



AIHS 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 2023 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, Meatball and Specialty Food Fundraisers**

AIHS makes Italian Sausage, Meatballs and other Specialty Foods three times a year as fundraisers for the Society.

- **Complimentary Member Events**

The Summer Members Family Picnic, The Epiphany Celebration and the St. Joseph Celebration offer complimentary dinner and entertainment to our members.

- **Newsletter**

A Monthly Newsletter is emailed in color to all current members. This newsletter is the pipeline for information and communication of all the Society events. This newsletter contains interesting articles on Italian Heritage and recipes from our Italian Cookbook.

- **La Festa Italiana**

A Celebration of Italian Heritage for the Omaha community for over 37 years is held every year. This year it will be held on September 1, 2 and 3rd.

- **Scholarships**

Two generous College Scholarships are offered annually to active members' children.

Please Join the AIHS Today and Enroll a New Member!

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Membership Meeting May 8th 7:30 p.m.

Members Summer Picnic June 4th

June Sausage Sale June 24th

Membership Drive—Please pay dues by June 1

April Membership Meeting Minutes

The General Membership Meeting, held on April 10, 2023, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with John Potera and Joe Daniels as flag-bearers. There were 16 members in attendance. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to remember all our members especially for longtime member Luke Coniglio who recently passed away.

The minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Jeff Ladwig, and was approved by the members. Dr. Terry Bolamperti mentioned that rentals for the facility are improving to the point that many Saturdays are booked from May through November. There are several openings for rentals this summer.

Old Business was discussed including the April 1st Sausage Fundraiser, which was very successful, at which we sold as much sausage and specialty items we normally do on our busiest sausage fundraiser in December. 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 Diner which will be held on Saturday, April 29th from Noon to 6 pm. Volunteers will be needed for preparation of the 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 4th at the Palazzo on the FESTA Grounds. The Festa Italiana was discussed, and the plan is to proceed with the Festa on Labor Day Weekend. There will be a scheduled FESTA Captains Kickoff meeting in May to start organizing the event.

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, 2023.

This year's Santa Lucia Festival will be held on August 4th – 8th. Sherry Kanger reported that the Omaha Sister City Association (OSCA) has announced that Omaha and Carlentini will now be changed from a Friendship City designation to an actual Sister City Designation. This is a huge accomplishment and the fastest time any city has ever been awarded that honor from OSCA.

The Meeting was adjourned, and the Piece of the Pie winners were Carmen Grosse and Jeff Ladwig. Members then enjoyed camaraderie and Festa pizza prepared by Larry Belfiore. All are welcome to the next Membership Meeting which will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023.

Submitted by Dr. 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.**





ANNUAL MEMBERS SUMMER PICNIC

AIHS Members & their Families are invited to the Summer Picnic

Sunday, June 4th 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, 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



Sausage Sale & Spring Pasta Dinner Follow-up

The Society has had a very busy March and April. The April Sausage Sale and Specialty Food Fundraiser was a huge success. We sold over 1,400 pounds of sausage and we sold out of the specialty foods like Olives, Pepper Sauce and Italian Dressing. We do have some bags of Meatballs and some Spaghetti Sauce for sale. They are \$25 for a bag of 25 meatballs and the Spaghetti Sauce is \$9 per quart or 2 or more quarts for \$8 each. Thanks to all the AIHS Volunteers for making this sale a huge success. On April 29, the AIHS held a very successful Spring Pasta and Meatball Dinner. 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 to the AIHS Society.



La Festa Italiana 2023

There will be a Festa Captain's Kick Off Meeting on May 17, 2023 at the Palazzo. Please mark your calendars for this meeting as we kick off the preparations for La Festa 2023. Thank you! This meeting is for Captains only, but if any members want to volunteer for the FESTA please email Lisa at secretary@omahaitaly.com.

Memorial: Please keep the family of Luke Coniglio in your prayers. Luke passed away on April 4, 2023. Luke was an active member of AIHS for over 40 years, since 1982. He is best remembered for selling FESTA tickets with Jess Milone at Kohll's Pharmacy for over 30 years, where he was a Pharmacist. AIHS thanks him and his family for their many contributions to AIHS over the past years.



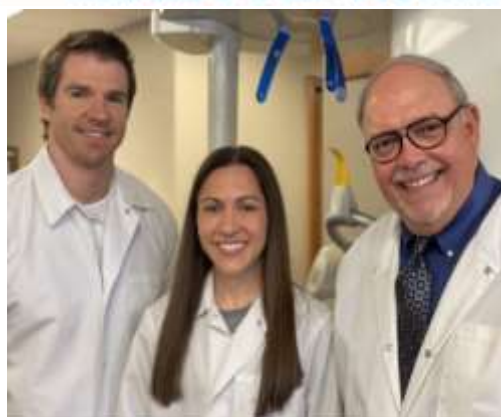
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Nine members of the family oversee the day-to-day operations. From left: Helena (Jacobsen) Anderson, Dean Jacobsen Sr., Lou Rotella Jr., Jim Rotella, Gina Rotella, Rocky Rotella, Dean Jacobsen Jr., John Rotella and Lou Rotella III.

Congratulations to Rotella's Italian Bakery

Congratulations to Lou Rotella Sr. and Lou Rotella Jr. for being inducted into the American Society of Baking Hall of Fame Class for 2023. Lou and Kathi Rotella are Charter Members of the American Italian Heritage Society. The Rotella Family has been very supportive of AIHS over the years. We proudly serve Rotella bread and other products at all of our Society Events.

The Rotella tradition began in 1850 in Calabria, Italy, where Alessandro Rotella (Louis Sr.'s father) family raised their own wheat and milled it into flour. They used that flour to bake the hearty loaves of bread that they sold to the villagers. Over time, Alessandro's mastery of the art of baking became second to none. Alessandro immigrated to the United States and with his wife, Maria, started Rotella's Italian Bakery, Inc in 1921. Over time, he passed his knowledge on to his son, Louis Rotella Sr., who continued practicing his father's art and became a master baker himself.

Always seeking to bring customers new experiences, Louis Sr. was dedicated to staying on top of trends and innovation in the baking industry. In 1960, Rotella's introduced sliced bread and plastic packaging, an innovation for an Italian bakery at the time. And one of the bakery's iconic stories – demonstrative of the future-focused way Louis Sr. operated – involves the Kaiser bun. After travelling to the East Coast and experiencing that bit of baking for himself, Louis Sr. was determined to introduce the Kaiser bun to the Midwest.

Louis Sr.'s son, Louis Rotella Jr., started dabbling in the family business shortly after learning to walk. At the age of three, he was riding on his father's bakery delivery truck. By eighth grade, he had learned all aspects of running production. Having inherited a work ethic like his father's, Louis Jr. worked at the bakery throughout high school and college. After graduating from University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1972, Louis Jr. became partners with his father after Louis Sr. agreed to buy out his brother and the start of a new era of leadership began.

Bold advances, driven by Louis Jr., included launching a national campaign to sell fresh, frozen bread; steadily increasing route distribution; and selling bread to both distributors and voluminous regional and national chain accounts.

As the customer base grew so did the need for additional space. Rotella's found it in La Vista, Neb., the location of today's 40-acre Rotella's campus, a complex that encompasses five separate production facilities totaling 500,000 sq. ft.



Since 1921

Sicilian Meatball Soup

(Pallottoline In Brodo)

1/2 lb lean ground beef

1 egg

8 tsp. grated Parmesan Cheese

4 tsp. soft bread crumbs

Salt and pepper to taste

2-3 sprigs parsley, finely chopped

1/2 garlic clove, finely chopped

7 1/2 cup meat stock

1/2 lb. ribbon noodles or other Italian Pasta



Mix the meat, egg, Parmesan cheese, bread crumbs, salt and pepper, parsley and garlic in a bowl. Knead until smooth, then break off small pieces of the mixture. Roll them into balls about the size of a hazelnut. Bring the stock to a boil, add the meatballs and simmer for 5 minutes. Add the noodles and cook these until tender but still firm. Serve immediately with plenty of grated Parmesan cheese. Serves 6.

Recipe by Ann Marie Falco pg. 29, A Taste of Italy Cookbook . Ann Marie has been a member of the AIHS for over 40 years.

Cookbooks can be purchased at the AIHS Office for \$25. Contact the AIHS Office at (402) 493-8888 x 1 or email Lisa at secretary@omahaitaly.com.



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.

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



Rockbrook Village

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



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Lou Buda, Joe Daniels, Maria Leo, Margo Pirruccello, Geno Crisafulli, Sebastian Youde, John Potera, Deacon Steve Grandinett, Anne Marie Falco-Marr, Cecilia Bellinghiere and Kim Rodino.

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 next week. Recruiting new member is how we build the Society, welcome your family and friends to join our Society. Members receive a monthly newsletter in color emailed to them. Please mail your dues by **June 1st, 2023**. Thank you!

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)

The TAGG Mobile App is no longer available in the App Store or Google Play and will not be supported. Switch now to the new improved Tagg.today.

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Businesses like Hy-Vee, Dragon Wok, Jimmy's Egg, Pasta Amore, Mangia Italiana and DJ's Dugout are a few businesses participating.



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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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