



February 2023  
Volume 41 No. 2

# The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



## Menu

**Salami & Cheese**  
**Fried Olives**  
**Fried Roman Artichokes**  
**Venetian Spritz—Prosecco**  
**Chopped Kale Salad w/  
Lemon Vinaigrette & Olives**  
**Grilled Venetian Sirloin Steak**  
**House -made Fettuccine w/  
Quattro Formaggio**  
**Fritole Veneziane**

## Pasta Amore & AIHS Present **Carnevale**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**  
**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 en-  
couraged, but not required.**

**\$65 per person**

**Includes Sales Tax and Tip**

**AIHS Members 10% Discount**

**RSVP to (402) 391-2585**

**Cash Bar Available**

**MC'd by Carnevale Bishop**



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**

**February Membership Meeting**  
**Monday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Carnevale at Pasta Amore**  
**February 21 at 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Joseph Celebration**  
**Sunday, March 19th**  
**Details in the March Newsletter**

**Easter Sausage Fundraiser**  
**Saturday, April 1st**  
**Details in the March Newsletter**

**WATER DAMAGE TO THE PALAZZO**

The Palazzo, the home of the American Italian Heritage Society, has undergone extensive water damage. There were two pipes that froze and leaked into the building on Christmas Eve, December 24th, when temperatures plummeted to 25-30 degrees below zero with strong winds resulting in windchills of more than 50-60 below zero. The heat was on in the building and was checked the day before. The rare extremely cold wind chills froze the pipes and they leaked for over 24-36 hours before it was discovered. Our family got together for Christmas and as we just sat down for dinner I received a call from a neighbor near the Palazzo who said she saw water gushing out of the back doors of the building resulting in a large water and ice area covering over half of the grassy Festa grounds. I immediately left along with my sons-in-law, Bob O'Malley and Tyler Youde and arrived at the Palazzo around 5:00 pm with water and ice leaking out the front and rear doors. Inside there were two pipes above the ceiling in the south ballroom leaking and spraying water down the walls with water flooding and covering all the floors of the ballrooms and the gallery-foyer. The kitchen and the bathrooms were spared from the flood. We immediately shut off the main intake water valve to the building in the basement. There were around 1 1/2 inches of water throughout and it leaked out under the doors over the thresholds and through the door sweep seals with lots of outside ice. We assessed the damage and starting squeegeeing water on the floor out the back doors. Jim Mazzei called and came up with wet/dry vacuums. We all squeegeed and vacuumed water for about 5 hours to get some of the water out of the building. We went home and ate our Christmas dinner at 10:00 pm with wet clothes.

We called Servpro Inc that night and they came out the next morning to extract water from the floors and entry carpet and started the 10-day drying process with heavy-duty fans and dehumidifiers throughout the building. They also cleaned-up the big mess of fallen ceiling tiles and debris. The next day I met with Joe Vacanti from Vacanti & Randazzo Co. (V&R) and he contracted plumbers to repair the leaky pipes and drywallers to repair the walls and painters to paint the areas of the worst damage so that the rooms would be ready for a wedding that was scheduled that weekend. The majority of the drywall in the ballrooms got wet on the bottom few inches. We hired Steve Eichelberg of KE Flex Co. to cut holes in the walls and remove any damp insulation and place temporary finished air vents so that walls could dry out and still have the ballroom ready and presentable for a scheduled wedding and another rental. The following week (starting Monday January 16th) we had a two-week gap without any rentals (after the date was changed for one rental). At that time KE Flex Co. removed the bottom two feet of drywall and temporary air vents throughout the entire ballrooms along with all the warped baseboards including those in the gallery-foyer. Then fans and dehumidifiers allowed the inside walls to dry more. Then drywall was replaced (rocked) and skimmed and sanded on three consecutive days. Then the ballrooms (main and south) were completely repainted.

Next Arvin Demarco from Demarco Bros. Tile Co. was scheduled to come in Monday, January 23rd to refinish the damaged unsealed porous terrazzo floor in the gallery-foyer. The Demarco's took a week to sand the floor to the terrazzo, reseal with several coats and polish and buff the surface. The next week the gallery-foyer will be painted along with the cloak closet and the bridal room. Then the new pre stained baseboards will be replaced.

At that time the construction of the restoration of the water damage to the Palazzo will be completed. Then the rooms can be reset with curtains and tables and chairs by the Omaha Event Group and the Palazzo will be ready for showings and planned rentals starting on February 8th will be resumed on schedule. Continued on Page 3



### WATER DAMAGE TO THE PALAZZO ..... continued

This was an immense amount of work in a short period of time in gaps between rentals with only one minor event rescheduled. I want to thank everyone involved in this project. I first want to thank our neighbor who called to inform us of the water gushing out of the back door on Christmas. I am very grateful to Society members Tyler Youde, Bob O'Malley and Jim Mazzei giving up 5 hours of their time on Christmas Day helping me stop the water leak and getting a lot of water out of the flooded ballrooms and foyer. I'm sincerely appreciative to Society members Gary and Mary Kay Ford for coming the day after Christmas helping with cleaning and moving tables, chairs, furniture and wet boxes, curtains, and tablecloths and also for getting any supplies needed on a short notice in this emergency situation. The Fords also communicated with the tradesmen to meet them very early in the mornings to unlock the doors to let them in to start their workdays at the Palazzo. The Society is blessed to have such great volunteers as these five members offering their time and service in such a time of need. Gary and Mary Kay Ford were also instrumental in helping me organize a plan to handle the water damage properly and timely and still be able to offer our facility to the individuals that had scheduled rentals.

I'm thankful to Servpro starting so soon the day after Christmas on removing water and cleanup and getting the drying process initiated. I'm very appreciative to Joe Vacanti and V&R and their subs doing emergency repairs to ready the facility for the scheduled wedding. Once again Joe, Chuck and Charley Vacanti have come to the rescue of the Society in a time of need. I'm also grateful to Steve Eichelberg of KE Flex and Arvin Demarco of Demarco Bros. for getting off their scheduled jobs and making our reconstruction a priority and getting completed professionally in such a timely manner. It's also necessary to be thankful to Beth Reher and her crew from the Omaha Event Group who manage the renting of all the weddings and corporate events and for removing and resetting all the curtains and tables cloths and working through their events in the middle of all the construction.

It's unfortunate that we had this inconvenient water damage but as its completion is coming to an end, I feel blessed to have all the wonderful people to work together to restore the Palazzo back to its original and now better condition.

Mille Grazie a Tutti

Submitted by Terry Bolamperti





## CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Epiphany Celebration held at the Palazzo on Sunday, January 8, 2023. Approximately 175 people attended including members, guests and Society volunteers. This is one of the best family events of the AIHS with over 45 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 mostaccioli and 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 make the homemade goodies. The Society also had a cash bar serving wine and soft drinks. There were two food lines utilized and all the guests were served in twenty five minutes. 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 45 children to stand and do the Tarantella with her and Santa Claus. 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, kids activities 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

### Gratitude From Our Members

Over the past 2 months, AIHS has received the following messages from our members and we thought we would share them with other members.



*Dear AIHS, Thank you for all your hard work to share our Italian Heritage with Omaha. With sincere appreciation,* Bobbie Carlson

From Founding Member Raydelle Kaline Meehan,

*Blessing of 2023 to all the Staff and wonderful talented Volunteers!*

To the AIHS Members,

*Thanks so much to AIHS for the Memorial to my husband Lou Marcuzzo. I loved reading your thoughts about him in the newsletter. We miss his smile too. Thanks so much!* Marie Marcuzzo and Family

The Ross Pisci Family sent AIHS this note of thanks regarding the loss of their beloved dad.

*Thank you for the beautiful plant and your expression of sympathy for the loss of our beloved dad, Ross. His many years of membership and dedication to the AIHS since the beginning were special and cherished along with every member he met, along the way, he considered his friend. He loved the AIHS and so did our mom. We will cherish all of the memories of times he spent with all of you.*

The Ross Pisci Family



### Grazie/Thank You

The American Italian Heritage Society is a qualified 501© (3) non-profit corporation for Federal tax purposes. Please consider including American Italian Heritage Society in your estate planning.

### 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.



## 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, Dee Mascarello, Joe Daniels, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Pat Peterson, Mary Jo Romano Petersen, Margo Pirruccello, Sebastian Youde, Maria Leo, Frannie Hutchings and Deacon Steve Grandinetti.

## 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 or either application.

## 2022 AIHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Chairman of the Board:** Toni Bac

**Secretary:** April Belfiore

**President:** Dr. Terry Bolamperti

**Board Member:** Nick Bolamperti

**Vice President:** Joe Garrett

**Board Member:** Courtney Dice

**Treasurer:** Jeff Ladwig

**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](mailto: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 businesses that donate a % to AIHS for your purchases.



### AMAZON SMILE

Amazon has informed us they intend to wind down the AmazonSmile Program by February 20, 2023. Until this date, customer purchases made via AmazonSmile will continue to accrue funds for AIHS as normal. Thank you for using AmazonSmile. We appreciate the donations!



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





### CARNEVALE IN ITALY

Carnevale is celebrated in Italy and many places around the world during the 40 days before Easter and a final party before Ash Wednesday and Lent. The name is said to derive from the words carne vale - ‘farewell to meat’.

Carnevale was first celebrated in Venice in 1094 and has been officially sanctioned in that city since 1296. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance Carnevale celebrations were popular throughout Europe. Today, public areas around Venice become the showcase for actors, acrobats and musicians with residents and visitors alike wearing elaborate masks and elegant costumes. One of the largest celebrations in Italy is in Viareggio, a city on the Ligurian Sea. Carnevale in Viareggio is held for the 5 weekends before Lent. The town of Ivrea, in the Piedmont region, has a unique carnival celebration with medieval roots. The carnival includes a colorful parade followed by orange-throwing battles in the center of town.

Carnevale would not be complete without food. In the south of Italy, especially around Naples, the end of Carnival on Fat Tuesday is celebrated by eating Lasagne alla Napoletana. There are a number of sweets that are typical of Carnevale and fried pastries are one of them. They are usually strips of dough that are fried and dusted with sugar or drizzled with honey. On the Amalfi Coast you might find a drop of limoncello in the pastry dough.



## Pasta Amore

Open Every Day From  
4:30 p.m. to Close  
Family Style Option on Sundays

Rock Brook Village  
108th & Center  
402.391.2585

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

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## Spaghetti Alla Carbonara

American Italian Heritage Society

- 1/2 lb. thick bacon
- 4 egg yolks
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 bunch parsley
- 1 cup cheese
- 1 1/2 lbs. pasta
- Salt and Pepper to taste



Cut bacon into 1-inch square pieces. Cook until most of the fat has dissolved. Add a dash of salt and pepper, set aside. Place cream and butter in a large separate pan then heat gently until the butter melts. Add the egg yolks and cheese, mix together. After the pasta is cooked al dente, drain it and add it to the egg and cheese mixture and stir well. Before serving, add the bacon and stir well. Garnish with the parsley.


### 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.)

**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

## EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

The AIHS Members participated in the Epiphany Celebration which was held on January 8<sup>th</sup>. A wonderful time was had by all who attended. Below are more pictures from this event. We hope to see you again at this event in January 2024. Mille Grazie!





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

5110 North 132 Street  
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