



January 2023
Volume 41 No. 1

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

Feast of the Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 8th 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We are very happy that we can celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany again this year. This has been an AIHS family event for many, many years. The Epiphany is one the best family events we hold! This ethnic event is part of our Italian culture. The Befana and Santa will be visiting and giving bags of treats to children under age 12.

Doors Open at 12:30, Pasta & Meatball Dinner served at 1:30 pm. Cash Bar will be available. Program with Santa and the Befana following the dinner.

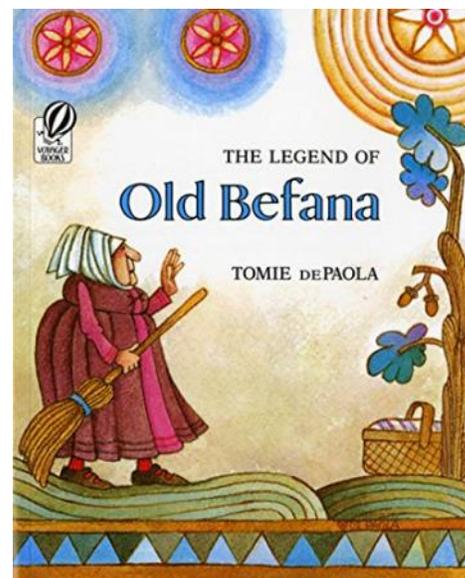
Free to Paid Members and guests welcome.

Guests/ \$10 donation recommended.

Members, please bring a dessert to share with everyone.

Reservations are necessary to know how much food to prepare. And how many children under 12 for gift bags.

Call **402-493-8888 x1** or email **secretary@omahaitaly.com** by Friday, January 6th at 7 pm. Thank you!



If you are looking for some cultural, family fun, we highly recommend reading the book “The Legend of the Old Befana” to your children or grandchildren. There are also audio recordings online to listen to the book. The Epiphany feast marks the end of the Christmas season in Italy. It is believed La Befana was approached by the Three Wise Men a few days before Jesus was born. The men asked if she saw a star in the sky, but she did not. The Wise Men asked her to join them in their journey to find baby Jesus, but she declined saying she had too much housework. She soon had a change of heart but couldn’t find the Wise Men, so she began her journey alone. La Befana is still believed to be searching for baby Jesus on her broomstick, which is why she bears candy and fruit to children in Italy. She is loved as much as Santa Claus.

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

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

Epiphany Celebration Sunday, January 8, 2023, please RSVP by Friday, Jan. 6th.

No January Membership Meeting

Carnevale at Pasta Amore February 21, 2023

December 2022 Membership Meeting Report

The General Membership meeting, held on December 12, 2022, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans John Portera and Lou Buda as flag-bearers. There were over 35 members in attendance. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to pray for all of the Society members who are currently ill. Also it was announced that long time members Ross Piscic, Dominic DiGiacomo, Gary Wasinger and Lou Marcuzzo had recently passed away and members were asked to keep them and their families in their thoughts and prayers. They were all dedicated volunteers and all have been members since the 1980's. They all will be dearly missed. Guest welcomed was Eleonora Formica who is here from her hometown of Carlentini, Sicily. She is in Omaha since she was speaking at the Gala this weekend put on this passed weekend by the Sricula Foundation as a fundraiser for the Sister City Project. Eleonora is the Carlentini contact for the Sister City Project and Sherry Kanger is the contact in Omaha for this international freindship project. She told the story of how she met an American from Omaha in Siraguza Sicily a few years ago whose family was from Carlentini. She learned more and more about this connection of the two cities and she is amazed at how many Omahans emigrated from her hometown of Carlentini. The Sister City Project is progressing well in both cities. The minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved. The Treasurers Report was given by President Terry Bolamperti, which was approved by members.

Old business was discussed including last month's Board Elections resulting in three new members of the Board: Sal Belfiore, Courtney Dice and April Belfiore. The Festa was briefly discussed with a few bills yet to be paid. Last months Spaghetti Dinner was also discussed and the Sausage Fundraiser held this previous weekend was discussed and all that volunteered to help in any way were sincerely thanked. New Business discussed was the upcoming Epiphany Celebration which will be held on Sunday January 8, 2023. Emma Leo- Mueller will once again be chairing this event at which the meal is free for members and all are invited to attend and donations would be appreciated. There will be a cash bar available. Santa Claus and the Befana will also be there. Volunteers are needed and were asked to call Lisa at the office if anyone could help and to also call in for reservations with the number of adults and children (and their ages) attending.

The Dan Polley-Lou Buda Awards honor members that exemplify selfless volunteerism that help to ensure the success of the AIHS. The winners for the Society's Man and Woman of the Year were Sal and Joanne Risicato. A brief explanation of the meaning of this award was given. Lou Buda presented the award to Sal but Joanne was unable to attend. Terry Bolamperti noted all the services that Sal and Joanne offered to the Society over the years. They were most deserving of this prestigious honor. Photos were taken of the Award presentation and also of those in attendance who were winners of this award in years past. Terry Bolamperti gave the President's Annual Report of the Transactions and Accomplishments of the Society. The Piece of the Pie winners were John Potera and Joe Daniels and the Christmas Italian Cookie Exchange was enjoyed by all. This year's cookie exchange was one of the best arrays of homemade Italian cookies that we have ever had at this meeting. There is no January meeting. Next meeting February 13th. Buon Natale.

Submitted by President Dr. Terry Bolamperti

*** This will be the last newsletter for members who have not sent in their dues. Please remit dues if you have not done so.**



2022 DAN POLLEY - LOU BUDA AWARD

AIHS Man and Woman of the Year

Salvatore and Giovanna Risicato

“ In recognition of their dedication, service and tireless effort in preserving and promoting Italian culture and heritage”



Every year since our inception the American Italian Heritage Society has recognized from our membership an individual man and woman who have exemplified extraordinary dedication and service to the Society. These men and women have expended tireless hours without any expectation of gratitude or recognition. They are the glue that keeps us together and they are the generators that propel our Society to be a success in the promotion of Italian culture and heritage. There are many, many members that deserve this honor and it is always a difficult choice to make.

We are now recognizing the award recipients for the **2022 AIHS Man and Woman of the Year**. Past award winners contributed in the selection process of this year’s recipients. This year’s well-deserved Dan Polley-Lou Buda Award winners are **Salvatore (Sal) and Giovanna (Joanne) Risicato**.

Longtime Society members Sal and Joanne Risicato have offered their services as volunteers for many Society events for over 20 years. Their service throughout the years is truly appreciated. They have served as Captains of the Festa Scampi booth over 17 years. They have both given time helping at many Spaghetti Dinners and also at all of the Wine Tasting events. Sal has also taken part in many of the Sausage Fundraiser crews. In addition Sal and his family have consistently shown up for years to help with tear-down on Monday after the Festa when enthusiasm is exhausted. It’s a tough job when we are all worn-out and any help on that day is always most appreciated.

On behalf of the members of the American Italian Heritage Society we congratulate them. We are very grateful for all that Sal and Joanne have done for the success of the Society. We thank them for their countless hours of dedicated service when and wherever needed. They are most deserving of this award.

Mille Grazie.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti





Basic Pesto Sauce

American Italian Heritage Society

- 2 cups fresh basil leaves, lightly packed & thoroughly washed & dried
- 1 cup grated Parmesan Cheese
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 to 2 garlic cloves, minced



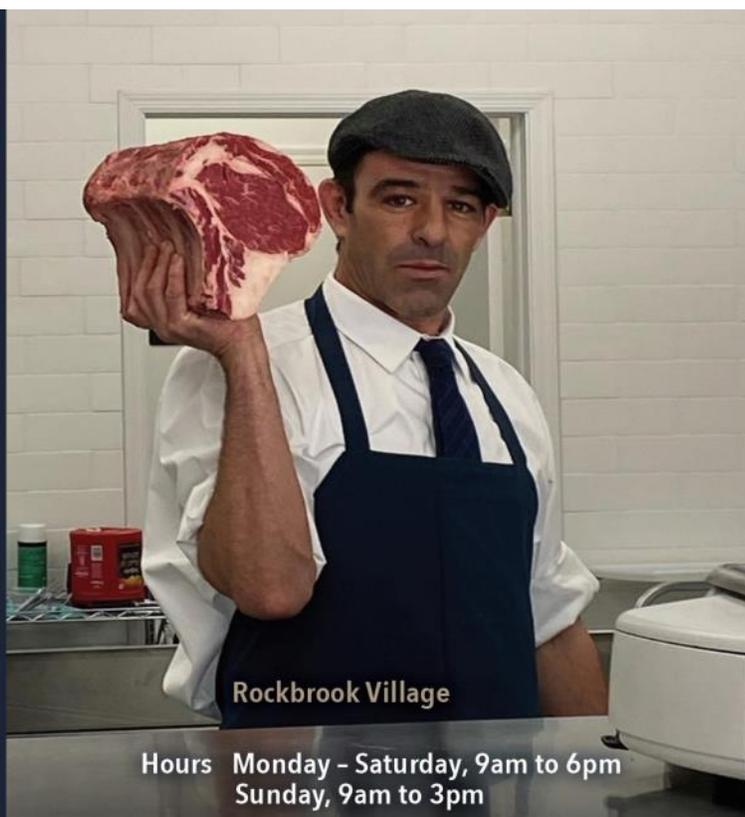
Place all ingredients except garlic into a food processor or blender until finely chopped. Pesto can be used immediately or put in small jars in the refrigerator or freezer. Pesto will keep in refrigerator for approximately 1 week. If longer storage is desired, freeze. A thin layer of olive oil in jar will keep the pesto from darkening. Makes approximately 1 1/3 cups pesto sauce. **Garlic:** If pesto is to be used immediately, add 1 or 2 cloves of minced garlic. Otherwise add to pesto as it is used because garlic flavor strengthens as it is stored; it will overpower the flavor of the basil. **To Serve:** Toss 4 cups of hot, cooked and drained spaghetti, fettuccine or other pasta gently with 6 tablespoons to pesto and 4 tablespoons of softened butter or margarine. Add 1 cup of favorite Italian grated cheese; toss gently. Serve with additional pesto and cheese to suit individual tastes.



CASANOVA'S BUTCHERY ROCKBROOK

The old-fashioned butcher shop has returned to Omaha! Family-owned Casanova's Butchery is open in Rockbrook Village, 108th & Center. Casanova's sells only Choice and Prime beef—nothing less. Plus fresh pork, poultry, awesome burgers, homemade sausages, and amazing charcuterie, all at reasonable prices. Skilled butchers custom cut and prepare your order right in front of you. It's the way butchery used to be! Shop choice meats and buy them just how you want at Casanova's Butchery, open every day.

Casanovasbutchery.com | 531.867.7067
10914 Elm Street | Omaha, NE 68144
Casanovasbutchery@gmail.com



Rockbrook Village

Hours Monday - Saturday, 9am to 6pm
Sunday, 9am to 3pm



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

2022 AIHS PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

As directed by the By-Laws, the President of the American Italian Heritage Society is to give a written annual report of the transactions, accomplishments and condition of the Society. This was presented at the December 14, 2022 General Membership Meeting. It has been an extremely busy year for the Society with our scheduled fundraisers, meetings and events. Our membership has a home that we can all be proud of which will fulfill the needs of the Society and serve the needs for future generations. Our leadership and volunteers have been very active making the Society a success. Our mission of promoting, encouraging and preserving our Italian heritage and culture has been somewhat hindered and impeded this year again due to post-Covid restrictions and continual Covid flare-ups. We've done the best we could and stayed very busy throughout the year. Our accomplishments include:

- **General Membership Monthly Meetings were held.**
- **The Celebration of Epiphany, normally held January , was cancelled due to a spike in Covid.**
- **The Carnevale was successfully celebrated in February at Pasta Amore.**
- **Sausage Fundraisers were held in March (Easter), June(4th of July) and in December(Christmas).**
- **The Annual St Joseph's Day Celebration was cancelled due to Covid.**
- **Successful Society Spaghetti Dinners were held in April and November.**
- **Society Food Specialties have been sold at all Sausage Fundraisers and Spaghetti Dinners.**
- **Our Annual Wine Tasting Event was cancelled due to spike in the Covid.**
- **The AIHS Summer Picnic was held in June with many members attending.**
- **In July and August food preparation was done for the Festa.**
- **The AIHS Scholarship was awarded to Sara (Scalise) Rodriguez and Ella (Belfiore) Galligan.**
- **The Festa Italiana was held successfully on Labor Day weekend.**
- **A very successful 38th annual Festa Italiana was held Labor Day Weekend at the Palazzo.**
- **New Board Members April Belfiore, Courtney Dice, Nick Bolamperti & Sal Belfiore were elected in November.**
- **The Italian Christmas Italian Cookie Exchange was enjoyed by all at the Dec Membership Meeting.**
- **The Dan Polley-Lou Buda Awards for the 2022 Man and Woman of the Year were awarded to Salvatore and Giovanna Risicato at the December Membership Meeting.**
- **The Society had our property, building and land, rezoned to Mixed Use after two years of negotiations with the City of Omaha's Planning Board and the City Council.**
- **Our building and home, the Palazzo, will be a focus of Italian activity for generations to come. The Palazzo is a testament to the pride, will and efforts of the Italians of the Omaha community and the selfless and dedicated efforts and services of the members of the Society. This was the 8th year in our new home.**

The State of the American Italian Heritage Society is Strong and Vital.

Our Society has a Great Future.



PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Kim Rodino, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Teri Carlino, Dee Mascarello, Joe Daniels, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Pat Peterson, Mary Jo Romano Petersen, Margo Pirruccello, and Sebastian Youde.

Welcome the Newest AIHS Members: Fred & Kathie Galante Maurer and Tom Grasso.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- To Rosemary “Rosie” Johnson for all her help in counting, sorting, and putting the 2022 FESTA Tickets in numeric order .
- To the Gary Wasinger Family for requesting Memorials from his funeral go to the AIHS Society.
- To Nikki Sandmeier who served on the AIHS Board for 3 years. Thanks Nikki for all your help with The AIHS Society. We appreciate all the volunteer work you have done for us!

2022 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board: Toni Bac

Board Member: Sal Belfiore

President: Dr. Terry Bolamperti

Board Member: Nick Bolamperti

Vice President: Joe Garrett

Board Member: Courtney Dice

Treasurer: Jeff Ladwig

Secretary: April Belfiore

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 x 1 or email secretary@omahaitaly.com.

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.



AMAZON SMILE

If you shop on Amazon, they donate 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.



facebook.com/AIHSOmaha



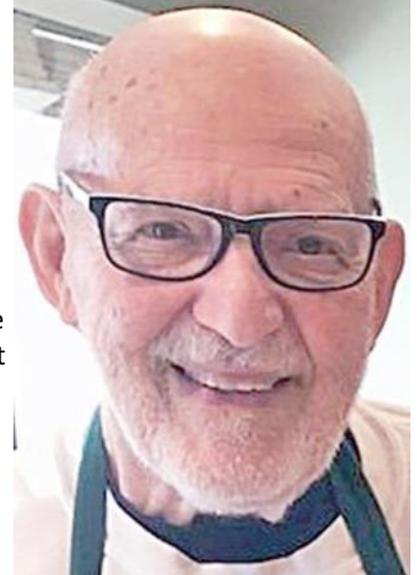
www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com

Memorial to Lou Marcuzzo

Lou Marcuzzo, a longtime member, passed away December 9, 2022 at 91 years of age. Lou and his dear wife, Marie, have been members of the American Italian Heritage Society since January of 1982. They celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last May. Lou grew up in Little Italy and as a young man was co-owner a neighborhood bar, "Mondo's", with his father (Mondo) and later opened a sporting goods store in the same location on 10th and Pacific St. Lou and his wife volunteered for many Society events when the AIHS was just starting out as an organization. They worked the Food Line booth at the Festa at Peony Park and in years later Lou could be found smiling while haggling prices of figs and eggplants with guests at the Festa Fruit and Vegetable stand. He also volunteered at the Deli Booth at the Festa and at many a Spaghetti Dinner at the Take-out line. Lou always had a contagious smile and those around him were entertained with his stories and conversation. Just talking to Lou could make you feel good. It was a pleasure to be acquainted with him for so many years. He will be missed dearly by many. Please keep Lou's wife Marie and family in your thoughts and prayers. Submitted by Terry Bolamperti



Sausage Sale Fundraiser

The Sausage Sale Fundraiser that was held on December 10, 2022 was a huge success. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event a Big success



Pasta Amore

Open Every Day From
4:30 p.m. to Close
Family Style Option on Sundays

Rock Brook Village
108th & Center
402.391.2585

www.pastaamore.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

5110 North 132 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Return Service Requested



Felice Anno Nouvo
Happy New Year



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

Call 402 493-8888 x1



Serving families for over 132 years.

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

402-391-3900

www.heafeyheafey.com