



February 2024
Volume 41 No. 2

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

Pasta Amore & AIHS Present **CARNEVALE 2024**

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Pasta Amore - 11027 Prairie Brook Rd

Cocktail Hour at 6:11 pm

Dinner Hour at 7:11 pm

Entertainment 8:11 pm

**Crowning of the King and Queen of
Carnevale 9:11 PM**

**Join us for pageantry, food, drinks
and live music! Costumes are
encouraged, but not required.**



Menu

Prime Rib Ravioli

Sicilian Chopped Salad

Jambalaya

**Tuscan Filet tips with Quattro
Formaggio Fettucine**

Raspberry Zeppole

Raspberry filled Italian Donuts

\$65.11 per person

Includes Sales Tax and Tip

AIHS Members 10% Discount

RSVP to (402) 391-2585

Limited Availability



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

February Membership Meeting
Monday, February 12 at 7:30 PM

Carnevale at Pasta Amore
Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 PM

St. Joseph's Day Celebration
Sunday, March 17th

Easter Sausage Fundraiser
Saturday, March 23rd

Spring Spaghetti Dinner
Sunday, April 14th

Wine Tasting Experience
May ? (more details)

New Event Manager for the Palazzo

We are happy to announce that the Society has contracted with a new Event Manager for the Palazzo. Natalie Wallace of PJ Morgan Event Management and her team will manage events at the Palazzo. They will be doing all the showings of the event space, set up the ballroom tables, getting crews to work the events and clean up after events.

Natalie comes to us with much experience and enthusiasm. She is ready to help whether it's a wedding, corporate party, conference, anniversary or fundraiser.

She is excited about taking over and has many innovative ideas and we are just as enthusiastic to have her and her team on board!

The Society welcomes Natalie Wallace and her team from PJ Morgan Event Management.

Note: The previous event manager for the Palazzo, The Omaha Event Group (OEG), has vacated the premises at the Palazzo in late January and removed all their belongings. The OEG has managed rentals at the Palazzo for the Society since August of 2019.

Check out our New Palazzo Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/thepalazzoomaha>



EPIPHANY CELEBRATION 2024

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Epiphany Celebration held at the Palazzo on Sunday, January 7, 2024. Approximately 175 people attended including members, guests and Society volunteers. This is one of the best family events of the AIHS with over 50 children there having a lot of fun. It is always very heartwarming when the Befana gets all the children dancing the Tarantella with her. Emma Leo-Mueller was our Chairperson once again this year. She and her group of volunteers worked very hard to make the event so special. We can't thank her enough for chairing this event for the last several years. The meal was fantastic, as always, with spaghetti, meatballs and sausage, Italian salad and bread and butter. Members brought a vast array of desserts and cookies. Thanks to all the members that took the time to bake homemade goodies. The Society also had a bar serving refreshments. Members mentioned that they were very happy that our Society promotes and preserves this Italian tradition and keeps it going. Santa and the Befana arrived shortly after the meal was served. The children were so excited as they anticipated their arrival. The children listened intently as the Befana told the story of how she lost sight of the Three Wise Men on her way to see Baby Jesus. She then lead the children in singing Jingle Bells Italian style. Once again this year, the Befana got all of the 50 children to stand and do a Tarantella train through the crowd. Many adults in the crowd joined in and also danced with the Befana. It was a very festive event. Santa and the Befana then handed out goody bags filled with candy and fruit. We want to thank Lou Rotella for the donation of bread for the meal and Greenberg Fruit for the oranges donated for the goody bags. We also would like to express our gratitude to all the members that volunteered in the kitchen, front desk area, dessert table, the bar, the serving line, and all those who helped with food preparation and set up and clean up. Special thanks to Rose Koch and Gary Marasco for their roles in this event. Great job everyone! Millie Grazie!!

Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti





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, Geno Crisafulli, Joe Daniels, Maria Leo, Sebastian Youde, Margo Pirruccello, Kim Rodino, Deacon Steve Grandinetti, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Judge Joe Troia, Tara & Tim Virgilito, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Larry Bonacci, John Portera, Richard Bolamperti and Sam Marasco.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AIHS SCHOLARSHIP: We will be offering two generous scholarships. Applications are now available to members' children attending a credited college. Must be paid members for 2 years.

THE JOHN SCIGLIANO SCHOLARSHIP: We are now taking applications for any AIHS members' children and grandchildren attending Creighton University in the science program.

If interested, please call the AIHS office at 402-493-8888 x 1 for either application.

2024 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board: Toni Bac

President: Dr. Terry Bolamperti

Vice President: Joe Garrett

Treasurer: Jeff Ladwig

Secretary: Courtney Dice

Board Member: April Belfiore

Board Member: Nick Bolamperti

Board Member: Sal 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 many businesses that donate a % to AIHS for your purchases.



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.



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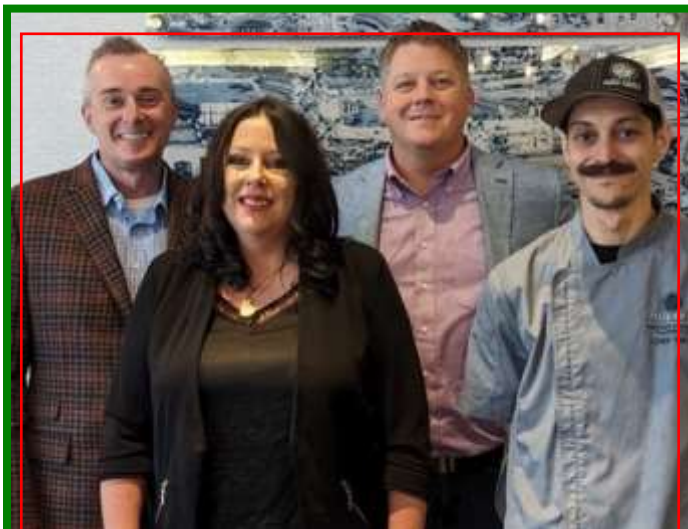
CARNEVALE IN ITALY

Like France's Mardi Gras, Carnevale is the final hurrah before the restrictions of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday (February 14). During the celebrations, which can last from a day to a month, revelers are free to eat, drink, and dance without reproof. From north to south, Italy boasts dozens of unique carnival traditions, from the Battle of the Oranges in Piemonte to the spectacular folk poets in Sicilia.

A small city in northern Piemonte, Iurea is fairly peaceful for most of the year. When Carnevale arrives, however, all bets are off. During the three days before Ash Wednesday, the townspeople reenact - with vigor - the Battle of the Oranges. The citrus-fueled fight stems from a local legend that a mugnaia, or miller's daughter, refused to spend the night with the duke and chopped off his head, sparking a civil war. On the last day - today - the mugnaia leads a parade down the city center, celebrating the rebels' triumph.

Venice carnival is among Italy's most beloved Carnevale traditions. Since it was officially established in 1296, the two-week festival's focus has been merrymaking under the freedom of le maschere, the masks. Today is no different: the city's piazzas and canals are overflowing with locals and tourists alike, donned in intricate costumes and likely heading to a grand masquerade ball.

BUON CARNEVALE!



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EGGPLANT SICILIAN (Caponata)

pg.10

Lou Turco

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2 med. Eggplants | 2 c. sliced mushrooms, fresh or canned |
| 6 c. celery hearts (cubed) | 2 c. sliced pimento stuffed green olives |
| 2 c. fresh onion (cubed) | 1 lg. garlic clove, cut in half |
| 1 c. olive oil | 2 qt. boiling water |
| 3 lg. fresh tomatoes | salt & pepper to taste |

Cut eggplant into 1-inch slices and remove skin. Cut slices into 4 to 6 pieces depending on size of slice. Cooking on moderate heat, sauté eggplant in 1/2 cup olive oil half cooked, then add cubed tomato. In separate pan using the remaining oil, cook until half done the celery, onions, mushrooms, green olives and garlic. Combine with the eggplant and tomato. Continue cooking for an additional 5 minutes on low heat to incorporate flavors. Add salt and pepper to taste; cool. Cover and store in refrigerator for 24 hours.




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

The following is an Excerpt from 2009 Newsletter

Tribute to John Stella

The AIHS Recognition Award was presented to John Stella for the renaming of Brown Baseball Park to “John Stella Field” at the general membership meeting on March 9, 2009. John was presented with a plaque at this tribute. For the first time in Omaha’s history a baseball field has been named in honor of a person of Italian descent. This should make all of us Omaha Italians proud!

His story:

John Stella, whose family emigrated from Bari Italy has been a member of the AIHS for over 25 years. His home was across the street from the Christ Child Center West (west Omaha at that time). He played sandlot baseball at Columbus Park, excelled in the sport for South High School and received a scholarship to play baseball for Omaha University. After college, in 1957, he was drafted by the San Francisco Giants. To make the roster, he had to beat our future hall of famer’s Willy Mays and Matty Alou. He played mine league baseball for the Giants for three years. Upon returning to Omaha, John found employment at the Omaha Post Office where he worked for over 30 years before retiring in 1992.

When John returned to Omaha he gave back to the community and gave back to his Italian neighborhood, i.e., Little Italy on 22nd and Poppleton. In 1961, he began coaching at CYO Senior (high school) League Baseball team consisting of mostly Italian kids from St. Ann’s neighborhood. He won the CYO championship his first year as a coach. He coached many young men from St. Ann’s for years and was proud to make a difference in their lives personally. Many of those players today still talk about their coach, baseball experiences, and life lessons learned.

In 1982 as a one year commitment, John began coaching South High School Legion Baseball. One year turned into 27 more years of dedication and service to the your of his neighborhood and the students of South High School. To this day, John is still an assistant coach to South High’s baseball team and head coach of South High’s Legion summer team. Recently, John received a National Award for 500 wins as a high school coach. Last year he was inducted into the South High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

Now coaching baseball for nearly fifty years John has been honored as the first Italian who has had a baseball field named after him. Congratulations John, we are all very proud of you!

LEARN ITALIAN - MANY WAYS TO SAY I LOVE YOU

Italian is a romantic language! Here are a few ways to impress your sweetie this Valentine’s Day:

Buon San Valentino, Amore Mio (Happy Valentine’s Day, My Love)

Amo te oggi e sempre. (I love you today and forever)

Grazie Amore per rendere speciali i giorni della mia vita.
(Thank you My Love for making the days of my life special)



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

5110 North 132 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Return Service Requested

Buon San Valentino Happy Valentine's Day



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