini into the fold of six recognized Sister Cities of Omaha. This recognition is an historic event for our Italian community.

**Please note that Sheri Rayer Kanger will be the guest speaker at our AIHS membership meeting on May 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm.** Sheri is the co-chair of the Omaha/Carlentini Sister City Project. She will report on the history and progress of this project. Please attend this interesting presentation and welcome Sheri at our May membership meeting.

## Children's Folk Dancing at the Festa?

We are asking members, their children or grandchildren who may be interested in performing Italian Folk Dancing at the Festa. If there is any interest we would like to hear from you. It would be nice to have around 10-12 children participate in a short program. We are hoping that a few parents can take part with organizing and practicing with the children for a short performance at Festa. Possibly we have a member who teaches dancing or knows someone who does. Let us know if you can help or know anyone who would step up and take part in this project.

If anyone is interested in this, please contact Lisa, our new office manager/secretary by phone at 402-493-8888 x 1 or email at [secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com)



## Italian Meat Pies - Pasteri

### Filling:

- 3 lbs. ground beef (coarse)
- 6-7 eggs
- 6-7 cloves garlic finely chopped
- 1 lg bunch fresh parsley finely chopped
- 1 T. oregano
- 1 T. sweet basil
- 1 lb. grated parmesan or romano cheese
- 2 t. salt / 1 t. black pepper

### Crust:

- 3 c. flour
- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt
- 2 heaping T. Crisco
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c. milk

Filling: mix all ingredients together Crust: Mix the dry ingredients and cut in Crisco with fork or pastry mixer. Add eggs and mix well, Add milk and mix until dough is soft and elastic. Roll out dough and cut rounds about the size of a saucer or desert dish. Fill each round with hamburger mixture. Pinch sides of dough together tightly. Flute, pinching firmly so dough holds together when baking. Bake for 25-30 minutes at 425 degrees.

Recipe by Josephine Mangiamele pg. 66 A Taste of Italy Cookbook



**Jeaniene Bolamperti traditionally makes Pasteri for her family at Easter**

## Mille Grazie to the Sponsors and Advertisers for the 40th Anniversary Gala

Thank you to these sponsors and advertisers who generously supported our Society and helped make the Gala the success. Please consider patronizing these sponsors and advertisers.

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