



January 2021  
Volume 39 No. 1

# *The News*

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

## **DRIVE-THRU FOOD EVENT “SUPERBOWL ITALIAN STYLE”**

**Pick-up is Saturday, February 6 from 10:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m.**

**Five delicious options for your Superbowl Party on Sunday!**

**#1 Italian Meatball Subs - Take & Make Meal for 6 includes: 18 meatballs (3 per sub), 6 Rotella hoagie buns, 1 qt frozen pasta sauce, 12 oz. prov/mozz shredded cheese - \$30**



**#2 Italian Pasta & Meatballs - Take & Make Meal for 4 includes: 1 lb of uncooked mostaccioli, 9 frozen meatballs, 1 qt of frozen pasta sauce - \$25**



**#3 Bag of 27 Frozen Meatballs - \$20**

**#4 Festa Sausage Pizza - Take & Bake - \$25**

**#5 Festa Cheese Pizza - Take & Bake - \$20**



**We need volunteers to make pizza on Saturday, January 16 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and meatballs on Thursday, January 21 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you can volunteer, please call Tammy at 402-493-8888 x1 or leave a message.**

### **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 [secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com)



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**UPCOMING EVENTS****Drive-Thru Food Event**

Saturday, February 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Carnevale at Pasta Amore**

Look for details in February newsletter

We do not have Membership Meetings in January. Due to the rise in Covid cases, we will be canceling the February Membership Meeting. Our March Membership Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8.

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE JANUARY 2021**

I'd like to wish all members a healthy and happy New Year. I want to wish you well during these difficult times and I hope that you are all in good health. Let's pray that 2021 will be a better year than what we've experienced in 2020.

The Covid pandemic has affected all of us as individuals, in our families, in our workplace and as members of the American Italian Heritage Society. We've all had to do things much differently in this crisis period of Covid 19. Every part of our lives these last several months has been affected by this virus. We've gotten used to wearing masks, social distancing, frequent hand-washing and avoiding large crowds. As a Society, we are following all these guidelines in order to keep our members and volunteers safe along with our customers who support our Society fundraisers.

The Society has cancelled membership events, some of which have been held for over 39 consecutive years. Due to the Covid pandemic, the Epiphany Celebration which has been held each and every year since 1982 was cancelled. In the past year we've cancelled many membership events including several monthly membership meetings, the Christmas Cookie Exchange, the Wine Tasting Experience, the Members Summer Picnic and the St Joseph Day Celebration. Our Spaghetti Dinners held twice a year were replaced by Drive-Thru Food Events. Our signature event and biggest fundraiser, La Festa Italiana, was called off due to the rise in Covid 19 cases. It was replaced with a three day Drive-Thru Festa Food Event. It was unthinkable to even try to hold Italian Language classes, Italian Cooking Classes and Food Experiences which were always fun and well attended in previous years. With all these changes, membership camaraderie has been compromised. I personally really miss volunteering and visiting with our many great members some of which have been quarantined and staying at home. I hope sometime in the near future we can all once again be together volunteering and visiting and enjoying each other's company.

Needless to say, 2020 was a very tough year to promote and preserve our Italian culture and heritage. Also, it was a difficult year financially since all the events and wedding rentals at the Palazzo were cancelled since last February. To compensate this loss of revenue, the AIHS Board of Directors have put on regular Drive-Thru Food Events every 6 to 8 weeks. These events have all been very successful and they are very helpful and necessary to keep on top of our decrease in revenue.

In conclusion, we hope that the Covid vaccine will control the virus outbreaks so that we can get somewhat "back to normal" in the near future. We have good upcoming rental bookings starting this Spring and we will continue with regular fundraiser events and Drive-Thru Food Events offering our Society's "Specialty Foods."

Please support our fundraisers. Please continue to offer your services as a volunteer if you are able to and support us by purchasing our food products at all events. It always helps when you promote our events to family members and friends. Any contributions from members would be welcomed and appreciated at this difficult time. I plan on continuing our Society's mission of promoting and preserving Italian culture and heritage in this new year.

Mille Grazie e Buona Fortuna a Tutti



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**2020 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 planned to be presented at the December 14, 2020 General Membership Meeting, but it was cancelled due to the rise in Covid cases. 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 due to Covid restrictions and protocols. We've done the best we could and stayed very busy throughout the year, but many AIHS events were cancelled this year due to Covid. Our accomplishments include:

- General membership monthly meetings were held but several were cancelled due to Covid.
- The Celebration of Epiphany was held in January at the Palazzo, chaired by Emma Mueller.
- Bocce Ball play was cancelled due to Covid and since carpet removal didn't work for bocce.
- The Carnevale was celebrated in February at Pasta Amore.
- Sausage Fundraisers were held in March, June and December as Drive-Thru events.
- The annual St Joseph's Day Celebration was cancelled due to Covid.
- Successful Society Spaghetti Dinners were held in April, Oct and Nov as Drive-Thru events.
- Society food specialties have been sold at all Sausage Fundraisers and Spaghetti Dinners.
- Our annual Wine Tasting Event was cancelled due to Covid.
- The AIHS Summer Picnic usually held in June was cancelled due to Covid.
- In July and August food preparation was done for the Festa.
- The AIHS Scholarships were awarded to Jacy Dragsten and Nick Garrett.
- The Festa Italiana as we know it with huge crowds was cancelled due to Covid
- A very successful Drive-Thru Festa Italiana was held Labor Day weekend at the Palazzo.
- New Board Member, Toni Bac was elected at the November Membership meeting.
- The December Membership meeting and the Italian Christmas Italian Cookie Exchange were cancelled due to Covid.
- The Dan Polley-Lou Buda Awards for the 2020 Man and Woman of the Year were postponed and will be awarded at the April membership meeting.
- 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. This was the 6th year in our new home. We have been hit hard with many cancellations of weddings and events due to Covid this year. We do have event bookings that are very good for the spring, summer and fall of 2021.

**The State of the American Italian Heritage Society is Strong, Steady and Vital.**

**OUR SOCIETY HAS A GREAT FUTURE  
REGARDLESS OF A DEVASTATING 2020 YEAR OF THE COVID PANDEMIC**



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**AIHS COOKBOOKS**

Cooking from home more and looking to try new Italian recipes? Our original cookbook "A Taste of Italy" is still available for sale for \$23.50, tax included. There are many great authentic, family recipes for appetizers, soups, salads, bread, pizza, meat dishes, seafood dishes, pastas, Society specialties, desserts and much more! Below is one recipe from the cookbook.

**Farsu Margu****Meatball Mixture**

1 lb. ground beef  
2 lg eggs  
3 slices of Italian bread  
Cheese  
Salt and pepper  
Garlic powder and sweet  
basil to taste

**Round Steak**

1 round steak, boneless  
3-4 hard boiled eggs

Soak the bread in water then squeeze. Mix all the meatball ingredients together well. Pound the steak on one side to tenderize. Overlap steak to close split. Spread meatball mixture evenly all around steak. Arrange hard boiled egg slices on top of meatball mixture. Roll steak lengthwise, leaving fat on outside of roll. As you roll, tuck stuffing under. Tie string around steak roll to hold together. Bake at 350 degrees, rotating meat until evenly brown. Cook in spaghetti sauce for 2 hours or until tender. Cool before slicing.

**ITALIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK**

Support a local writer and AIHS advertiser by purchasing "An American Mouse goes to Italy".

Mooch is a mouse. He lives in a quiet Midwestern town in America. Like every mouse, Mooch loves cheese!

One day, he finds himself in Italy! He discovers all the delicious cheeses, and beautiful sights of Italy. He learns some new words while he's there!

Beautiful illustrations show many scenes from Italy. Vocabulary words are introduced in Italian, and Italian cheeses are celebrated.

Available on Amazon.com and  
[www.AmericanMouseGoesToItaly.com](http://www.AmericanMouseGoesToItaly.com)



[facebook.com/AIHSOmaha](https://facebook.com/AIHSOmaha)



[www.omahaitaly.com](http://www.omahaitaly.com)



[secretary@omahaitaly.com](mailto:secretary@omahaitaly.com)



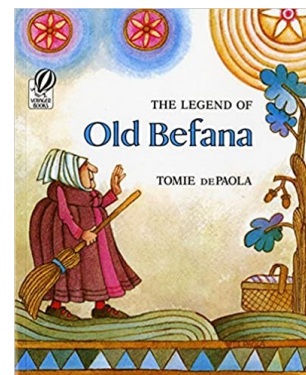


## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

We are very saddened we cannot celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this year due to Covid. This has been an AIHS family event for many, many years.

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.



No Drilling. No Needles.  
No Anxiety.

**OMAHA**  
LASER DENTISTRY

Dr. Anthony Bolamperti D.D.S.  
402.397.3411 • OmahaLaserDentistry.com

**Pasta Amore**

Open Monday - Saturday  
4:30 p.m. to Close

Rockbrook Village 108th & Center  
402.391.2585



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS**

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Teri Carlino, Romana Olivotto, Dick Wieler, Marie Shafer, Lou Marcuzzo, Dee Mascarello, Betty Grillo, Lou Buda, Joe Daniels, Diana John-Cotton, Maria Leo and Elanore Morinelli.

**LOOKING FOR HELP WITH NEWSLETTER**

We are looking for someone to help with our monthly newsletter. If you have experience writing and designing in Word/Publisher, we ask you please consider volunteering. This is a great way to help our Society from home and it only takes a few hours a month. Anna (Ripa) Patrick will be welcoming her second baby this Spring and will no longer be able to help. We thank Anna for putting together the newsletter for the last four years. Please contact Tammy, the AIHS secretary, at 402-493-8888 x1 if you are interested in helping.

**EASIEST WAY TO HELP US RAISE MONEY!**

By simply submitting pictures of your receipts at hundreds of local businesses to the TAGG (Together A Greater Good) mobile app, AIHS receives a percentage of your purchase! It's so easy!

1. Download the TAGG mobile app on your smartphone.
2. Visit participating businesses and snap a photo of your receipt.
3. Choose American Italian Heritage Society for your cause.

**Most participating businesses donate 5% of purchase!** See full visit of businesses online at [togetheragreatergood.com/participating-businesses](https://togetheragreatergood.com/participating-businesses)



# A SALON MADE FOR YOU!



CREATIVE HAIR DESIGN

salon and day spa



## THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

**A REMEMBRANCE OF JIM (“UNCLE JIMMY”) CAPELLUPO**

Jim was known to many as “Uncle Jimmy” because of his friendliness, soft demeanor and volunteer service in the community. His smile and laughter was contagious.

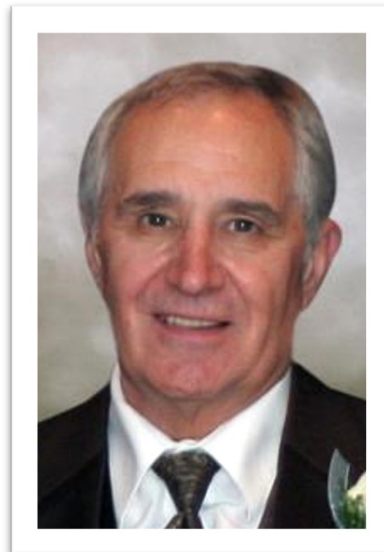
In the early days of the society, Jim worked with his mother Yolanda Capellupo to make ravioli, meatballs, cannoli’s, salads and so much more. Jim was one the very first volunteers for the American Italian Heritage Society.

The AIHS relied on Jim for many years to make meatball mixture for the our annual Festas using 500-600 pounds of hamburger which would make 25-30 batches of 20 pound meatballs.

In 1980, at the Santa Lucia Festival, Jim helped his father Pete Capellupo, construct a booth that would be used for an information area for the AIHS. Jim continued to be an asset for AIHS and La Festa for many years until his health began to decline.

His wife Gaye, their children Nichole (Treasurer, AIHS Board), Kristen, Brad, their spouses and families continue to carry on Jim’s legacy and love for Italian culture by supporting and volunteering for Festa and AIHS events.

Our deepest condolences to “Uncle Jimmy’s” family. A thousand thanks – “grazie mille” to Jim and his family for over 40 years of service promoting the mission of the American Italian Heritage Society.

**2021 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Chairman of the Board:** Lisa Bolamperti-Garrett

**President:** Dr. Terry Bolamperti

**Vice President:** Jeff Ladwig

**Treasurer:** Nikki Sandmeier

**Secretary:** Toni Bac

**Board Members:**

John Mangimelli

Melissa Orlando

**We thank Dawn Abboud for her three years of service as her Board term comes to a close.**

**The American Italian Heritage Society**  
5110 North 132 Street • Omaha, Nebraska • 68164  
402.493.8888 Fax: 402.493.1502





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

5110 North 132 Street  
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Return Service Requested



*Omaha's only Italian-inspired venue. Host your  
next wedding or special event with us!*

*Call 402-493-8888 ext 1*



*Serving families for over 132 years.*

**Heafey Hoffmann  
Dworak | Cutler**  
MORTUARIES & CREMATORY

**402-391-3900**

[www.heafeyheafey.com](http://www.heafeyheafey.com)