



October 2023
Volume 41 No. 10

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

PASTA DINNER

Mostaccioli and Meatballs

Sunday, November 5th—Noon to 6 PM

Tickets: Adults \$12 and Children \$6

Meal includes Italian Salad, Bread & Butter



Tickets will be mailed out mid-October

Tickets may be purchased at the door

Take-out is available

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



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS**October Membership Meeting****Monday, October 16th, 7:30 p.m. at il Palazzo*****(Please NOTE: Date change)*****Pasta Dinner November 5, 2023****Sausage Sale December 9, 2023**

September 2023 Membership Meeting Report

The General Membership Meeting, held on September 11, 2023, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Jim Mazzei and Nick Phillips as flag-bearers. Jim was an Army Vietnam War Veteran and Nick was an Air Force navigator who recently retired after 20 years of service. He still works as a contractor at Offutt Air Force base as an instructor navigator. There were 23 members in attendance. Members were asked to bow their heads and take a moment of prayer for Society members that are ill and for two longtime members that recently passed away, Dr. John Bolamperti and Jim Caniglia.

We welcomed longtime members Nick and Beth Phillips to their first AIHS membership meeting. Beth joined us as the new Secretary for the Society just before Festa. Her parents, John and Cheryl Mascarello are also longtime members of the AIHS. Beth's grandparents, Ernie and Dee Mascarello, were members since the early 1980's and were very active in all aspects of the Society as members. Ernie Mascarello was most influential on the Building Committee for the construction of the Palazzo. Dee and Ernie have passed away, but we dearly miss them still. We are sincerely proud and pleased to have Dee and Ernie's granddaughter, Beth, as our new Secretary of the Society. Beth gave a nice talk about her family and their Italian heritage. The Mascarello family immigrated to America from the town of Mure in the Veneto region in Italy. Nick and Beth were warmly welcomed by the membership.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Treasurer Jeff Ladwig, which was approved by members present. **Old Business** discussed briefly was the Festa food prep done earlier in the month. All who helped in any way were very much appreciated. Then the **Festa Report** was given by Emma Leo-Mueller and Terry Bolamperti. The Festa was a big success. We did very good financially, but we were down somewhat from last year due to the 95 degree heat all weekend. As the sunset approached the temperatures went way down and every night was very comfortable and very enjoyable for the guests that attended the rain-free Festa weekend festivities. We received many compliments on the food and the entertainment. Dr. Terry thanked all the captains and their volunteers that worked so hard all weekend to make the Festa a great success. Thanks goes out to the crew that set up all the Festa booths and prepared the Festa grounds. We are grateful to the Festa Organizational Committee for all their time and efforts in the weeks and months before and during the Festa. They accomplished so much in such a short period of time. Special thanks also goes out to those wonderful volunteers that helped with post Festa tear down and cleanup on Labor Day Monday. Dr. Terry expressed sincere gratitude to all members and volunteers that helped in any way. **New Business.** Next, we have our fall **Pasta and Meatball Dinner** scheduled for November 5th. We will need volunteers to help to make meatballs and run the event. Members were asked to call the new AIHS secretary, Beth, to say if they can help. It was announced that **Board Elections** will be held at the November Membership meeting. There were nominations taken from the floor for board members. Also mentioned was the Board formation of a committee to attract young members for leadership positions. Members thought this is a good idea for the betterment of the future of the Society.

The meeting was adjourned, and the Piece of the Pie winners drawn were Sue Broadhead and Terry Bolamperti. After the meeting, members enjoyed camaraderie and Festa sausage and peppers warmed up by Tom Morinelli and served with fresh Rotella's bread. We welcome all to the next Membership Meeting which will be held on Monday, October 16, 2023 (please take note change in date). Hope to see you all there. Ciao.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

La Festa Italiana 2023 39th Annual

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

These words describe the Festa Italiana once again this year. We had very warm weather for the Festa but it was very comfortable and cooled off when the sunset approached. We were blessed once again with no rain this year. This resulted in big crowds that attended this year's Festa. 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 another successful Festa this year.

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, Wednesday and Thursday for the final details.

The 39th 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. Millie Grazie a tutti. A more detailed Festa report will be posted in the November newsletter.

Submitted by Festa Chairman Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A big thank you goes to the many AIHS Volunteers who worked very hard to make this year's FESTA 2023 a huge success. We work hard but have a lot of fun. Below are some pictures from this years La Festa Italiana 2023! We love our Volunteers!



← Memorial Photo from last year's Festa, 2022

Jim Caniglia Memorial



We were saddened with the news that we lost another dedicated member of the Society. James F. Caniglia died on September 6, 2023, at 90 years of age. He was known as “Jimmy” by close friends. Jimmy Caniglia was a long-time member, and he contributed his talents to the Society in many ways. He was active in many of the first Festas in the early 1980’s. He was a food salesman and was very good in the kitchen as a cook. Jimmy volunteered for many events for the Society. He always helped make meatballs with the meatball crew. He was chairman of several spaghetti dinners and worked most of them when he was younger. He helped cook for food experiences and wine tasting events put on at the Palazzo. He volunteered to do food demonstrations at the Festa many times. Last year in 2022, he was scheduled for a food demo at the Festa.

He was traveling in Italy and could not get out of the country on time due to Covid restrictions. He called and offered to do the demo via Skype electronically over the internet from Italy, but connections didn’t allow it. He also volunteered at the Deli at the Festa. He was always so helpful and a pro in the kitchen. Jimmy was always eager and happy to share his expertise with cooking and preparing food with others. Jim also served on the AIHS Board of Directors and was a donor to the Capital Campaign. Jim Caniglia was also very active in the Santa Lucia and the Sons of Italy. He was a good man, and we will miss him dearly as a dedicate and enthusiastic member of the Society. Please keep “Jimmy Caniglia,” his wife Pam and family in your thoughts and prayers.
Submitted by Terry Bolamperti





2023 FESTA BOCCE BALL

Three days of Bocce action during La Festa Italiana started on Friday evening. Friday night, the celebrity bocce match featured Pete Festerson, the current Omaha City Council President and acting Mayor of our great city, Sandy Buda former head coach of the UNO Mavericks from 1978 to 1989, head coach of the Omaha Beef of the National Indoor Football League from 2000 to 2003, and the head coach of the Omaha Mammoths of the Fall Experimental League. Sandy is now retired and enjoying the good life. Brook Bench, former director of the Omaha Parks Department who now heads a new philanthropic organization committed to park development. Brook is presently the Executive Director of the Lake Cunningham Development Trust. Joining this trio was AIHS member Santo Marasco standing in for Aimee Melton district 7 Omaha City Council representative who was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

The competition was hot and heavy throughout the match. Much discussion centered around who was closest to the Pallino. The judge for the evening match was called in to settle the matter with an official measurement. In the end, Pete Festerson and Santo Marasco edged out Sandy Buda and Brook Bench for the win. A nice gathering of Festa folks were on hand to cheer on the celebrities.

Saturday night Bocce centered around open play for Festa guests to try their skill at the Italian Bowling Game. Many first-time players were guided through the rules and shown the proper technique by AIHS member Barrett Williams, a young and experienced Bocce player who was assisting as a volunteer. A good time was had by all participants with many often returning throughout the night.

Sunday evening featured an Italian three team challenge. The Sons and Daughters of Italy, the Santa Lucia Society and the American Italian Heritage Society participated. Before the challenge began Lou Buda presided over the opening of the event by rolling the ceremonial first ball. Lou, a long-time member of the AIHS and honored volunteer, has held many valued leadership positions. He along with other leaders within the AIHS are the reason we have our beautiful home to host the La Festa Italiana. Lou's only request for the match was there would be no cussing unless it was in Italian.

The challenge started at 5:00pm and went until dark. Excellent Bocce skills were on display from all three teams throughout the evening. A large gathering of spectators surrounded the court as skillful play was appreciated and applauded. Always a great time to have the three Omaha Italian groups getting together for some Bocce competition and comradery.

“Let the Good Times Roll” Ciao, Tom Morinelli, Festa Bocce Chair





Festa Tickets

Advanced Festa tickets were mailed out to all members. Please make sure you return all your Ticket money to the AIHS Office promptly. You can also return your unsold tickets too. The AIHS Office is located at 5110 N. 132nd Street, Omaha, NE 68164. Or call Beth at the AIHS Office and she will take your payment over the phone with a credit card.

Pasta Dinner Volunteers Needed

We need your assistance to make this dinner a success. Volunteers are needed for this event make meatballs, serve food, sell baked goods and cookbooks, work the Membership Table, and collect money at the door. If you would like to Volunteer please email Beth at secretary@omahaitaly.com or call the AIHS Office at (402) 493-8888 x1. Thank you!

Sausage Sale

The next Sausage Sale will be held on Saturday, December 9th at Il Palazzo. More information about this sale and the dates to make the sausage and meatballs will be available at a later date. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss this sale!



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4:30 p.m. to Close

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ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



Italian American Heritage Month

October is Italian Heritage Month which coincides with Columbus Day on October 9th. Italian-American Heritage and Culture Month is celebrated by proclamation of the President and Congress in 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.

Do something festive with your family to promote your Italian heritage this month.

NOTE OF THANKS

We received a couple of very nice sincere and supportive thank you notes regarding complimentary Festa tickets that were sent out. We received one from the President of Creighton University, Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson. We received an additional note from a Director at Boys Town, Corinne Schwenk, which was also signed by several of the children residents of Boys Town.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Geno Crisafulli, Joe Daniels, Maria Leo, Sebastian Youde, Margo Pirruccello, Kim Rodino, Deacon Steve Grandinetti, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Judge Joe Troia, Tara & Jim Virgilito, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Larry Bonacci, John Portera and Richard Bolamperti.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thanks to the many members that have renewed their membership. Please send in your dues ASAP. This may be your last newsletter, if you don't send in your dues. **Please mail dues and form to the office at: 5110 N. 132nd Street Omaha NE 68164 or contact the office to renew over the phone at 402-493-8888 x1. Thanks for your cooperation.**

TAGG (Together A Greater Good)

Download the TAGG mobile app on your smartphone. Visit participating businesses, snap a photo of your receipt.

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secretary@omahaitaly.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Pumpkin Soup (Zuppa Di Zucca)

Page 29

“A Taste of Italy” Cookbook

1 c. water

3 c. pumpkin, diced

1 T. sugar

2 T. butter

3 c. milk

Salt to Taste

Crostini or croutons

Parsley for garnish

Mix water, pumpkin, sugar and butter; cook slowly until very tender, adding more water if necessary. Remove from heat and press through a sieve or use a processor. Add milk and bring to boiling point. Blend and add salt to taste. Reheat and serve with crostini or croutons.



**Our “Taste of Italy” Cookbook,
can be purchased at AIHS for \$25**



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

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Return Service Requested

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Happy Italian Heritage month!



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