



Feast of the Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 7th 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 (or Sausage) Dinner served at 1:30 pm. Refreshments available. Program with Santa and the Befana following the dinner.

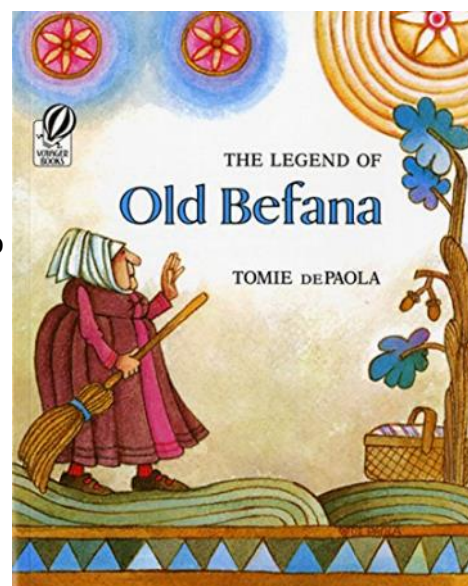
Complimentary dinner for Paid Members. Guests welcome with recommended \$10 donation.

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 5th. 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 president and board of directors are dedicated to this mission but we need your moral and financial support to be successful.



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS

Epiphany Celebration Sunday, January 7, 2024, please RSVP by Friday, January 5th

No January Membership Meeting

Carnevale at Pasta Amore Tuesday, February 13th

December 2023 Membership Meeting Report

WRITE MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT HERE

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

2023 DAN POLLEY - LOU BUDA AWARD

AIHS Man and Woman of the Year

Salvatore and Cheryl Belfiore

“ 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 **2023 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 Cheryl Belfiore**.



WRITE SOMETHING HERE ABOUT SAL & CHERYL BELFIORE



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

EGGPLANT SICILIAN (Caponata)

pg. 10

Lou Turco

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 2 med. Eggplants | 2 c. sliced mushrooms, canned or fresh |
| 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 in moderate heat, sauté eggplant in 1/2 cup olive oil until 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.

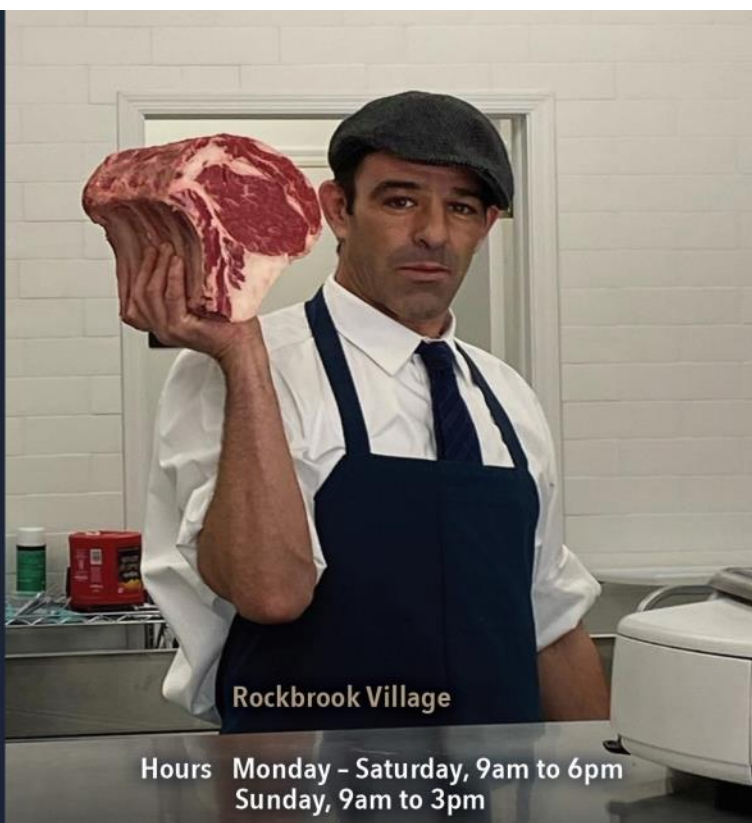



CASANOVA'S BUTCHERY

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.

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

2023 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, 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.

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!

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

2023 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: Nick Bolamperti

Board Member: Courtney Dice

Board Member: Sal Belfiore

Board Member: April Belfiore

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.



facebook.com/AIHSOmaha



www.omahaItaly.com



secretary@omahaItaly.com



Sausage Sale Fundraiser

The Sausage Sale Fundraiser that was held on December 9, 2023 was a huge success. Thanks to the many volunteers who made this event a Big success



Pasta Amore

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4:30 p.m. to Close
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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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Omaha, Nebraska 68164

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