



September 2023

Volume 41 No. 9

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



SEPTEMBER 1-3

il Palazzo

132nd & Fort St.

**EVERYONE SHOULD BE ITALIAN
AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR**



39th Annual Rain or Shine



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 omaha.aihs@yahoo.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS**La Festa Italiana**

September 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, 2023

September Membership Meeting

Monday, September 11, at 7:30 p.m. at Palazzo

August 2023 Membership Meeting Report

The membership meeting was held on August 14, 2023 and called to order by President Dr. Terry Bolamperti with 22 members in attendance. It was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Jimmy Mazzei and Joe Daniels as flag bearers. There was a moment of prayer for ill members of the Society and for those that have recently passed away.

New members welcomed at the meeting were Tom Grasso and Tom Scheer and Eleonora Formica. Tom Grasso told us that his paternal grandparents came to Omaha from Carlentini Sicily around 1911. They lived at 8th and Hickory St then moved to 12th and Williams St. His grandparents were the God-parents to Rose Cascio who with her husband, Fred Brunning, ran the popular Omaha restaurant “Big Fred’s Pizza”.

Tom Grasso retired after working his whole career at MUD. Tom has also been a lifelong hot-rod racing enthusiast. He has also volunteered to be our MC for the Festa. Tom Scheer has also recently become a member of our Society. His maternal grandparents also immigrated to Omaha from Sicily and he is very proud of his Italian heritage. He and his wife have 2 daughters and their lives are currently focused on girls fast-pitch softball. Tom has volunteered to help with the Festa set-up and bartending at the Festa. Eleonora Formica, who has recently joined the Society, lives in Carlentini Sicily and is in Omaha visiting and taking part of the Santa Lucia 99th Annual Festival. She is also the Carlentini connection with Omahan Sherry Kanger for the official formation of the Sister City designation of the two cities. The official City finalization of this project will happen at next year’s 100th Annual Santa Lucia Festival with the Mayors of both cities presiding. Eleonora is planning to do some live Facebook videos from Carlentini for the Festa. She helped with some of the making of the Festa biscotti and she said she is honored to be a member of the AIHS. All new members were warmly welcomed by all. The minutes of the previous months meeting were read and approved. The Treasury Report was given by Treasurer Jeff Ladwig and approved by members. All members were reminded to send in their yearly dues if they have not already done so.

For Old Business, it was reported that 95% of all Festa food prep has been completed. In the last month the pastry crew headed by Rose Leo-Koch and Mary Kay Falco-Ford completed the huge task of making over 5,000 biscotti. All the volunteers have completed all the meatballs, sausage, vaso mauro, and pepper sauce. The Italian salad dressing, the cracked olives and hand-made ravioli are the only items left to be made. Once again, these Captains and their crews were thanked for all of their hard work and service given to the Society in helping to make the Festa a success.

New Business discussed was the need for volunteers. The Festa was discussed in detail and Dr Terry noted that we still need several captains and volunteers for the Food Lines. He asked that if anyone has any relatives or friends that wish to volunteer, please contact Mary Kay Ford or Dr. Terry and we will put them on the volunteer list. Dr. Terry also asked for Festa volunteers to help unload the supply truck on Saturday August 26th from 8:30 am to 12:30. Help is also needed to help set up the booths for the Festa starting Monday afternoon, August 28th. Volunteers were also urged to come and help with clean up and tear down on Monday, Labor Day.

The rest of the Festa was discussed including entertainment, the Sunday morning mass, the bocce ball tournaments, food demos, fireworks and parking. All members were encouraged to sell all their tickets and come and have a good time at the Festa and help make it a success.

The meeting was adjourned and the piece of the pie winners drawn were Carmen Grosse and Terry Bolamperti. Mini-meatballs were served and camaraderie was enjoyed by all. All were invited to attend the next meeting which will be held on September 11, 2023.

See you at the Festa!

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

DATES & TIMES

Friday, September 1st 6 pm to 11 pm

Saturday, September 2nd 5 pm to 11 pm

Sunday, September 3rd Noon to 11 pm

TICKET SALES

\$7.00 at the Door

\$5.50 Advance tickets at all area Hy-Vee

Or Rockbrook Camera

Children 14 and under free with paid Adult

Send in all Advanced Tickets by Sept. 10th.

PARKING & SHUTTLE

Free Parking and shuttle from

Kelley Field 126th and Fort Street

Paid Parking available at Il Palazzo

Dance Under the Stars

The 70's Band Friday 8 pm to 11 pm

Eckophonics Saturday 8 pm to 11 pm

Taxi Driver Sunday 8 pm to 11 pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Santa Lucia Band (Fri, Sat, & Sunday)

La Banda (Saturday & Sunday)

Axe Man Band (Sunday)

Trio La Festa (Friday)

Josh Powell, Singer/Guitarist (Friday)

Joey Gulizia trio featuring Jorge Nila (Sat.)

Chad Fey w/The Groove Scholars (Sunday)

Daddy Mac & The Flak (Sunday)

Singer Mark Morello & Pianist Bernadette Smith (Sunday)

Las Vegas Performer, Sebastian Anzaldo, Jr. "Tribute to Frank Sinatra" (Sunday)

Food and Drink

30 Delicious, authentic Italian food items all prepared by AIHS Volunteers at outside food lines and booths including pasta and meatballs, sausage, and peppers, pizza, shrimp scampi, fried calamari, chicken primavera and our special fried dough. Inside specialty items available at the deli and pastries in the Gallery. Domestic and Imported Italian wine and beer are available.





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

The AIHS Volunteers have been hard at work preparing food to purchase at the Festa. Food Items range in price from \$1.00 to \$8.00. There is also Italian themed merchandise aprons, t-shirts, hats and novelties to name a few available to purchase as well.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

John Bolamperti Memorial

With a heavy heart I am writing this memorial about my dear brother, Dr. John Bolamperti, who passed away unexpectedly on August 16th, 2023, at 85 years of age. He was a graduate of Creighton Prep and Creighton University. He went on to graduate from Creighton Dental School practicing as a dentist for over 40 years before he retired. John had several nicknames: Bud, Budsy- a name given to him as an infant by our mother. He was known as “Butsy” by many of his life-long friends and relatives.

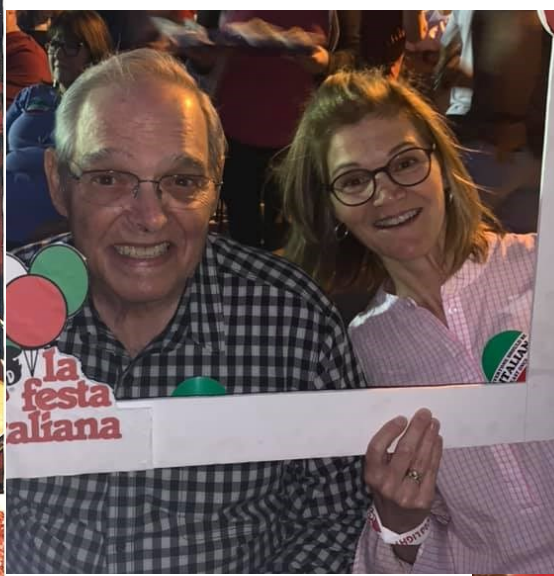
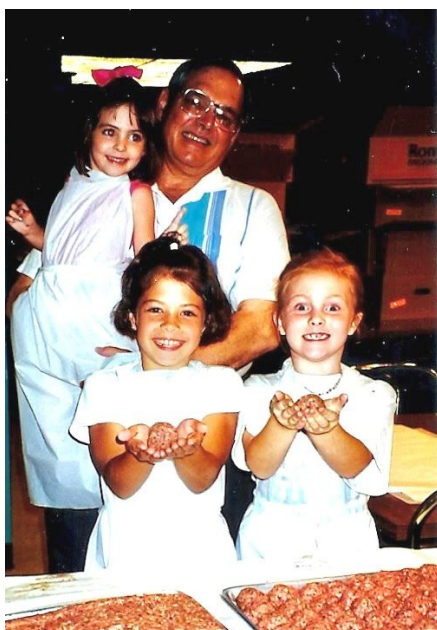
John and his wife Mary Jane have been married for over 60 years. They were Charter Members of the American Italian Heritage Society, joining in the first year of our Italian organization in 1981. John was always active in the Society in many ways from its start until about 5 years ago when he began dealing with some health issues. He was involved with the first Festa organizational team. He volunteered for most all the Festas and fundraisers in the past and he attended most of the Society events. For several years he and his family rolled and baked meatballs for the Festa. He also ran the Scampi booth at Peony Park Festas. He was a very good cook, and he entered many recipes in the AIHS cookbook “A Taste of Italy.” You can find one in this issue of the newsletter.

My brother John and I hunted together a lot, and we would get so much game (pheasants, quail, ducks, geese, rabbits, etc.) that we could not eat it all. He then had an idea of having a Game Feed with an Italian flare as a fundraiser for the Society. John and I co-chaired the Wild Game Feed for over 20 years at our Society’s first home on 14th & Pine Street. It was always a sell-out and was very successful. His special recipes were enjoyed by all that attended.

Personally, John had many, good friends. He was a “people person” and always enjoyed being around friends. He had the great quality of being able to make people laugh and “feel good” when you were around him. Anyone that knew John said he was one of a kind and all had many stories of good times and laughter with him. His passing is a big loss for a lot of people: his wife Mary Jane, his family, his patients, his classmates from school, and his many friends and members of the American Italian Heritage Society. We will all genuinely miss him but will always remember the many good times with John and the many laughs we shared with him.

John is survived by his dear wife, Mary Jane, his children, Ted (Crystal), Matt (Mary), Christine (Jack), and Jill (Kevin), his 10 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. We ask that all keep my brother John Bolamperti and his family in your thoughts and prayers. He will be dearly missed.

Submitted by Terry Bolamperti





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

FESTA ACTIVITIES**FESTA FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

Celebrate the Festa with a bang on Friday and Sunday night with Bellino Fireworks sponsored by Security National Bank and Di Giorgio's Sportwear.

MASS AT FESTA

A traditional Catholic Mass will be celebrated at La Festa on Sunday, September 3rd at 10:15 AM by Father John Pietramale. Afterwards, coffee and Italian biscotti cookies will be served. Sponsored by Heafey Hoffmann Dworak & Cutler.

FESTA BOCCE BALL

FRIDAY—Celebrity Bocce personalities; Sandy Buda, John Stella, Al Italia, Omaha City Council President Pete Festersen.

SATURDAY—Open competition. Bring a team of 2 to 4 players and go against another team for Festa bragging rights as best of Saturday night. Games start at 5 PM.

SUNDAY— Three team challenge; Sons of Italy, Santa Lucia, and AIHS will compete in the round robin tournament starting at 5 PM.

Bocce Captain is Tom Morinelli 402.312.5959



Childrens Activities: leisure time activities provided by: **Hires Glow LLC**

Day passes will be available. Face painting for the kids at a small fee.



**Congrats on the 39th
Annual La Festa Italiana**

From the Bellinghiere,
Longo, & Mike & Beverly
Vazzano families!



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

More FESTA Activities

Sponsored by Pasta Amore Ristorante

FESTA Food Demos

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Friday: Gazpacho | Chef Jared Clarke |
| Saturday: Traditional Carbonara | Chef Jared Clarke |
| Saturday: Caponata | Chef Jared Clarke |
| Sunday: Chicken Piccata | Chef Jared Clarke |
| Sunday: Fresh Stuffed Artichokes | Chef Jared Clarke |



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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A PROUD MEMBER'S THOUGHTS AND TRIBUTE OF ALL 3 ITALIAN SOCIETIES**by Dr. Pat Venditte, Ed.D.**

****FROM ITALY TO OMAHA NEBRASKA AND BACK TO ITALY PRESERVING THE PAST, PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE. UNLESS WE KNOW WHO WE WERE, WE DON'T KNOW WHO WE ARE. THE REFLECTION AND PURPOSE OF OUR 3 DISTINGUISHED & PROMINENT ITALIAN SOCIETIES.**

Recently in August 2023 the Santa Lucia Society celebrated a most successful 99-year Summer Celebration in Omaha, Nebraska. Santa Lucia President Todd Procopio, Presidents Sons and Daughters of Italy Dan Matuella and Sara Ruma and Dr. Terry Bolamperti D.D.S. President American Italian Heritage Society and Father Damien Zuerlien Pastor St. Francis Cabrini (formerly St. Philomena) assisted and participated in recognizing the abundant and generous Italian customs to all of Omaha. The Santa Lucia Society just completed a very heart-warming celebration of 99 years in Little Italy in commemoration of our Patron Saint, Santa Lucia. Saint Frances Cabrini Church, the Sons and Daughters of Italy and the Santa Lucia Festa remain pillars of our Italian Colony in or Little Italy community.

Presently THE SANTA LUCIA FESTIVAL COMMITTEE and its membership are preparing to light the way forward toward the 100th Year when we can all celebrate the hard work of our Italian forefathers. The 100th year will be celebrated in 2024 as Vice President and Chairperson Anna Lucia Diederich and select committee members prepare for this momentous grand spiritual and festive celebration. Our Festival has status of the longest active and continuous celebration of its kind in Omaha and the Midwest.

This yearly Festival brings people of all faiths together for a family celebration of good time, old world fun, memories, good Italian food, but mostly for our spiritual renewal remembering like our Italian forefathers, our Patron Saint Santa Lucia. The Omaha celebration began in 1925 based on tradition that dates back to 1621 in Italy when the Carlentini's (Omaha immigrants) officially dedicated their hometown to Santa Lucia. Devotees in Italy and in Omaha celebrate Mass and Benediction while parading their patron saint in Little Italy with crowds expressing their love and devotion. Our heartwarming celebration ends after Benediction with the singing of the song Santa Lucia in Italian as the statue is placed in its sanctuary next to St. Philomena and St. Patrick.

As they leave the church the crowd begins to dance in the street as the Santa Lucia Festival Band plays their famous marching songs fondly remembering former band director Dominic DiGiacomo and long-time favorite drummer Vince Emmanuel. Both Dominic and Vince are long-time residents of Little Italy and long-time members of the Santa Lucia Marching Band. Dominic's Dad, Joe, was a trumpet player and member of the Band. Vince's Dad, Vince Senior, was a former Band Director/Conductor of the Santa Lucia Marching Band. Dominic's son, Mike, is the 5th Band Director/Conductor in the Society's 99 year- long history.

In 2018 Mike Di Giacomo received the baton from his Dad Dominic (Don). Mike's parents Don and Linda Lydic Di Giacomo were married on December 13th 1972, the Feast Day of Santa Lucia. Dominic was the leader of the Santa Lucia Marching Band from 1977-2017. Dominic's older sister Lucille Dombrowski was born and raised in Little Italy. Lucille's husband Archie was one of Omaha's greatest golfers and a top golfer in the Omaha Pub links. Dominic's mother Nancy Falcone and father Joe, sister Lucille, nephew Jeff Dombrowski and niece Annie Lang all resided in Omaha's Little Italy. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Don took trumpet lessons from Pete Cosentino, one of the Festival Band's first Conductors. Don always said he was extremely honored to play for both Pete and Vince Emanuel Sr. former Conductors of the distinguished and renowned Santa Lucia Marching Band.

The SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF ITALY SOCIETY allowed the Santa Lucia Committee the use of their building and grounds providing a perfect fit for a successful 99th year celebration. Father Damien Zuerlein and St. Frances Cabrini Parish contributed beyond words to the success of the Santa Lucia Festival. The Santa Lucia Society was allowed access to the school, church and Cabrini campus which provided the real Italian atmosphere and festive spirit that so many people enjoyed. The annual celebration of Mass and Benediction continue to remain an integral part and hallmark of the spiritual and Heavenly experience that our St. Frances Cabrini Church provides. The spiritual environment contributes to all festival participants the ability to express their love and devotion of their forefathers and pray for their personal intentions. The Sons and Daughters of Italy's Hall located in Little Italy and across the street from St. France Cabrini Church provided for a magnificent and ideal atmosphere for the 99th annual spiritual and festive celebration.

A stroll down memory lane brings to mind the past and present Presidents of the Santa Lucia Society from the 1940's to present day: Buda, Oddo, Crisci, Bellinghire, Monaco, Pantano, Carlentini, Vasta, Woodrich, Vacanti, Magni, Marino, Hilpipre, Pomodoro, Distefano, Di Giacomo and Procopio.

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY continues to delight and preserve the Italian culture in Omaha. Labor Day Weekend is synonymous with the La Festa Italiana's annual Italian celebration. Their festival is the societies largest event held every labor-day weekend. La Festa Italiana is celebrating their 39th year this Labor Day Weekend rain or shine. President Dr. Terry Bolamperti D.D.S. and his many hundreds of volunteers continue to preserve and ignite the Italian spirit and pride during this La Festa labor-day celebration. Festival attendees from the Midwest come to the beautiful, irresistible and delightful Italian Palazzo Italiana to enjoy the many Italian customs and food. This three-day celebration is treasured and remembered by all who attend the annual anticipated festival. The roots of our Italian forefathers remain at the heart of this Italian ethnic observance and celebration. The food, music and entertainment provide a festive, entertaining and cheerful Italian environment.

Sunday September 3rd at 5pm on the La Festa campus a clash and face-off will be featured between the 3 Omaha Italian Societies by La Festa event organizer Tom Morinelli. The history of Italy's second favorite sport Bocce Ball will be high lighted by members from the 3 Italian Societies.

Throughout the year the American Italian Heritage Society holds a variety of religious and spiritual celebrations and events. Included in these events are the Epiphany Celebration, St. Joseph's Day and the Carnevale bringing large segments of Omaha's ethnic population and supporters together for the religious remembrances and nostalgia. The Society provides yearly entertainment with spaghetti dinners and Italian sausage sales throughout the year. President Dr. Terry Bolamperti D.D.S participates every year in the celebration of the three Italian Societies in Omaha. He was born and raised in Omaha's Little Italy across the street from the old Train School. Dr. Terry has never forgotten the memories associated with his Little Italy growing up days.

Many Omaha supporters of the 3 Italian Societies salute, honor, praise and commend our Societal Leadership for the way they represent, characterize, emulate and demonstrate the cornerstone of Italian culture through diligence, perseverance and hard work along with the commitment of time. The 3 Italian Societies rely heavily on the many Volunteers who contribute, donate and promote the Italian Customs setting the stage for the younger generation of Italians who will follow in the footsteps of current leaders and become tomorrow's leaders in our Italian Societies.

THIS 39TH YEAR LA FESTA ITALIANA CELEBRATION ONCE AGAIN ENTITLES ALL OF OMAHA TO BE ITALIAN DURING THIS ANNUAL FESTIVE AND SPIRITUAL CEREMONIOUS OCCASION AND EVENT!



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

FESTA ENTERTAINMENT

There will be dancing Under the Stars each night starting at 8 pm. In addition there will be entertainment indoors and outside. Including the Santa Lucia Band and other local entertainers. Food demo's will be held each day and sponsored by Pasta Amore.

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, and John Portera.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thanks to the many members that have renewed their membership. There are still many who have not sent in their dues. **Please mail dues and form to the office at: 5110 N. 132nd Street**

VOLUNTEERS:

We would love to see more members volunteer. If any members or members family have thought about volunteering, **NOW** is the time! Please contact Terry Bolamperti, MaryKay Ford, or the AIHS office at (402) 493-8888 X 1. We work hard but have a LOT of fun!

AIHS COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Our original cookbook "A Taste of Italy" is still available for sale for \$25.00, 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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secretary@omahaitaly.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

STUFFED MUSHROOM CAPS “A Taste of Italy” Cookbook Pg. 182 by John Bolamperti

12 Mushroom Caps, stems removed
2 to 3 T. melted butter
Salt & Pepper
3 T. finely minced onion
2 T. butter
1 T. oil
3 T. chopped green onion & stems
6 T. bread crumbs
1/2 c. grated Parmesan Cheese
6 T. cream
1/2 box frozen, chopped spinach, drained
Pinch of garlic

Brush the caps with melted butter and place hollow side up in roasting pan. Sprinkle lightly with salt & pepper. Saute the onion in butter and oil; do not brown. Add green onion and saute. Mix all ingredients well in bowl; season to taste. Pipe into mushroom caps.

Bake in a 375 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until caps are tender and stuffing is lightly browned.



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.

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Casnovasbutchery@gmail.com



Rockbrook Village

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



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