



March 2025
Volume 43 No. 3

The News

THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

A Nonprofit Corporation; Omaha, NE



Spring Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner

Sunday, March 16th from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Tickets: Adults \$12 Children \$6

Spaghetti and 2 Meatballs

Includes Italian Salad, Bread and Butter

Guests are welcome, so please invite your family and friends

Members please bring desserts or pastries for our Bake Sale

Hope to see you there!

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

March Membership Meeting
Monday, March 10th Social Hour 6:30 PM
Meeting 7:30 PM

Easter Sausage Fundraiser
Saturday, April 12th

Spring Spaghetti Dinner/St. Joseph's Day
Sunday, March 16th 12-6 PM

Wine Tasting Experience
Saturday, May 3rd

February 2025 Membership Meeting Report

Prior to the meeting a social hour was held at 6:30 pm for the attending members during which merry camaraderie was enjoyed by all. Members once again enjoyed a delicious array of homemade foods including ham and bean soup, sausage and vegetable soup, meatballs, fried chicken, olives and peppers, a large Italian salad and several desserts including apple squares and red velvet cake. We invite members to attend the monthly meetings and come early for the popular social hour.

The General Membership Meeting, held on February 10, 2025 was called to order promptly at 7:30 by President Terry Bolamperti and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance with veterans Joe Daniels and John Portera as flag-bearers. There were 24 members in attendance. Members were asked to bow their heads in silent prayer for those members of the Society that are currently ill. The Treasure's Report was given by Terry Bolamperti and approved by the membership. There was discussion from the floor on how the Society decides the issue of sales tax paid to the Nebraska Department of Revenue. The President explained that even though we are a nonprofit organization, we have paid sales tax since we first opened for business. This issue will be taken up at the next Board meeting.

Old business discussed was the Dan Polley/Lou Buda Award winners who were announced at the last meeting in December and listed in the January Newsletter. Congratulations to these well-deserved winners, Traci Bittleston and John Portera. Also discussed was the successful Epiphany Celebration which was held on January 5, 2025. Once again we thanked the Chair Emma Leo-Mueller, Rose Koch and Gary Marasco for portraying the Befana and Santa Claus and for all that helped at the event.

New business was discussed including the Carnevale and the Society's first TGIF-Italian Style-Pizza Night which will be held on Friday, February 21st from 6-8 PM at The Palazzo. The cost will be \$10.00 for freshly made tomato and cheese or sausage Festa Pizza. Cost includes 2 or 3 pieces of pizza and a Italian Salad. Children dishes available for \$5.00. There will be refreshments available at the bar at reduced prices. We welcome members and non-members to the Pizza Night.

The Carnevale will be held on Tuesday, March 4th, 2025 at Pasta Amore and sponsored by the Society. The cost is \$65.11 for antipasti, dinner, dessert and music for entertainment. The merriment will start at 6:11 and continue until 9:11 pm. All interested must call Pasta Amore for reservations. Members were asked to attend this fun event and costumes are recommended but not required.

We are planning a Spring Spaghetti Dinner on March 16, 2025 from noon to 6:00 pm. Since there is a time schedule issue, we will honor St Joseph Day by setting up a St Joseph Table at the Spaghetti Dinner. There will be a presentation honoring St Joseph around 3:00, but there will be no procession or talk as was done in years past. Crews will be set for preparation of meatballs and sauce.

Lastly the Easter Sausage Fundraiser will be held Saturday April 12th. The pork cutting will be done on Thursday, April 10th. We are also planning a Wine Tasting Experience on May 3, 2025. More details to follow. The Society is requesting to have members recommend nominees to consider running for the Board of Directors. Any recommendations from members should be directed to Beth, the AIHS Secretary by email, secretary@omahaitaly.com.

The meeting was adjourned and the Piece of the Pie winners drawn were Rose Koch and Lou Buda. The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 10th. You are also invited to the Social Hour at 6:30 PM before the business meeting.

SAUSAGE SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

PICK UP

10 AM TO 12 PM

Sausage \$33 / 5 pounds

Peppers \$15 / quart

Olives \$15 / quart

Spaghetti Sauce \$9 quart or

2 quarts for \$16

Frozen Meatballs \$26 / bag of 25



Place your order by Wednesday, April 9th, email secretary@omahaitaly.com or call 402-493-8888 x 1.

Please include: name, cell phone number, regular or hot sausage and amount of other items you are ordering. Thank you!

T.G.I.F. Italian Style PIZZA NIGHT

Our Pizza Night held on Friday, February 21st was a great success. We had 90 people in attendance and everyone had positive comments about the food and comradery. Huge thanks to the crew that came in early to prepare pizzas and salads. Also thank you to the volunteers that helped serve our members and guests. We hope to hold another pizza night in May.



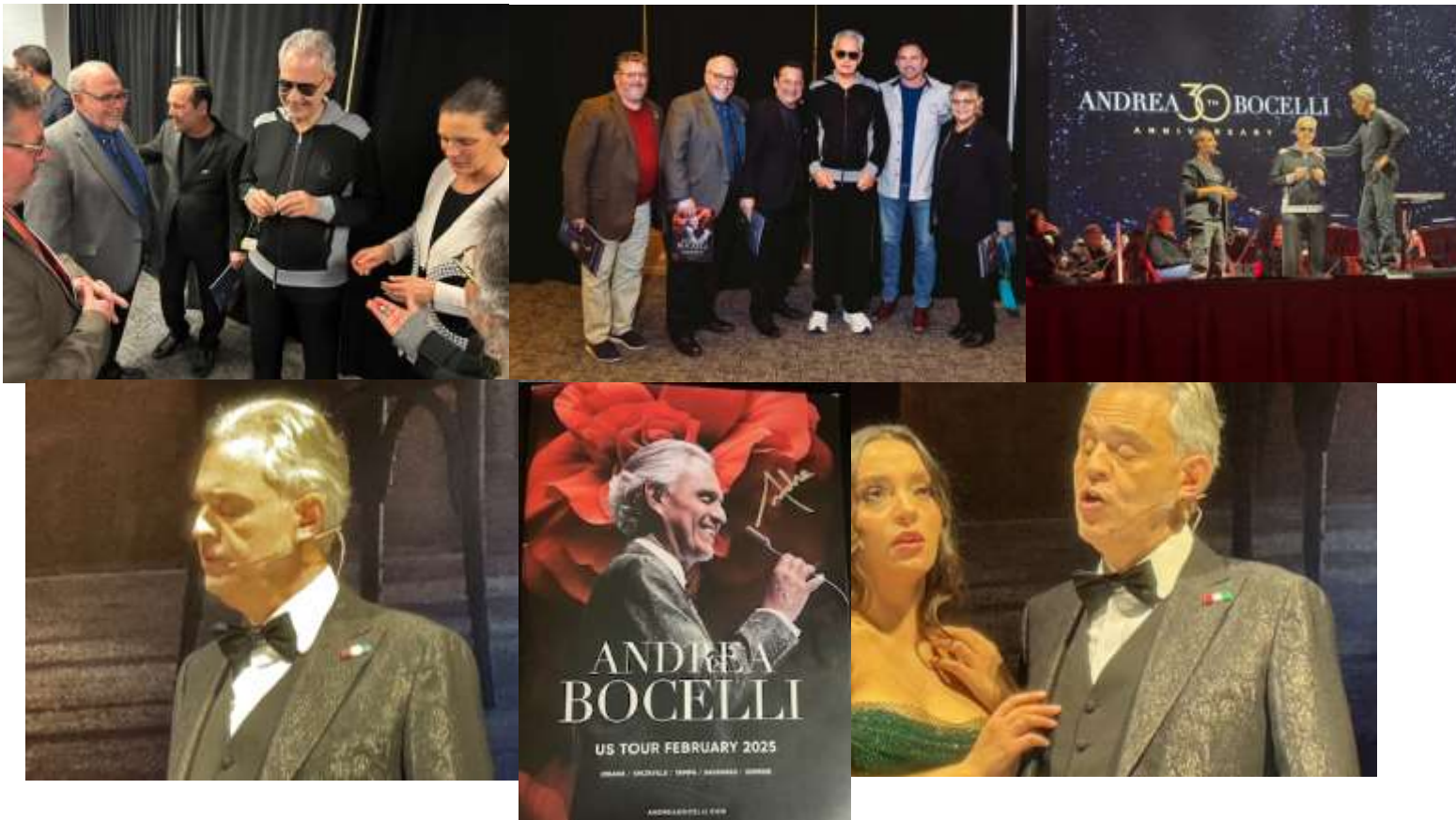
An Evening with Maestro Andrea Bocelli

Members of the AIHS, along with the Sons of Italy and the Santa Lucia, the Italian Organizations of Omaha, were invited to attend Andrea Bocelli's concert at a discounted fee. Bocelli's 2025 concert tour, his 30th Anniversary, opened in Omaha on February 6th at the CHI Health Center Arena. Thanks to Subby and Terry Anzaldo for organizing and offering members this opportunity. The concert was beautiful, magical and inspiring in every way. To see and hear Andrea Bocelli in person was truly an amazing life experience.

Terry and Subby Anzaldo organized a pre-show meeting with Andrea Bocelli and his lovely wife Veronica for the officers of the three local Italian organizations. We personally met and visited with Andrea, his wife and members of his entourage and production, and with his orchestra conductor Steven Mercurio. At the meet and greet, Sara Ruma, the President of the local Columba lodge of the Sons and Daughters of Italy presented Andrea Bocelli with a red, white, and green Italian pin. He liked it and interestingly he wore the pin on his gold tuxedo in his first aria of the show on stage. We were all excited to see the gift Sara gave to him as a memento from the Italian organizations of Omaha. We were invited to watch the sound check and rehearsal before the show which was very exciting. During the rehearsal it was hard to imagine how they could coordinate the members of Andrea's production crew, the Omaha symphony and Andrea's conductor and musicians and choruses. Being in contact with this most talented Italian, the most famous tenor who has performed world-wide for Kings and Queens and world leaders was very humbling. Another experience in life to make you a little more proud to be Italian.

Many thanks to Terry and Subby Anzaldo for offering our members this opportunity and for the pre-show meeting. It was wonderful in every way and I personally enjoyed it very much as did other AIHS members who attended the concert. It made all Italians proud to experience this world-class production by one of the most famous Italian tenors of all time. BRAVISIMO !!

Submitted by AIHS President, Terry Bolamperti





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, Margo Pirruccello, Ann Marie Falco-Marr, Judge Joe Troia, Tara & Tim Virgilito, Cecilia Bellinghiere, Sam & Lucy Marasco, Lou Buda, and Joan Gentzler.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We would like to warmly welcome our new members; Robert & Mary Wester. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

***** SUPPORT & PROMOTE THE PALAZZO!!!**

We need your help to promote our home, The Palazzo for rentals. Please call Beth at the AIHS office to schedule a tour and she will help provide information on our exclusive caterer, Catering Creations.

COLLEGE 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 email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com, for either application. Applications are due by the end of April.

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

ITALIAN FOLK DANCE INSTRUCTOR

We are looking for a volunteer interested in teaching a simple Italian folk dance to a group of young people. If you have any dance experience or would be struck to learn Italian dance or start a group, please call Beth at the AIHS office, 402-493-8888 x 1; email Secretary@Omahaitaly.com



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.



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www.omahaitaly.com



secretary@omahaitaly.com

CONDOLENCES

Long time member, Ronald E. Gentzler passed away on January 22nd. He and his wife Joan (Beninato) Gentzler were married for almost 64 years. Ron and Joan have been members of AIHS since 2001. Ron was born in Omaha and joined the Navy at age 17, serving for 9 years. In 1963 Ron joined the Omaha Police Department serving 25 years. Please keep Ron's wife, Joan and family in your thoughts and prayers.



St. Joseph's Day/Father's Day

March 19th is celebrated as Father's Day in Italy, known as *La Festa del Papa*. Since the Middle Ages, this date has been recognized as the *Festa di San Giuseppe*, or the Feast of St. Joseph, who serves as the symbol of paternity. Over the centuries, the celebration of Saint Joseph and Father's Day merge into one. It is still celebrated by Catholics as St. Joseph's Day, but is now a highly personal holiday during which children shower their fathers with affection, treats, and gifts. In Italy, children celebrate this day by making cards and giving gifts to their fathers. Sweets are also a large part of their celebration. One story says that the custom of sharing sweets is based on a story that St. Joseph sold pancakes to support his family after they fled to Egypt.



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Stuffed Artichokes (Ripieni Per Carciofi) Pg. 145

Josephine Lohmeier

2 fresh whole artichokes
2/3 c. bread crumbs
2 heaping T. Romana or
Parmesan cheese, grated
1 tsp. garlic powder or 1 garlic
clove, minced

Olive oil or vegetable oil
Salt & Pepper
1 T. parsley

Wash and trim tips of artichokes. Pound gently to spread leaves apart. Combine crumbs, cheese, garlic and parsley. Sprinkle mixture into artichokes. Place artichokes into pan and add enough water to cover about 3 inches of the artichokes. Sprinkle salt and pepper then drizzle about 2 to 3 tablespoonfuls of oil over artichokes. Simmer in covered pan until leaves pull out easily, approximately 45 minutes.



Our "Taste of Italy" Cookbook can be purchased for \$25 from the AIHS office.



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





THE AMERICAN ITALIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

5110 North 132 Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68164

Return Service Requested

**Happy St. Patrick's Day and
St. Joseph's Day**

***Buon Giorno di
San Patrizio e
Giorno di
San Giuseppe***



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