



May 2024
Volume 42 No. 5

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE

Come Wine & Dine With Us



AIHS WINE TASTING EXPERIENCE

**Saturday, May 11th
Doors open 6:30pm**

***The Palazzo
5110 N 132nd Street***

**\$85 PER
PERSON**



THE EVENING INCLUDES:

- **QUAFFING-** cheeses, fruits, olives, cured meats & bread
- **SOUP & SALAD-** Spring Mix Salad and Navy Bean Soup
- **DINNER-** Beef Tenderloin Florentine medallions, spinach, buttered ravioli
- **DESSERT-** Tiramisu
- **WINES-** 5 different Imported Italian wines to pair with each course!



RSVP Today! (402) 493-8888x1

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 EVENTS

May Membership Social & Meeting
Monday, April 8th 6:30 PM Social
Meeting to begin 7:30 PM

Membership Drive - May

Wine Tasting Experience
Saturday, May 11th 6:30 PM

Members Summer Picnic
Sunday, June 2nd 1-5 PM

Summer Sausage Sale - June 29th

APRIL MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

This was the first membership meeting that we held a social hour before the start of the meeting. This idea was introduced by Beth Phillips, our Secretary. She made lasagna and several members brought side dishes and desserts. Yum! Everything was delicious and members liked the new format.

The General Membership Meeting, held on April 8, 2024, was called to order by President Terry Bolamperti and was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with John Portera and Joe Daniels as flag-bearers. There were 22 members in attendance. Members were asked to take a moment of silence to remember all of our members that are ill. We also bowed our heads in prayer for deceased charter member Dr. Richard Bolamperti, brother of Dr. Terry's and Dr. Ted Bolamperti. Dr. Terry asked members to pray for him at the previous month's membership meeting in March when he was in hospice. He passed away about 9 hours after that prayer. Thank you to all members that night.

The minutes of last month's meeting were read and approved. The **Treasurers Report** was given by Treasurer Jeff Ladwig, and was approved by members. Dr. Terry mentioned the rentals at the Palazzo were very low since Omaha Event Group (OEG) left our venue and took most of the scheduled events and told clients that they could not hold their events at the Palazzo. They rescheduled most of these events at their other venues. This really hurt our business and income from rental is down. The OEG vacated the facility in mid-January and there was much discussion on how the new event management, PJ Morgan Event Planning was doing. After much discussion the membership made a motion from the floor recommending a job performance evaluation of the new event management from PJ Morgan Event Planning Company. This will be brought to the AIHS Board.

Old Business was discussed including the March 23, 2024 Sausage Fundraiser, which was very successful. We totally sold out of sausage and olives, but we do have meatballs, sauce, and peppers for sale. We also want to express our thanks to all the members and friends that made the sausage fundraiser a success including those who volunteered their time and efforts in food preparation and cooking along with packaging, selling, and servicing patrons. Thanks to all that helped in anyway. Also discussed was the Spaghetti & Meatball dinner held on Sunday, April 15, 2024. We were very busy and we want to thank all the wonderful volunteers that made it happen, including the meatball crew, the cooks who made the sauce, the Italian salad dressing, the volunteers that set up the hall and precooked the spaghetti. On the day of the dinner we were very grateful for those running the front desk, selling pickles, the bartenders, the take-out crew, the cannoli and bake sale volunteers, those that served the dinner, made salads, the runners and also the people that helped with cleanup. Special thanks goes out to Bob Rodino who organized and ran the operation of the kitchen. The food was delicious and we received many compliments. We are blessed to have such great volunteers. Thanks to all that helped in any way! Mille Grazie.

New Business discussed was the planned **Wine Tasting Experience** at which 5 different import Italian wines will be served and paired with a delicious Italian meal. See the article on the front page. The AIHS **Membership Drive** is approaching and dues statements will be mailed out to all members in May. All were asked to enroll a new member and send in their dues by June 1, 2024. The annual **Member's Summer Picnic** will once again be held on Sunday, June 2nd at the Palazzo on the Festa grounds. The **Festa Italiana** was discussed and the plan is to proceed with the Festa on Labor Day weekend. There will be a scheduled Festa captains kick-off meeting in May to start organizing the event.

This year's Santa Lucia festival will be held on August 1-4. This is a very special one since it is the 100th Anniversary of the Santa Lucia Festival which was first held in Omaha's Little Italy on 6th Street in 1924. The meeting was adjourned and the piece of the pie winners were Wayne Moore and John Delano. We thank John for donating his winnings back to the society. All are welcome to the next membership meeting which will be held on **Monday, May 13th**.

Submitted by President Terry Bolamperti



AIHS Membership Drive

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

As we approach 2024 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 this month.

Please make sure you pay your dues by the June 1st deadline.

Membership Benefits

- **Monthly Membership Meetings**

Camaraderie with members discussing Italian interests. Periodic speakers on such topics as history, culture, foods, travel, oral histories and genealogy.

- **Sausage, Meatball and Specialty Food Fundraisers**

AIHS makes Italian Sausage, Meatballs and other Specialty Foods three times a year as fundraisers for the Society. Two pasta dinner fundraisers offered in the spring and fall.

- **Complimentary Member Events**

The Summer Members Family Picnic, The Epiphany Celebration and the St. Joseph Celebration offer complimentary dinner and entertainment to our members.

- **Newsletter**

A Monthly Newsletter is emailed in color to all current members. This newsletter is the pipeline for information and communication of all Society events. This newsletter contains interesting articles on Italian Heritage and recipes from our Italian Cookbook.

- **La Festa Italiana**

A Celebration of Italian Heritage for the Omaha community for over 39 years is held every year. This year it will be held on August 30, 31, & September 1st. Our 40th FESTA!

- **Scholarships**

Two College Scholarships are offered annually to active members' children.



PIZZELLE FUNDRAISER

Our Society member, Julia Brecht-Johnson is having a pizzelle fundraiser to help support a co-worker who lost everything in the recent tornadoes. She will be baking and selling traditional anise pizzelles for \$10/dozen. You can place your order by emailing her at jbrecht17@gmail.com or by text at 320-266-6187. Pick-up will be at The Palazzo, Saturday, May 25th 10-1. She will also have some available at the membership meeting on Monday, May 13th. Please help support the tornado victims.



La Festa Italiana 2024

There will be a Festa Captain's Kick-Off Meeting on Wednesday, May 22nd 7:00 PM at The Palazzo. Please mark your calendars for this meeting as we kick off the preparations for La Festa 2024. Thank you! This meeting is for Captains only, but if any members want to volunteer for the FESTA please email Beth at Secretary@Omahaltaly.com.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our board members who contributed to updating the Bridal Suite at the Palazzo, Courtney Dice, April Belfiore and Tony Bac. Anthony Belfiore built two large green hedge walls for the foyer. Everything looks great and we are very grateful for all their hard work!



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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

SPAGHETTI DINNER SUNDAY, APRIL 14TH 2024



Bean and Ham Soup

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Chef Richard Bolamperti

(Zupp A Di Fagiole Con Prosciutto)


2 lbs. Northern white beans	2 med. onions, chopped
2 1/2-3 lbs. smoked ham hock	4 med. red potatoes
2 sticks butter	3 garlic cloves, minced
2 qt. tomatoes crushed	1 T. thyme
3/4 c. flour	1/3 c. parsley, minced
4 stalks celery, diced	6 qt. water
4 carrots, diced	Pepper to taste



Pick impurities from beans then rinse under running water. Soak overnight in enough water to allow beans to swell; drain beans. In a large pot, add the water, beans and ham hocks. Cook on simmer (never on boil) for 1 1/2 to 2 hours or until beans are tender. When bones protrude from meat and can easily be pulled off, remove hocks. Let hocks thoroughly cool, discard skins, fat and bones. Dice ham into 3/4-inch squares and return meat to pot. Dice vegetables all the same size (3/4-inch squares) and set aside. In another pan on low heat, sauté garlic and onions in 2 sticks of butter; add flour a little at a time to absorb the butter. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes. Keep stirring. Do not brown. Add crushed tomatoes to flour mixture and mix well. Pour into pot. When beans are tender, add diced vegetables; do not overcook vegetables. Add pepper. Do not add salt unless needed. Serve in bowls with toasted Italian bread.

We will be serving this delicious soup at our upcoming Italian Wine Tasting Event on Saturday, May 11th!

Call Beth at 402-493-8888 x 1 to reserve your seat ASAP.



**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**



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, John Portera, Sam Marasco, and Lou Buda.

GRAZIE/THANK YOU

A very special thank you goes out to Alan and Deanna D’Agosto for their generous donation to the Society as a memorial to Dr. Richard Bolamperti.

Additional thank you’s for donations to the Society from Dean & Maria Jacobsen, Michelle Bratetic, and Harry & Mary Capadano.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING SOCIAL

We had such a positive response to our social hour before last month’s meeting that we’re doing it again! We will begin the social at 6:30 PM on Monday, May 13th. We ask members to bring an appetizer or side dish to share at this month’s social. Meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

WE NEED YOU!

We need a volunteer to chair the **Membership Summer Picnic** on Sunday, June 2nd 1-5 PM.

Additionally, we are in need of bartenders to work events such as weddings being held at the Palazzo in the coming months.

If you can help with either of these, please call Beth at 402-293-8888 x1.

COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Our Society cookbook, “A Taste of Italy” can be purchased through the AIHS office for \$25.



TAGG (Together A Greater Good)

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THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

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