



April 2020
Volume 38 No. 4

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

****The Sausage Fundraiser will still be held on April 4. Please see page 3 for pick-up details.****

AIHS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The American Italian Heritage Society encourages, promotes and preserves Italian culture and heritage with activities centered upon Italian traditions, foods, language, religious fests, history, folklore, customs, celebrations, music, dance and family genealogy.

As we approach 2020 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. Guest speakers on such topics as history, culture, foods, travel, oral histories and genealogy.
- Sausage Sales - AIHS makes Italian Sausage three times a year as a fundraiser for the Society.
- Scholarships - Two generous College scholarships given out yearly to active members active children.
- Complimentary Events - The Summer Family Picnic and The Epiphany Celebration offer complimentary dinner and entertainment.
- Educational Classes and Membership Events throughout the year.
- Newsletter - Monthly Newsletter in color, the pipeline for information and communication of Society events and interesting articles on Italian heritage.
- La Festa Italiana - A Celebration of Italian Heritage for the Omaha community for over 36 years.

New members can obtain an application by calling the office at 402-493-8888 x1

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 EVENT CHANGES****

The health of our members is of the utmost importance to us. Due to the coronavirus crisis, we are making changes to the Sausage Fundraiser pick-up process. The April Membership Meeting has been canceled. We will be rescheduling the April Spaghetti & Meatball Fundraiser to later this spring or early summer and the May Italian Wine Tasting Experience to the fall. We pray all our members stay well and look forward to your camaraderie once this outbreak is over.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

The general membership meeting, held on March 9, 2020, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Lou Buda and Tom Clark as flag-bearers. There were over 29 members in attendance. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to remember all of our members that are ill. Special prayers were requested for our AIHS Secretary, Diana Cotten who has had some recent health issues.

The minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved. The **Treasurers Report** was given by President Terry Bolamperti, which was approved by members. He mentioned more rental revenue is needed but bookings are filling in well now that spring is here.

Old Business was discussed including the **Carnevale** which was held and hosted at Pasta Amore Ristorante on Tuesday February 25, 2020. Chuck Caniglia played the part of the Bishop of Carnevale and the packed house enjoyed a delicious antipasti, meal and dessert prepared by chef Leo Fascianella. (Please see Carnevale report on following page).

New Business discussed included the **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser** on March 15th. Volunteers stepped forward to help for mixing the meatball mixture and rolling and baking of the meatballs.

It was discussed that we may have changes due to the coronavirus spread that has been in

the news in the last few weeks. Our Easter **Sausage Fundraiser** is planned on Saturday April 4th. Volunteers will be needed on Thursday and Friday April 2nd and 3rd and on Saturday April 4th. **Cooking classes** were discussed and may be held in the fall.

A revision of our original cookbook "**A Taste of Italy**" is in the works and being chaired by members Toni Bac, George Grillo and Ann Marie Falco-Marr.

John Portera and Gino Crisafulli gave a brief presentation on the status of **LB 848** on which the Nebraska Legislative voted to share Columbus Day with Indigenous People Day. The American Italian Heritage Society was strongly against this bill and members are encouraged to contact their State Senators to voice their opinion. The Sons of Italy, Santa Lucia Committee and the Knights of Columbus are also opposed to this change.

The meeting was adjourned and Piece of the Pie winners selected were Lou Buda and Terry Clark. After the meeting camaraderie was shared and pizza served by Wayne Moore was enjoyed by all.

Submitted by President Dr Terry Bolamperti



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EASTER SAUSAGE FUNDRAISER DETAILS

The spring sausage sale will be **Saturday, April 4, with pick-up from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** There will be a **drive-thru pick-up only** due to the coronavirus. Someone will be outside directing traffic. There will be one location for payment and a second stop to receive your sausage. You will stay inside your vehicle. If you ordered sausage and don't feel comfortable picking it up, consider asking a relative or friend to pick it up for you.



There is a limited amount of sausage available. There will be regular and hot sausage available in bulk or cased, peppers, olives and a limited amount of meatballs and spaghetti sauce.

Sausage: \$28 / 5 pounds

Peppers: \$14 / quart

Olives: \$12 / quart

SPAGHETTI DINNER REPORT

The Spaghetti Dinner was held on March 15, 2020 at the Palazzo. Due to the early stages of the coronavirus news the Board of Directors decided to take precautions and hold the dinner as "Takeout Only or Carryout Only" with shortened hours from noon until 4:00 pm. We cancelled the bake sale, the bar and the planned St Joseph's Day Traditional Table.

All necessary recommended precautions were taken by our members who volunteered for this fundraiser. All surfaces were sanitized before and after use and guests came in one door and out another with minimal contact with others. Dinners and salads and bread were served to order and placed in takeout containers and bagged before handed to guests as they exited. Society food specialties of salad dressing and frozen meatballs and sausage were also sold.

All food preparation and filling of takeout orders was done in the kitchen. Volunteers in the foyer/gallery sold product to guests and handed them the bagged takeout dinners. All volunteers washed hands frequently and wore gloves. All touched surfaces were sanitized throughout the day.

200 dinners were sold and many Society food specialties were purchased. We served and collected about 20-25% of what we would do on a "normal" spaghetti dinner. Despite the circumstances we were very pleased with the outcome and the results of this fundraiser.

I want to thank the members and guests that supported our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser. Thanks also to Rotella's Italian Bakery for donating the bread for the event. Special and sincere appreciation is extended once again to our dedicated volunteers that offered their service on the day of the fundraiser and to all those that helped in any way with all the food preparation in the weeks preceding the dinner. MILLE GRAZIE. Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

CARNEVALE MARCH 2020

The 2020 Carnevale sponsored by the American Italian Heritage Society was held and hosted at Pasta Amore on Fat Tuesday February 25th. The Carnevale was held weeks before the corona virus was the main headline news. The restaurant was full and those attending enjoyed a night of pageantry, dancing, music and a delicious meal. The Bishop of Carnevale played by Chuck Caniglia opened the evening ringing the bell at 6:11p.m. as cocktails and antipasti were served. At 7:11 p.m. the Bishop announced that the meal would be served.

Leo Fascianella served a delicious dinner including bruschetta, olives suprasatta, arancini, caponata, fennel salads, bolognese pasta, chicken Marsala with mushrooms and for dessert cassatelli siciliani con ricotta was served.



After dessert was served the Bishop of Carnevale rang the bell again and announced that the pageantry would now begin. Moments later the King and Queen of Carnevale were announced to those in attendance as the Bishop placed the crowns and capes on the Queen and King, Polo and James Martin Davis. Pictures were taken and the King and Queen opened dancing to the live music. It's always a fun festivity seeing many in costumes and enjoying the evening. At 9:11 p.m. the Bishop of Carnevale announced that the Carnevale pageantry and celebration would be coming to an end soon and reminded all that Lent starts tomorrow on Ash Wednesday.

If you've never attended Carnevale before, please consider enjoying this unique and traditional Italian event next year. It's a tradition in Italy, it's a lot of fun and the food is always delicious.

Many thanks to Leo Fascianella and his staff at Pasta Amore for putting on the delicious meal, providing live music and doing a great job of running the Carnevale. Mille Grazie Leo.

Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti





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**AIHS PARTICIPATING IN OMAHA GIVES**

We will be participating in the annual Omaha Gives campaign on **Wednesday, May 20**. Omaha Gives! is a year-round online giving platform organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. Each year, there is a 24-hour online giving event to celebrate nonprofits.

- Go online to OmahaGives.org/AIHS
- **Make a donation of \$10 or more to AIHS on May 20**
- All donations are 100% tax deductible.



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PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Teri Carlino, Jim Capellupo, Romana Olivotto, Dick Wieler, Marie Shafer, Lou Marcuzzo, Diana John-Cotten, Dee Mascarello, Betty Grillo and Lou Buda. Our condolences to the families of Marjean Gulizia, mother of member Deb Gulizia, and long-time member Maryann Kramolich. Please contact the office to add to this prayer list. 402.493.8888.

Many of you may be aware of the health issues that our AIHS secretary and friend Diana John-Cotten has been going through the last several months. Diana was recently hospitalized for testing and was admitted and is presently in Intensive Care. She will be going through a regiment of treatment in the coming weeks. We wish Diana the best and know that she has a lot of concerned members and friends praying for her. Please keep Diana in your thoughts and prayers.

We wish all our members and their families good health during this coronavirus crisis.



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40TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

We are still accepting recipes for our **American – Italian Heritage Society 40th Anniversary** cookbook!

Your recipes should include the following elements; name of dish, ingredients - including measurements, cooking temperature (where appropriate), amount this recipe will serve, preparation instructions and your name.

We would prefer that you submit your recipes electronically to amwbac@aol.com but you can also mail them to:

Toni Bac
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5110 North 132 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

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Buona Pasqua a tutti
Happy Easter to all

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