



September 2024

The News

Volume 42 No. 9

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



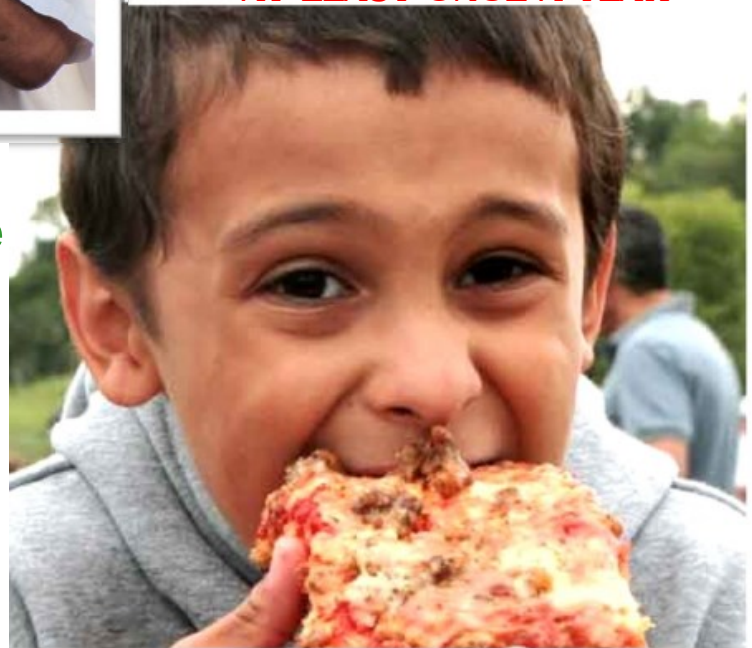
August 30, 31 & September 1st

The Palazzo

132nd & Fort St.

**EVERYONE SHOULD BE ITALIAN
AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR**

40th Annual Rain or Shine



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 omaha.aihs@yahoo.com



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

UPCOMING EVENTS**September Membership Meeting**

Monday, September 9th Social Hour 6:30 PM

La Festa Italiana

August 30, 31, and September 1st

AUGUST 2024 MEMBERSHIP MEETING REPORT

Prior to the meeting members had a social hour with food and drink. Camaraderie was enjoyed by all. Members brought and shared delicious food they prepared. The membership meeting was held on August 12, 2024 and called to order by President Dr. Terry Bolamperti with 21 members in attendance. It was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Jimmy Mazzei and Nick Phillips as flag bearers. There was a moment of prayer for ill members of the Society and for those that have recently passed away, including Marilyn LaMontia, who passed just a few days before.

We welcomed back member Vince Pretto who has not been able to attend monthly meeting in a while since he was in school studying for his Masters Degree.

The minutes of the previous months meeting were read and approved. The Treasury Report was read by President Terry Bolamperti and approved by members. All members were reminded to send in their yearly dues if they have not already done so.

For **Old Business**, it was reported that 95% of all Festa food prep has been completed. In the last month the pastry crew headed by Rose Leo-Koch and Mary Kay Falco-Ford completed the huge task of making over 5,900 biscotti and anise cookies. All the volunteers have completed the meatballs, sausage, vaso mauro, pepper sauce and the Italian salad dressing. The Sicilian cracked olives and hand-made ravioli are the only items left to be made. Once again, these Captains and their crews were thanked for all of their hard work and service given to the Society in helping to make the Festa a success.

It was also announced that our previous event managers are no longer with us and we are proud to announce that the Society has teamed up with Jennifer Snow and Catering Creations to be our new Event Managers. More comments on this fine company will be found in future editions of the Newsletter.

We want to congratulate the Santa Lucia Festival for holding their 100th Anniversary of the festival. This is an amazing accomplishment and the AIHS applauds them for the success of this milestone event. In conjunction with this was the formal and final designation of the Sister City Designation for Omaha and Carlentini Sicily with mayors of both cities legally signing the document. Part of the agreement was naming a section of Dahlman Park as Carlentini Plaza with walkways and permanent storyboards telling some of the story of Italian immigration to Omaha and the involvement of the Italian organizations in Omaha. This was a historic event that all Italians of Omaha should be proud of.

New Business discussed was the need for volunteers for the Festa. Dr Terry asked that if anyone has any relatives or friends that wish to volunteer, please contact Mary Kay Ford or Dr. Terry and we will put them on the volunteer list. Dr. Terry also asked for Festa volunteers to help unload the supply truck on Saturday, August 24th, from 8:30 am to 12:30. Help is also needed to help set up the booths for the Festa starting Monday afternoon, August 26th. Volunteers were also urged to come and help with clean up and tear down on Monday, Labor Day.

The rest of the Festa was discussed including entertainment, Sunday morning mass, bocce ball tournaments, food demos, fireworks and parking. All members were encouraged to sell all their tickets and come and have a good time at the Festa and help make it a success.

Final new business discussed was the cash flow problems that the AIHS has experienced since the Omaha Event Group stopped paying rent and revenue share to the Society for events rented at the Palazzo. Because of this cash flow issue, the AIHS is having a very hard time getting a loan secured for our mortgage. This is very serious and a motion was made from the floor by John Portera and seconded and voted on by the members to inform the Board to look into sending out a request to members to consider loaning money to the AIHS and being paid an interest slightly higher than the bank market rate. This would be paid back by the AIHS plus interest after rentals are built back up in a couple of years or sooner if the land is sold off on the north lot. This will not be done unless there is Board approval.

The meeting was adjourned and the Piece of the Pie winner for both prizes was Terry Clark. Within seconds of having his name drawn for the second cash prize, the kind and humble Terry Clark, donated all the money back to the Society. We did not expect this but the AIHS is very appreciative of his generosity. He received a well deserved applause. All were invited to attend the next meeting which will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024.

Submitted by Dr. Terry Bolamperti



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

DATES & TIMES

Friday, August 30th	6 pm to 11 pm
Saturday, August 31st	5 pm to 11 pm
Sunday, September 1st	Noon to 11 pm

TICKET SALES

\$7.50 at the Door
 \$6.00 Advance tickets at all metro area
 Hy-Vee stores or Rockbrook Camera
 Children 14 and under free with paid Adult
 Send in all Adv. Ticket money by Sept. 11th

PARKING & SHUTTLE

Kelley Field—126th and Fort Street
 Free Parking and shuttle from
 Paid Parking available at The Palazzo

FIREWORKS

Sunday Night Fireworks by Bellino

Dance Under the Stars

The 70's Band	Friday 8 pm to 11 pm
Bozak & Morrissey	Saturday 8 pm to 11 pm
Taxi Driver	Sunday 8 pm to 11 pm

ENTERTAINMENT

Santa Lucia Band (Friday & Sunday)
 La Banda (Friday & Sunday)
 Trio La Festa (Friday & Saturday)
 Josh Powell, Singer/Guitarist (Saturday)
 Kim Cortese-Eames, Singer/Guitarist (Sat.)
 Chad Fey w/Down for Whatever (Sunday)
 Daddy Mac & The Flak (Sunday)
 Axe Man Band (Sunday)
 Singer Mark Morello & Pianist Bernadette
 Smith (Sunday)
 Las Vegas Performer, Sebastian Anzaldo,
 Jr. "Tribute to Frank Sinatra" (Sunday)

Food and Drink

30 Delicious, authentic Italian food items all prepared by AIHS Volunteers at outside food lines and booths including pasta and meatballs, sausage and peppers, pizza, shrimp scampi, fried calamari, chicken primavera and our special fried dough. Inside specialty items are available at the deli including fried ravioli, faso magro, stuffed peppers, and cracked olives. Pastries in the Gallery with cannoli, biscotti, and pizzelles. Domestic and Imported Italian wine and beer are available.



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The AIHS Volunteers have been hard at work preparing food to purchase at the Festa. Food Items range in price from \$1.00 to \$9.00. There is also Italian themed merchandise aprons, t-shirts, hats and novelties to name a few available to purchase as well.





2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gaby Bac

Carolyn G. Bac, “Gaby” is this year’s American Italian Heritage Society scholarship winner. Gaby is a Freshman at Wayne State College. She is the daughter of members Jim and Toni Bac, grand daughter of Jess and Cathie (d) Wills and great grand daughter of Richard and Palma Bolamperti.



Gaby is pursuing an education to become an Elementary Education teacher. Along with her studies she is active in the American Italian Heritage Society, working 8+ years at La Festa at the inside Food Line. She also can be seen helping at pasta dinners and making numerous pizzas during our drive-up fundraisers during Covid. Volunteerism is a strong trait of Gaby’s, in addition to her support for the La Festa she has participated in Adopt a Family and volunteers at a summer camp for Autistic elementary aged children at a camp where students get together, develop relationships with other campers all the while having fun!

Maggie Galligan

My name is Maggie Galligan and I’m the proud recipient of one of AIHS’s scholarships for 2024. My parents are Dr. John and Maria Galligan and my grandparents are Larry and Dena Belfiore and Rozanne Bordenaro Galligan of Des Moines, IA.

I graduated in May from Millard North HS where I was enrolled in the school’s Health Care Academy Program, and was also a member of the award winning MNHS Dance Team and the National Honor Society. I am now a freshman at the University of Oklahoma in Norman pursuing a degree in Biology and an active member of the Oklahoma Dance Team. I look forward to all the future challenges of my studies at OU and college life.

La Festa Italiana is one of my favorite times of the year where my siblings, cousins and I get together to help prepare and sell food products, and work in the Pizza Booth that has been managed by my grandpa and his cousin’s family for over 25 years. This year however, due to having a school dance event at an Oklahoma home game on Labor Day weekend, I will not be able to attend the FESTA the first time in my 18 years. I’m very proud of my Italian heritage, and will miss this year’s festivities, our families and friends getting together, the food and great entertainment.

Thank you AIHS members, board members, and the scholarship committee for choosing me for this year’s scholarship. The scholarship will help with my education expenses and future plans of being a health care professional.





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Marilyn LaMontia Memorial

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of AIHS member Marilyn LaMontia after a long battle with cancer. Marilyn and her husband Alfred have been longtime members and were very active in the Society volunteering and participating in many events that the AIHS has put on. They were folk dancers for the Society for over 25 years, going back to some of the earliest Festas at the Omaha Civic Auditorium and Peony Park. For many years, they were also part of the Festa Pizza Crew. Marilyn was a perfectionist at panning the doughs for the thousands of pizzas made for the Festa throughout the years. She was also instrumental in the original Pictorial History displays at the first Festa and for many thereafter. Marilyn is survived by her loving husband of 59 years, Alfred, children Jennifer (Bobby) Clark and John (Kristen) LaMontia and many grandchildren. She will truly be missed by her family and friends. Please keep the LaMontia family in your prayers.

**FESTA ACTIVITIES****FESTA FIREWORKS DISPLAY**

Celebrate the 40th Festa with a bang on Sunday night with Bellino Fireworks sponsored by Security National Bank, Heafey-Hoffmann-Dworak-Cutler and Di Giorgio's Sportswear.

FESTA BOCCE BALL

FRIDAY—Celebrity Bocce personalities; Amy Melton, Brook Bench and others. 7 PM

SATURDAY—Open competition. Bring a team of 2 to 4 players and go against another team for Festa bragging rights as best of Saturday night. Games start at 5 PM.

SUNDAY— Three team challenge; Sons of Italy, Santa Lucia, and AIHS will compete in the round robin tournament starting at 5 PM. Contact Tom Morinelli for additional info **402.312.5959**

Congratulazioni

Omaha Italians should be proud of 3 historic events. Santa Lucia celebrated their 100th festival. The Carlentini Omaha Association celebrated their Sister City designation in August with Carlentini Italy with both mayors present. And AIHS is celebrating their 40th La Festa Italiana. Congratulations on these accomplishments to all Italians in Omaha!

**Congrats on the 40th
Annual La Festa Italiana**

From the Bellinghiere,
Longo, & Vazzano
Families!



THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

More FESTA Activities

Sponsored by Pasta Amore Ristorante

FESTA Food Demos

- Friday: **Stuffed Peppers** **Chef Jared Clarke**
- Saturday: **Limoncellotini** **Chef Jared Clarke**
- Sunday: **Cheese Ravioli with Butternut Squash**
 Chef Jared Clarke
- Sunday: **Chicken Fantasia** **Chef Jared Clarke**
- Sunday: **Chicken Cacciatore** **Chef Jared Clarke**



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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, Maria Leo, Sebastian Youde, Margo Pirruccello, Kim Rodino, Deacon Steve Grandinetti, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Judge Joe Troia, Tara & Tim Virgilito, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Sam Marasco, Lou Buda, and Larry Belfiore.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thanks to the many members that have renewed their membership. There are still many who have not sent in their dues. **Please mail dues and form to the office at: 5110 N. 132nd Street,**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to warmly welcome our new members; Janice Bellinghiere and Joanie Garro & Ted Rickerl. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

FESTA ENTERTAINMENT

There will be dancing Under the Stars each night starting at 8 pm. In addition there will be entertainment indoors and outside. Including the Santa Lucia Band and other local entertainers. Food demo's will be held each day and sponsored by Pasta Amore.

MASS at FESTA

A traditional Catholic Mass will be celebrated at La Festa on Sunday, September 1st at 10:15 AM. Father John Pietramale will celebrate the Mass. Afterwards, coffee and Italian cookies will be served.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2024

The AIHS Board of Directors along with the Scholarship committee have selected our 2024 AIHS Scholarship Recipients. The generous donation we received from one of our members has allowed us to award these individuals continuing their education.

Congratulations to Maggie Galligan and Gaby Bac!

VOLUNTEERS:

We would love to see more members volunteer. If any members or members family have thought about volunteering, **NOW** is the time! Please contact Beth at the AIHS office 402-493-8888.

TAGG (Together A Greater Good)

The TAGG Mobile App is no longer available but you can switch to the improved TAGG.today. Just open the web browser on your device and then follow the instructions. Thank you.



facebook.com/AIHSOmaha



www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com



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Chicken Cacciatore (Pollo Cacciatori) pg. 83 AIHS Cookbook by Chef Bernabo

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 3 lb. frying chicken | 1 c. chicken broth |
| 6 mushrooms | 2 whole ripe tomatoes,
peeled & minced |
| 1 T. minced onion | Salt & Pepper to taste |
| 1 garlic clove, minced | 1/4 c. olive oil & butter,
mixed |
| 3 oz. dry white wine | 1 clove |
| 3 oz. cooking brandy | |
| 1 bay leaf | |



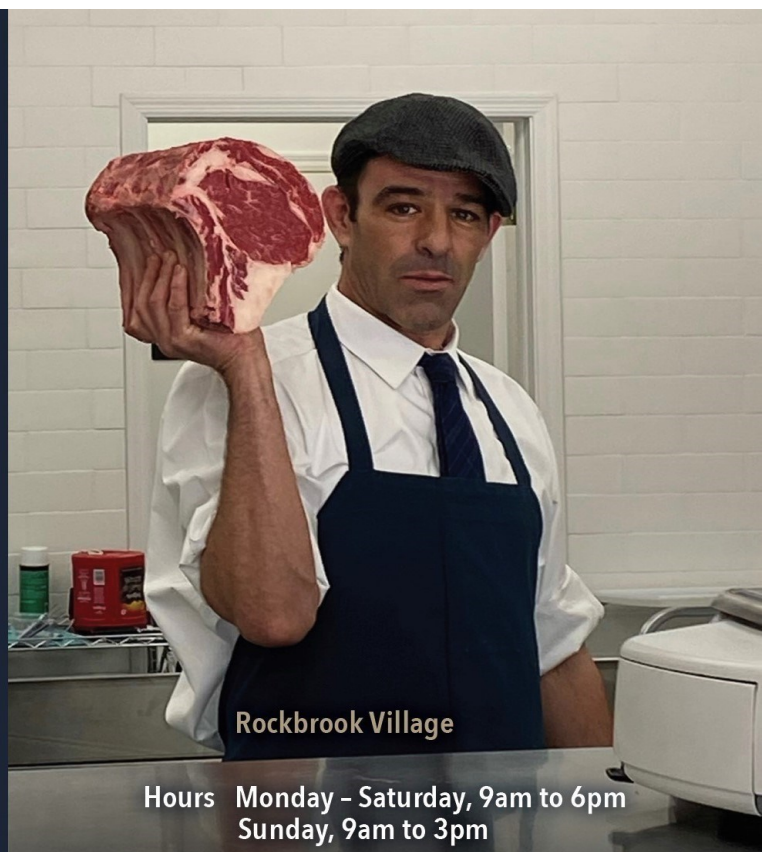
Cut up chicken as for frying; season with salt and pepper. Sauté in oil and butter until chicken is golden. Temporarily remove chicken from the pan then add the mushrooms and onions. Simmer until slightly browned. Add garlic; simmer for a few seconds. Add the wine, brandy, bay leaf and the clove; allow to simmer until it has reduced to half. Add chicken broth and tomatoes. Return chicken to sauté pan or casserole. Cover and place in a 325 to 350 degree oven until chicken is well done, about 40 to 45 minutes. When done, put chicken on a platter and pour the sauce from the pan over the chicken. Sprinkle with finely chopped parsley.

Our original cookbook "A Taste of Italy" is available for sale at the AIHS office.



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

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