



October 2021  
Volume 39 No. 10

# *The News*

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

## **Mostaccioli and Meatballs Dinner**

**Sunday November 7th noon to 6:00 pm**

**Tickets: Adults \$10 - Children \$5**

Meal includes Italian salad, bread & butter



**Please sell tickets to family and friends**

**\*\*Members please bring desserts or pastries for our Bake Sale\*\***

**Take-out is available.**

**Popular apparel from Festa will also be available**

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****Columbus Day October 11th****Columbus Day Banquet - Sons of Italy Hall****OCT 10th at 6pm \$50. ea. Linda 402 691-9887****Membership Meeting October 11th 7:30 pm****Spaghetti Dinner - November 7th, 2021****Sausage Sale - December 11th, 2021****September 2021 Membership Meeting Report**

The General Membership Meeting, held on September 13, 2021, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Joe Daniels and Larry Belfiore as flag-bearers. Both were Vietnam War Veterans. There were 17 members in attendance. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to remember all of our members that are ill including Ted Bolamperti, Lou Buda, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig and Pat Rodino and Maria Leo.

We **welcomed guest** Sue Broadhead. Member Carmen Grosse is her friend and invited her to the meeting. Sue and Carmen both have sons that are married to sisters. Sue is not Italian but considers herself an "adopted Italian" because of her friendship and relationship with Carmen Grosse.

The **Treasurers Report** was given by President Terry Bolamperti, which was approved by members. He mentioned that wedding receptions and rentals of the Palazzo are much better presently and almost every weekend is booked now until December. **Old Business** discussed briefly was the Festa food prep. All members were very much appreciated that helped in any way.

**New Business** discussed upcoming signing of the **Friendship Agreement** on September 22nd by Mayor Stothard and the Mayor of Carlentini Sicily. It will be done virtually by Zoom and it will be the official start of the **Sister City Project**. Our Society along with the Sons of Italy and the Santa Lucia Festival Committee are working together to make this project a success. Next we have our fall **Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner** scheduled for November 7th. We will need volunteers to work the dinner. It was announced that there will be **Board Elections** in November at the membership meeting. Nominations from the floor are accepted at the September meeting and Carmen Grosse nominated John Portera to run as a candidate. Another issue discussed was the fact this will be the **40th Anniversary** of the American Italian Heritage Society and there may be plans for a celebration gala as was done for the 25th and 35th anniversaries. We may also plan on rethinking an addendum to our AIHS cookbook, "The Taste of Italy".

Lastly the Festa Italiana was discussed thoroughly. Members complimented the Festa and were excited that it was held once again at the Palazzo. We had great crowds, authentic Italian food and very good entertainment and the Festa was once again a huge success. A more detailed report will be given at the October meeting. Dr. Terry expressed sincere gratitude to all members and volunteers that helped in any way.

The meeting was adjourned and the Piece of the Pie winner drawn was Larry Belfiore. After the meeting members enjoyed camaraderie. We welcome all to the next Membership Meeting which will be held on Columbus Day, Monday, October 11, 2021. Hope to see you all there. Ciao.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti

**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

**NEWSLETTER/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



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

## La Festa Italiana 2021

### 37th Annual

**Big Crowds - Comfortable Weather - Great Fun, Entertainment and Fireworks**  
**Authentic Italian Foods - Imported Italian Wines and Beers**  
**Tasty Desserts - Reminiscent Photos - Warm Camaraderie**

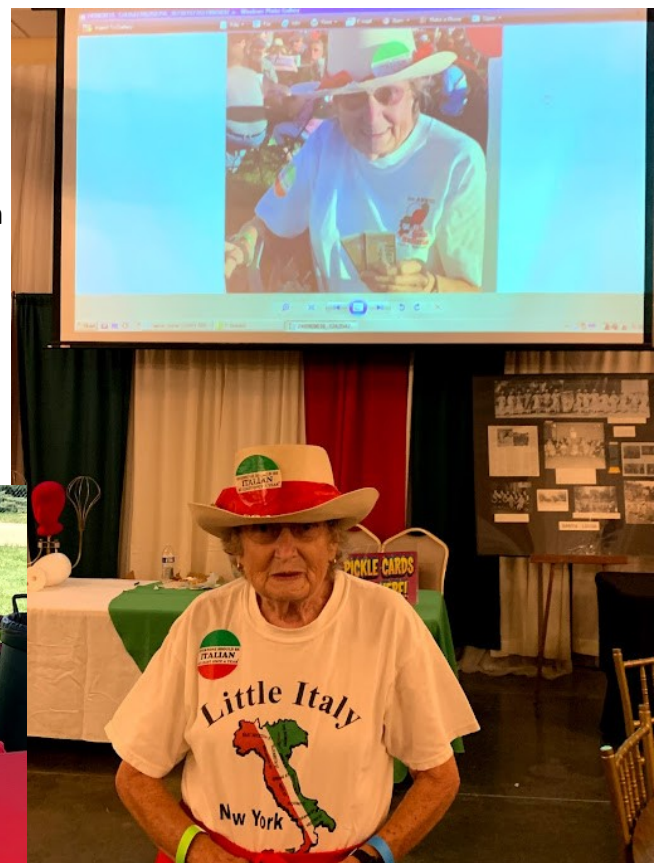
These words describe the Festa Italiana this year. We had comfortable weather all three days with no rain during Festa hours. It rained heavy in the days before the Festa and the turf was a little soft in low areas, but it did stop the big crowds that attended this year's Festa. We were blessed. The Festa Committee once again organized and planned a well run Festa at the Palazzo. It was a great Festa with enthusiastic volunteers and huge crowds in a very festive mood. We were so happy to be able to celebrate the Festa after having to cancel last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

We want to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to those who took part in the Festa in any way. This includes all those who helped in organizing and planning, food preparation, moving equipment and supplies, loading and unloading vehicles before the Festa, setting up and building the booths, decorating, putting up signs and banners, setting up the kitchen equipment and for all the many volunteers at the Festa. We are especially grateful to the Festa Captains and their crews. Special thanks goes out to those who showed up on Monday, Labor Day, for the Festa clean-up and tear down when the enthusiasm and energy was nearly all gone. We had a great Monday crew that worked well into the evening. Thanks also to those few dedicated volunteers that showed up on Tuesday and Thursday for the final details.

The 37th Festa Italiana was a huge success with great food, fun and entertainment. It was an expression of Italian heritage. It was a taste of Italy. A thousand thanks goes out to all who helped or took part in any way. We should all be very proud. **A more detailed Festa report will be posted in the November newsletter.**

Mille Grazie a tutti

Submitted by Festa Chairman Terry Bolamperti







## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Love our many Volunteers that make Festa a success







## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**Longtime Society member Mary Post**

**Mary** passed away June 26th, 2021. We were not informed of this until just recently. She was a active member and selfless volunteer for years. She attended most all events that were held for years including our regular fundraisers, Wine Tasting Experiences and all of our food classes recently ( pizza, biscotti and pasta sauces). When we were building the Palazzo we received a call from Mary Post saying that she lived close and that we could call her anytime if we needed her. We took her up on that and for years she helped our secretary Diana Cotten with Newsletter labels and mailings and for multiple tasks throughout the years. We were grateful for all her help. Her father, Carl Vinciguerra, was an Olympic and professional heavyweight boxer and was one of the top 100 athletes in the Nebraska Hall of Fame. Because of this Mary was a avid boxing fan and her favorites movies were the Rocky Balboa series. We offer our condolences to her family and ask to keep her and her family in your prayers.

**Remembering Mike Vazzano**

Mike was a son of Sicilian immigrants and a product of Little Italy. On September 30, 2021, Mike joined his heavenly home. Members and friends of the Society might remember Mike a few years back at the fruit and vegetable stand at La Festa. Mike would be "hawking" his produce in Sicilian: cucuzza, pesca, melangiani, figolini, and cipolla. As we remember, Mike was a great storyteller, always reminiscing about growing up in Little Italy on 7th and Hickory St. Gathered around his booth at La Festa were his buddies from the neighborhood. They also joined in on the stories and the atmosphere was fun and led by Mike. He brought smiles on the faces of those he encountered. It was a joy to run into Mike and hear a story, joke or Sicilian slogan. Thanks Mike for the jovial time spent with so many of us and for never forgetting your proud Sicilian heritage. And thank you to his wife Bev for all her time and baking for the Society's needs.



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## 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, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Pat Rodino, Teri Carlino, Lou Marcuzzo, Lou Buda, Dee Mascarello, Joe Daniels, & Maria Leo.

**Memorial:**

Keep these members who have passed away in your prayers: Rose Saitta, Mike Vazzano, and Mary Post.

**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.

**Festa Tickets and Membership Dues**

Please promptly return Festa tickets/money and mail membership dues as soon as possible.

5110 N. 132nd Street Omaha NE 68164

contact the office to drop off Festa Ticket money or 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](mailto: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.

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## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

## Cucuzza Soup by Leo Fascianella

1 Large Cucuzza (peel and remove seeds) 1 potato

1 white onion

1/2 stalk celery

4 tomatoes

Cut all into small cubes

4 cups Chicken Stock

Saute onion with olive oil, add tomato and let cook 5 min, add celery, potato and cucuzza, let simmer for 15 min. Add chicken stock let cook for 20 min. Salt & Pepper to taste, serve with ditalini pasta or another small pasta. Top with olive oil and romano cheese.

**Terry has extra cucuzza, come get one at the membership meeting Oct 11th.**



## ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

is celebrated by proclamation of the President of the United States to honor the achievements and contributions of Italian immigrants and their descendants living in the United States, particularly in the arts, science, and culture. Events are held throughout the month of October celebrating and educating the public about Italian American history and culture. October is designated as Italian heritage Month to coincide with Columbus Day which is celebrated on the second Monday in October.

**\*\*Celebrate and share Italian heritage with music, movies, worship, food, geology or history\*\***

**Columbus Day** is to honor an Italian navigator **Christopher Columbus** from Genoa, Italy who discovered the new World we know as America. On the 400th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage, Columbus Day was declared a one-time national holiday, in an effort to soothe tensions with Italian Americans and between Italy and America.

## Carlentini - Sister City

Omaha Mayor Stothert and the Mayor of Carlentini, Italy, Giuseppe Stefio participated in a virtual signing ceremony of the Sister City Friendship agreement September 22nd.



Over the past year, three Italian heritage organizations in Omaha - the American Italian Heritage Society, the Santa Lucia Festival committee and the Orders of the Sons and Daughters of Italy, helped lay the groundwork for this agreement. They formed the Siculo Italia Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is to bring these two cities together.

This friendship agreement with Carlentini, Sicily provides an opportunity for cultural education and business partnerships and recognizes the century-old connections between the two cities and a history of family, faith, culture and tradition.

Omaha has a rich Italian presence which makes up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the city. More than two-thirds of Omaha's Italian population actually descended from Carlentini immigrants. Italians worked for the railroad and settled in "Little Italy", where they established many businesses.







THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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