



December 2022
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The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



Madonna and Child with
the Donor, Pietro de'
Lardi, Presented by Saint
Nicholas. 1420–30

Master G.Z. (possibly Michele dai
Carri, Italian, Ferrara, active by
1405–died 1441 Ferrara) Italian

On view at The Met Fifth Avenue
in [Gallery 624](#)

The figures of this imposing masterpiece have an almost sculptural description derived from the artist's study of the work of the sculptor Jacopo della Quercia. The sky, which now appears almost black, would originally have been lighter in color. Pietro de' Lardi, who commissioned this important work, became deputy general to Borso d'Este, duke of Ferrara, in 1452. According to the long inscription, it was painted sometime between 1400 and 1431, when Pietro Boiardi was bishop of Ferrara. A succession of rulers of the Este family made Ferrara a center of culture and art. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection>



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS**Sausage Sale Pickup - Sat. Dec. 10th, 10am – 1pm****Meat cutting Thurs. Dec. 8th, 8am - 4pm****Membership Meeting Mon. Dec. 12th, 7:30 pm**

Italian Cookie Exchange after meeting, Bring a dozen, we will enjoy some and take a plate home.

Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 8, 2023

Please RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 5th

No January Membership Meeting**November 2022 Membership Meeting Report**

The General Membership Meeting held on November 14, 2022 was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and opened with the new Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Lou Buda and Larry Belfiore as flag-bearers. 32 members were in attendance. A moment of silent prayer was observed for members that are ill. Member welcomed was longtime member (since 1987) **Joe Gregory**. Joe is originally from Boston, Massachusetts. He attended college at Creighton University, made Omaha his home and enjoyed a long teaching career until his retirement last year. Joe Gregory's parents followed him to Omaha and were also AIHS members. Joe has worked the Festa for many years back to the Peony Park Festas in the 1980's. Joe has co-chaired many of the AIHS St. Joseph Day Celebrations starting at our first home on 14th and Pine St. Joe's Italian heritage came from Naples, Bari and Palermo Sicily. On a recent trip to Italy, Joe was impressed with the delicious food and the warmth of the people in Italy. **Treasurer's Report** was given by President Terry Bolamperti and was approved by the membership. **Old Business** was discussed including the successful fall **Pasta Dinner** held on November 6th. We had a good crowd on a beautiful day. There were many compliments on the food. We had a wonderful group of volunteers that ran the entire fundraiser efficiently. I want to thank everyone that helped in any way to make the event a success. The successful Festa Report was given but it is not finalized since there is still some ticket money out and some late bills still coming in for payment. **New Business**. The **Sausage Fundraiser** was discussed which will be held December 10th. Volunteers will be needed to help with meat cutting and preparation of peppers and cracked olives. **Board Elections** were held at meeting and Sal Belfiore, Courtney Dice, Nick Bolamperti and April Belfiore were elected as new Board Members for a 3 year term. Thanks to the new Board members for offering their time and service to the Society. The **Italian Cookie Exchange** will take place at the December meeting. All attending were encouraged to bring homemade Italian cookies to share. Members were reminded of the **Epiphany Celebration** which will be held on Sunday January 8, 2023, with food, drinks, Santa, and the Befana. The meeting was adjourned, and members enjoyed meatball subs prepared and served by Larry Belfiore. All members are welcomed to attend the next meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 7:30 P.M. at the Palazzo.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti

2022 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Chairman of the Board:** Toni Bac**President:** Dr. Terry Bolamperti**Vice President:** Jeff Ladwig**Treasurer:** Joe Garrett**Board Member:** Sal Belfiore**Board Member:** April Belfiore**Board Member:** Nick Bolamperti**Board Member:** Courtney Dice

New Board Members: Board Elections were held at the November member meeting. All nominees were voted in and approved as new Board members. Congratulations and welcome to our four new Board members April Belfiore, Sal Belfiore, Nick Bolamperti and Courtney Dice.



Sausage Sale Fundraiser

Saturday, Dec. 10th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sausage \$32 / 5 pounds Peppers: \$14 / quart Olives: \$14 / quart

Spaghetti Sauce \$9 /quart Frozen Meatballs \$22 / bag of 25

Italian Salad Dressing 16 oz for \$4.50

Fresh Rotella Sausage Buns will also be for sale on a limited basis.

We still need help cutting meat and packaging.

Thursday, Dec. 8th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10th from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.



The Deadline to **order** our Society's fresh Italian Sausage is Wednesday, December 7th for pick up on Saturday, December 10th at il Palazzo.

To place an order email Secretary@omahaitaly.com or call Lisa at the Office At (402) 493-8888 x 1. Thank you!

Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 8th 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pasta & Meatball Dinner served at 1:30 p.m. Cash bar will be available.

The Epiphany is one the best family events we hold! It's a true ethnic event and part of our Italian culture. The Befana and Santa will be visiting and giving bags of treats to children under age 12.

Free to Paid Members, Guests Welcome with recommended \$10 donation.

Reservations are necessary so all children get a giftbag. Please indicate the number of adults and children under age 12.

Call **402-493-8888 x1** or email **secretary@omahaitaly.com** by Wednesday, January 4th. Thank you!



Don't forget to place your order for the Sausage Sale by Wednesday, December 7th. Also Volunteers are needed to cut meat from
Thursday, Dec. 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10th at 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Call 402-493-8888 x1 if you can help.



Almond Pizzelles

Submitted by Lisa Hutchings, AIHS Office Manager

3 eggs
1 3/4 cups flour
1 tablespoon almond extract
1/2 cup butter or margarine

1 teaspoons baking powder
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup finely chopped almonds
powdered sugar

Beat eggs and sugar. Add cooled melted butter or margarine and almond extract. Sift flour and baking powder and add to egg mixture. Add finely chopped almonds. Batter will be stiff enough to be dropped by spoon. Plug in the pizzelle iron and once the indicator light is turned off, the pizzelle iron is ready to go. Drop one heaping teaspoon of batter in the center of each grid pattern. Baking will take approximately 30 seconds per pizzelle. Pizzelle irons will vary. Remove pizzelles from the grid with a butter knife. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

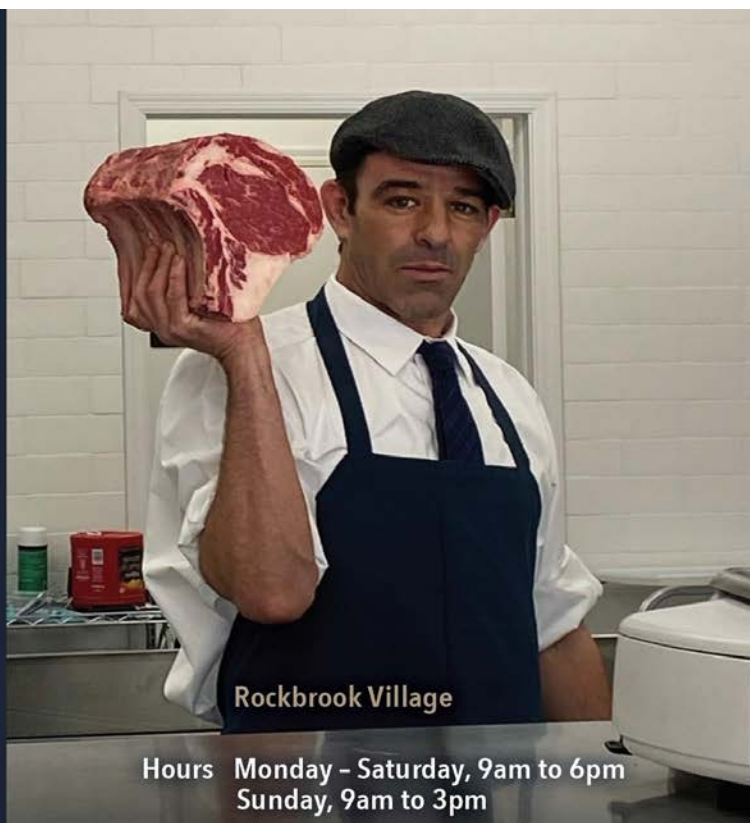
At the AIHS Membership Meeting on Monday, December 12th, at 7:30 pm there will be an Italian cookie exchange after the meeting. So please bring your favorite Italian cookies to share with other members!



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

FALL PASTA DINNER

Our fall Pasta and Meatball and Sausage Dinner was held on Sunday, November 6, 2022. It was a very successful event and over 600 dinners were served. We want to thank all the members who sold tickets and attended the dinner. In addition we'd like to thank all the non-members, friends and neighbors who attended. All your support is truly appreciated. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all who attended. As usual we received many positive compliments on the food from the guests that attended. We want to thank all those volunteers that helped in the days and weeks before the dinner, including the crews who cooked the sauce, the crews that made the meatball mixture and those that rolled, baked and bagged the meatballs, those that made the salad dressing and also the crews that precooked the pasta and helped set up the tables in the ballroom. Sincere thanks also goes out to the volunteers helping the day of the event including the kitchen crew, the salad crew and all those that helped on the serving line, the take-out area, the bake sale and the bartenders. Thanks to those that helped run the front desk with ticket sales and selling the specialty food products and the members that sold the Festa t-shirts. A very special thanks goes out to all those who helped with clearing tables and those very few who stayed late with banquet hall and kitchen clean-up. It takes many, many volunteers to put on this event and we want to thank each and every one of you who helped in any way. The success of this Pasta Dinner is due to our wonderful, dedicated and hard working volunteers. We can't thank you enough for all the service you offer to the Society throughout the years. Many thanks once again to member Lou Rotella of Rotella's Italian Bakery for his generosity in donating the bread for the dinner. His continued support is sincerely appreciated. Mille Grazie.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti

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www.pastaamore.com



PRAYERS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers our members who are ill, including Ted Bolamperti, George Grillo, Cookie Mascarello-Ladwig, Kim Rodino, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Teri Carlino, Lou Marcuzzo, Dee Mascarello, Joe Daniels, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Pat Peterson, Mary Jo Romano Petersen, Margo Pirruccello, and Sebastian Youde.

MEMORIAL:

Keep these members who have passed away in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary Wassinger, Ross Pisci and Dominic DiGiacomo

Welcome the Newest AIHS Member Sebastian Youde, the son of Chaella and Tyler Youde who was born on November 8, 2022. Sebastian is the grandson of Terry and Micky Bolamperti. Please

FESTA TICKETS AND MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please promptly return Festa tickets/money and mail membership dues as soon as possible to:

AIHS, 5110 N. 132nd Street Omaha, NE. 68164

Contact the Office to drop off Festa Ticket money or to renew your membership over the phone.

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.

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. Hy Vee is among businesses that donate a % to AIHS for your purchases.



AMAZON SMILE

Christmas is coming, if you shop on Amazon, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Works with Amazon Prime. Select the American Italian Heritage Society as your charitable organization.



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www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com



Memorial to the Band Leader Dominic DiGiacomo

Dominic DiGiacomo, a longtime member of the Society passed away on November 5, 2022. He and his dear wife Linda have been members since the mid 1980's. When you think of Dominic DiGiacomo you think of fun times and live music from the Santa Lucia Band marching through the crowd at the Festa or the streets of Little Italy during the Santa Lucia Festival. Dominic was the director or leader of the Santa Lucia Band for over 40 years, starting in 1978. The AIHS always paid the band members- but in all those years Dominic offered his services to the Society free of charge. "Thanks Dom for your generosity and support". He loved music and he started playing the trumpet in the band in 1947 when he was 13 years old. His son, Mike DiGiacomo is the current leader for the last few years as his father became ill. When Dominic would direct the band at the Festa, I would catch his attention and I would tap my heart in appreciation. He would always acknowledge me with a smile and a nod. He had a way of always making others feel happy. We will all miss him Please keep Dominic and his wife Linda and his family in your prayers. May he be blessed with the sweet soft music of heaven with Saint Lucy.

Submitted by Terry Bolamperti

Memorial to Gary Wasinger

The Society lost one of its dedicated and respectful volunteers just before Thanksgiving. Gary Wasinger passed away peacefully on November 19, 2022. Gary went to Cathedral High School where he met the love of his life, Barb. They married in 1972 and celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. They were longtime members of the Society, joining in 1983, a little over a year after the start of the AIHS. Gary was always soft spoken and never complained. He volunteered for many needs of the Society. He hardly ever refused when asked to help. He helped with the pizza-making crew at our home on 14th and Pine St. He would come on the late shift and box the pizzas and help with the tiring cleanup. When we moved to the Palazzo, Gary always helped with set up and preparing the pizzas in the kitchen at the Festa. He volunteered every year until he was too sick to help in the last couple years. Another tough job he volunteered for, for over 20 years was the pre-cooking of the 400 pounds of Pasta for the Festa. He didn't say a lot on those late nights but constantly stirred the pasta so it wouldn't stick and made sure it was cooked properly. Gary also helped for years on the meatball crew and the sausage cutting crew. It was a pleasure volunteering with Gary and his quiet, demeanor. We will all miss him dearly. Gary is survived by his wife Barb, his 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and 3 sisters. Please keep Gary and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Submitted by Terry Bolamperti





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

Memories of a Giving and Loved Member – Rosario “Ross” Pisci

We mourn the loss of devoted and most giving member. His giving of his talents and time over the past 35 plus years surpasses many of us. Ross loved the society and what it stood for – “promoting and sustaining Italian heritage and customs.” He was tireless in this effort by promoting activities, searching for new ideas- a visionary and commanding these programs such as the monthly dinner dances. He promoted these, secured the staff, arranged the food, music and clean-up. He and his spouse of 64 years, Jean attended or were part of nearly every events sponsored by AIHS. When it appeared that activities were slowing he let everyone know of such and strongly voiced his concern and got busy to improve more activities. He was known as the “bunny” in the ever ready battery commercial beating the drum “he keeps on going and going and going.”

He served on the board and eventually became chairman showing leadership, courage, knowledge in advancing the mission of the society. He achieved the full support of the board and membership. He put together programs with the enthusiasm of everyone. His entire family and his friends not only took part in these activities but also in La Festa where he chaired the seafood booth for many years and he and Jean were part of the folk dance group and his family also took part. Being part of the many activities of the folk dance productions and chairing a booth was no easy task – Ross made it fun for all.



If anyone could be the volunteer member of this year, year after year, it would be Ross!

Ross mastered his leadership quality, courage and self respect by serving as a combat marine in World War II and the Korean War. The only telling sign of that was his wearing of that veteran's cap. He built his own home for Jean and his three children – gifted he was in many ways. He retired after 20 years as a City of Omaha Building Inspector leaving as Chief Plans Examiner.

Of all the joys of his life, he has told me time and time again “the time spent with the society in the growing past 20 years were some of the best years of mine and Jean's life.” I was proud to be part of that experience!

My personal relationship with Ross, brought me the conclusion that he was man of trust, maximum integrity, humble, virtuous, intelligent, kind, giving, committed, honorable and loving.

I will always cherish his loyalty to my efforts in pursuing the mission of the society by engaging members to become leaders of the various communities and encourage members to be a part of these.

Ross carried his cross of poor health as an alms from his Creator. At the age of 97 that Creator called him to home to his heavenly kingdom. Still somewhat “spicy” and going, going and going to the very end.

We must all think you Ross, for all your efforts talents and time, along with Jean and the family for bringing the mission of the Society to Fruition.

Rosario Alfredo Pisci was that rare and unique person who could get the “message to Garcia”.

Submitted by Dr. Ted Bolamperti

A message to Garcia, Elbert Hubbard, 1899



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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