



MAR/APR 2023

ITALIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF IOWA

NEWSLETTER

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ITALIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF IA

2633 Fleur Drive
Des Moines IA 50321

www.iaccfia.org

Telephone 515-280-3719



A Message From The President

by Paolo Bartesaghi

*Salve a tutti,
spero che tutto proceda al meglio nella vostra vita.*

Hello to all of you,
I am hoping all is going at its best in your life.

I am excited to tell you about some recent and future happenings with our Italian American Cultural Center here in Des Moines.

We have finally concluded the first phase of our project. That is, the purchase of the building where our organization resides and operates. This purchase was finalized at the beginning of January 2023 and the building is now officially ours! What an accomplishment! A huge thank you to all who created and believed in this organization many years ago and especially our current supporters. An enormous GRAZIE to them and to you!

Now, the second phase has begun, which includes the remodeling and renovation of the building. For this reason, we will continue with our Capital Campaign and, naturally, we will inform you as each reconstruction phase progresses. Also, during this time, we will continue some of our activities, but with slight changes. Some of our events will take place at other venues and others will have small logistical changes. Please check our website and facebook page regularly for event listings.

A new Board of Governors has been created that will help us in positioning our organization to a state and national level. We also have a new Heritage Advisory Board that will continue our mission to promote and preserve our heritage and history.

Listed here and on our website you will be able to see the list of names of members of both boards along with additional names that will be added.

I highly recommend that you continue to follow us through our newsletter and our social media.

Thank you again for your incredible support.



We Reflect & Remember

Albert Graziano
Dominic Bonanno
Dominic Caligiuri
John J. Civitate, Jr., CO
Susan "Soozie" McBroom
Maria Bevilacqua
James Harris
Thomas "Tommy" Formaro
Gary Bianchi
Daniel Reelitz
Carol Tiernan-Williams
William (Bill) F. Magnani
Carolyn Marie Colosimo

Friends of The Center

Società Vittoria Italiana
www.vittorialodge.com

Society of Italian Americans
www.siadm.com

Italian-American Women of IA
www.italianamericanwomenofiowa.com

Italian Folk Dancers

Grant Supporters



Please Bear With Us

Classes and events will be limited throughout the spring months while we prepare our facility for our Grand Opening.



UpComming Classes and Events



Festa di San Gieseppe

Saturday March 11
10:00am - 2:00pm

In the Spirit of St. Joseph, please help those in our community.



Italian Baking Class

Saturday April 1
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Learn how to make this traditional Italian Easter Bread.



Paint & Sip

Sunday April 30
2:00PM

Join us on a quick trip to Venice to paint this iconic scene.

Information on these events can be found at
www.iaccfia.org

If you have an idea for an event, please contact
Michelle Murrow at murrow@iaccfia.org

Around The Center

By Patricia Civitate

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

The Mission of The Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa is to preserve the "culture and traditions of our Italian ancestors". One of those traditions is the observance of the beautiful feast of St. Joseph. The Feast of Saint Joseph is celebrated on March 19th.

Our celebration of the St. Joseph Altar began in 1997. The first altar was 18 feet long - and 3 steps high, representing the Holy Trinity as dictated by the instructions. It was necessary to cancel our celebrations in 2020/2021, but in 2022, we were able to renew our observance in our newly acquired Cultural Center location. Our event has grown and, last year, the altar was 120 feet long and 3 steps high.

This year, because of the unavailability of our facility due to imminent renovation, we are making plans to celebrate our event in a different manner.

COMMUNITY DONATION

IACC of Iowa is encouraging would-be attendees and all others to bring non-perishable food items or cash donations to the north parking lot of the Cultural Center on Saturday, March 11th, from 10 am – 2 pm. Volunteers will be in the parking lot to collect donations for the food pantry, and all proceeds from cash donations will go to Catholic Worker House and St. Joseph Shelter. In addition, IAAC volunteers will prepare the traditional vegetable frittata to donate to Catholic Worker House and St. Joseph Shelter.

FAMILY OBSERVANCE

We would also like to suggest that family members gather together to prepare and share a meal. Because the feast of St. Joseph takes place during lent, one traditional dish is the vegetable frittata.

The Heritage Advisory Board has prepared a booklet for families who would like to observe the feast together, including a brief history of the St. Joseph Altar Celebration. Also included is a recipe for vegetable frittata as well as recipes for traditional cookies that the Center bakes each year.

Copies of the booklet may be picked up when donations are made or ordered online by sending your request to civitate@iaccfia.org



In Our Library

Since our expected remodeling project has caused us to alter our yearly Saint Joseph Altar celebration, I thought it might be interesting and fun to reminisce about a celebration from the past. You may also find this an interesting and fun activity.

If you are interested in learning more about the St. Joseph Altar Celebration or are interested in a retrospective look at the celebration in 2004, you can check out *"The Saint Joseph Altar: A Labor in Love"* from our library. It can be viewed in either CD or VCR format. Both are available for loan.

This media presentation was produced by the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa and runs for approximately 35 minutes. It was made during the preparation and celebration of St. Joseph in 2004. This was the seventh year of the Center's hosting of this event.

The nine sections of the production are:

1. History of the St. Joseph Altar
2. Welcome and Thanks
3. Tupa Tupa: The Knocking
4. The Blessing
5. The Dinner
6. The Altars
7. 2004 Preparations
8. A Review of Past Altars
9. Prayer Pillar

The process for preparing for and carrying out this celebration hasn't changed much through the years. It continues to be a beautiful and respectful occasion.

Many of those who are featured in this presentation are no longer with us and it is good to see their faces again. Fortunately, other generous volunteers have come forward to take their places and continue the tradition.

We look forward to continuing this beautiful celebration in honor of St. Joseph in the years to come.

La Befana Celebration Held

On January 8th, 2023, the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa hosted its annual La Befana Children's Party. Children from ages 2 to 12 years were invited to visit the Center to enjoy a video of Tomie DePaola's story of La Befana, play games, decorate a small cake, and share snacks.

The highlight of the afternoon was the arrival of La Befana, who brought a bag full of gifts for the children.



A good time was had by all, including the parents and grandparents, who brought the children and then stayed for the fun.

Italian American Future Leaders Conference

By Brooke Murrow

The weekend of January 13th-15th I had the opportunity to attend the first Italian American Future leaders conference in Sunrise, Florida, representing the Italian American Women of Iowa.

At this event I was surrounded by peers ages 21-35 of Italian descent.



During the course of the weekend, speakers talked with us about the struggles we are going to face as the next generation of leaders, how social media has impacted the way we are communicating, how society views Italians and Italian Americans, and how there are things that Italian Americans are doing to try and change that negative perception.



We had the chance to mingle and get to know people, to network and create friendships.

We also had the opportunity to break into groups and discuss strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that we observe in our community/culture. Each group chose an idea they wanted to expand on, and came up with goals and strategies that we wanted to implement to address our critical issue.



We talked about how to get our Italian culture shown and noticed, and ways that we could individually do small things that would make a huge impact. We had a speaker talk to us about how to look into getting dual citizenship, and the steps to start that process if we were interested.



This conference taught me a lot about my Italian culture, how other Italian Americans around the country view my generation, and how proud and passionate Italians are about their heritage.

- Brooke is the daughter of Chip & Michelle Murrow of Ankeny. After graduating from the University of Northern Iowa in 2022, she began her career as a third-grade teacher in the Carlisle School District.

Curiosities

by Paolo Bartesaghi

The Gothic Cathedral (Duomo) of Milan houses a cycle of 55 monumental stained glass windows, created between the end of the fourteenth century through the 1880's, a patient and centuries-old work that involved several generations of artists from half of Europe. I have always found it very difficult to read these figurative cycles and their deciphering even more complicated. Already at the beginning of the fifteenth century, just twenty years after the foundation of the Cathedral, the large windows of the apse began to be assembled and the first ones were towards Santa Radegonda, therefore those that can be observed coming from Corso Vittorio Emanuele.

But, unfortunately, only very few fragments remain of these first stained glass windows, as they were remade on several occasions in the following centuries.



The technique used in these first windows involved the assembly of colored glass on which the design was reported with the grisaille technique, a very complicated process which involved spreading an amalgam of glass powder from the inside of the window, which was later worked with scratches and removals.

The most serpent-tongued historians recounted that, towards the early afternoon, the Flemish masters specialized in grisaille were lying drunk on the ground, given that the liquid used to amalgamate the glass powder was wine, and it was known that the vineyards owned by the Veneranda Fabbrica produced great red wines.

The local masters, on the other hand, were more diligent in their duty and resented the Flemish artists. One local artist was Antonio da Pandino, who dedicated 36 years of his life to the stained glass windows of the Cathedral without ever a day of rest. Which makes Alexei Grigoryevich Stakhanov, the Russian labor hero, look like an amateur in comparison.

After the 19th century, the glass was instead made with the method of fire painting, a technique much more similar to traditional painting, with which the colors were fixed on originally neutral glass. This technique gave rise to much more modest results, especially from a luminous point of view, which is why I always recommend visiting the windows of the apse to appreciate the original essence of the mystical light of the Cathedral.



The most extraordinary of the stained glass windows is undoubtedly the one depicting the Raza, just behind the altar, a Visconti emblem formed by ten wavy snakes forming a sun. Observing it both from inside and outside and at various times of the day is always worth it.

Curiosities

by Paolo Bartesaghi

The **Cathedral Museum of Milan** is host to an exhibition that features seven ink drawings and copper matrices, made in the eighteenth century by Gaetano Le Poer.



This display, that is preserved in the archive of the Milan Cathedral and restored by Elena Allodi and Franco Blumer, tell us a curious artistic story concerning the Gonzaga tapestries on display at the Museo del Duomo. A story that originates in the sixteenth century, when Archbishop Carlo Borromeo brought to Milan seven precious yarns received as a gift from the Duke of Mantua, and which he in turn donated to the Veneranda Fabbrica for his own interest. Due to the excessively high maintenance costs and conservation difficulties, the Fabbrica thus decided to commission a sort of "catalogue" from Le Poer to show the tapestries to the most prestigious European courts, but the sale did not go through.

Thanks to these precious materials together with the volume, today it is possible for us to know the iconography of the original series of the seven Gonzaga Tapestries, four of which were lost due to a fire ...

Works of invaluable documentary value for the story of this complex plot!



ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN OF IOWA (IAWI)

MARCH/APRIL

NEWSLETTER

Belle e Forti Le Donne Italo-Americane
(Beautiful Strong Italian American Women)
www.italianamericanwomenofiowa.com

HAPPY SPRING! We are ready for the new season with a lot to look forward to! As we celebrate International Women's Day and greet April with our garden theme meeting we will also be making adventures into new meeting venues! Join us this year as we also add in even more hands on charities that are hands on so that we can be more visible to the community and give the support we all love to do.

Jennifer Caito-Ellingson, *President*

2023 BOARD

President- Jennifer Caito-Ellingson, **Vice President/ Auditor-** Deb Pane, **Secretary-** Karly Prinds, **Treasurer-** Karen Scavo, **Sgt. At Arms -** Gloria Stefani, **Auditor-** Theresa Russo Dryer **Membership-** Angie Funaro-Wessel, **Greeter-** Nancy Danca & Ricky Harkin **Cheer & Sympathy-** Susan Witt, **Social Chair-** Jennifer Caito-Ellingson, **Scholarship Committee-** Michelle Murrow & Tammy Leto **Social Media Coordinator -** TBA

MONTHLY MEETINGS

We meet on the **4th Tuesday of the month!** Please cut out the dates below so you don't miss out. In November we will be meeting earlier.

Mark Your Calendar for 2023 all meetings are at 7pm

1/24	2/28	3/28	4/25	5/23	6/27	7/25	No meeting in Aug	9/26	10/24	11/14	No meeting in Dec
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER:

Our dues are due: \$25.00 for members under 65 and \$15.00 for seniors 65-84 and 85 and older are Life Members and you don't have to pay anymore.

If you have any questions or need a membership form please contact Angie Funaro-Wessel at 515-554-2344 or angiefunaro@gmail.com

Make your checks out to IAWI for **dues only** and send it to: IAWI, PO Box 21116, Des Moines, IA 50321 or pay via Venmo @Italian-AmericanWomenofIowa

LE FESTA DELLA DONNA DAY:

Our ladies will be celebrating International Women's Day Saturday March 4, 2023 12:00pm-2:00pm-Italian style! A ladies luncheon will be served at A.H. Blank Golf Course with lemon ricotta tagliatelle spinach salad and a mimosa cake. We will be

welcoming speakers! Tickets can be purchased on IAWI website, Eventbrite or Feel free to contact Jennifer Caito-Ellingson about this event at 763.772.2859 or iawofiowa@gmail.com

VARIETY CLUB TELETHON:

This funding season for the Variety Club will be done virtually! Due to Covid the organization has asked that all of our members help raise donations virtually through a link built for IAWI. You may go to: <https://varietyiowa.donordrive.com/participant/IAWI>

EASTER BREAD BAKE SALE:

Our ladies are back in the kitchen and baking up loaves of Italian Easter bread for your holiday! Our Easter breads will be on sale Saturday, April 8th from 10:00am-1:00pm at Freedom Blend Coffee 2329 Hickman Rd, Des Moines, IA 50310. **To pre-order your bread please email iawofiowa@gmail.com with name, phone and number of loaves.** Our breads will be supporting the Freedom for Youth Ministries supporting kids in the Des Moines area. To learn more about the charity go to: <https://freedomforyouth.org/>

Dates to Remember:

3/4-Le Festa Della Donna Day 12:00pm-2:00pm (luncheon and scholarship award ceremony) **BUY YOUR TICKETS AT: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/la-festa-della-donna-day-tickets-502638343817>**

3/4-Variety Club Televised Special 7-8 p.m. on Local 5 and KCWI 23

3/18-Ladies Brunch 10am at Victoria Lodge

3/28-IAWI MEMBER Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm TBA on location

4/8-Easter Bread Bake Sale 10:00am-1:00pm @ Freedom Blend Coffee

4/16-Easter Egg Hunt

4/25-"Cannoli" Hour 5:00pm-7:00pm and IAWI MEMBER Meeting 7:00pm-8:30pm @Bordeners Pizza



SOCIETY OF ITALIAN AMERICANS
P.O BOX 8337
DES MOINES, IA 50301

January 2023

Wishing you all a very happy New Year! May your 2023 be filled with health and happiness.

I want to express my appreciation for all of you that came to our Christmas party December 10. We had over 100 people in attendance, and it was a great night of fun and food and a lot of prizes. Including a TV donated by Dave Dowie of Stivers Ford.

We want to thank – Tumea and Sons Restaurant, Graziano Brothers, Baratta's restaurant, Noah's Ark, and Scornovacca's for countless gifts they donated to be raffled off. I want to thank Tony Gulino for helping at the front door, and with the raffle tickets. Special thanks to Victor Scavo and Don Scignoli for helping plan the party. Thank you, Don Scignoli, for supplying the plants we gave away that night. I want to personally thank Blank Golf Course and staff for their great service and hospitality hosting this event.

Reminder, we do not have a meeting in January or February. We will resume meetings the second Sunday of March. The executive board will meet at 4 PM. The general body will meet at 5 PM at the American legion hall on first Street.

I would like to welcome the eight new members that joined last year. Hope to see them at the meetings.

Again, thanks for everyone's help this last year and look forward to a fun year in 2023.

John Marturello Tyler

PRESIDENT SOCIETY OF ITALIAN AMERICANS

"Everywhere immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of American Life"

President John F. Kennedy

One of our members shared this quote with me after returning from a recent trip to the Statue of Liberty.

March will be a busy, but very fun, month. We are looking forward to hosting a potluck brunch with the Italian American Women of Iowa on March 18th at 10:00. Then, on March 19th we will be gathering at 11:00 (with our monthly meeting immediately following) to make our delicious wandas as we prepare for our bake sale at the cavatelli dinner on March 26th. This is an annual event you won't want to miss!

Ciao!

Deb Fleishman

Vittoria Lodge Auxiliary President

Società Vittoria Italiana

Next Men's Meeting March 19th @ 2:00 pm

CAVATELLI DINNER: Cavatelli and sausage dinner will be held on Sunday, March 26 at the lodge hall serving from 11:00am until 4:00pm. Carry-out option available. Adult \$10.00 and children under 12 \$5.00. Proceeds go to Vittoria Lodge Scholarship Fund.

LODGE WEBSITE: We have been upgrading our lodge website. Check us out at <http://vittorialodge.com>.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Please get your membership dues sent in. If you did not receive your membership statement, please contact Squire at 515-577-4283 or email him at squire@squireweb.net

FOR SALE: We have roasting pans available for sale at \$20 each. Also, we have 6' wood tables available for sale at \$20 each. Contact A.J. Forneris at 515-971-6711.

PRAYER READING: As part of the funeral protocol, the member's (men or women) family will need to ask if they want the ceremony prayer read at the visitation or cemetery.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: The Lodge and Auxiliary Memberships will be sponsoring its annual scholarship program for eligible students planning to attend college in the Fall of 2023 and related to a Lodge or Auxiliary member. Included in your newsletter is a scholarship application. The application is due June 1st 2023. The recipients of the scholarship awards will be at the June Dinner (June 11th, 2023).

ORDERING LODGE APPAREL: Squire Hutcheson has made arrangements with Adventure in Advertising offering Lodge & Auxiliary Members through a secure website to purchase apparel (polo, T-shirts) with the Lodge logo on it. To obtain a user ID or for more information please contact Squire at 515-577-4283 or email him at squire@squireweb.net.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS: Alan Magnani, James Forneris, Aldo Forneris, Bruno Lenzini, Edward Green, Jim Tazzioli, Dorian Rossi, Fr. John Bertogli, Daniel Battani, John Cosenza, James Cerfogli, Larry Biondi, and Jake Jennings **Buon Compleanno!**

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS: Richard Ballantini, Robert Jr. Chiappano, Brett Stefani, David Stefani, Frank Lenzini, Dustin Stefani, Rick Hutcheson, John Casey, Fr. Mike Amadeo, Randy Fontanini, Michael Casey, Ray Cervetti, Robert Chesi, Richard Prati, Fr. Chris Fontanini, and Bruno Andreini **Buon Compleanno!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

March 19th – Lunch Social @ 12:30pm; Lodge Meeting @ 2:00pm

March 25th – Cavatelli Set Up

March 26th – Cavatelli Dinner Serving from 11:00am to 4:00pm

April 16th – Lodge Clean Up Day 8:00am; Lunch Social @ 12:30pm; Lodge Meeting @ 2:00pm

May 21st – Lunch Social @ 12:30pm; Lodge Meeting @ 2:00pm

June 11th – Annual Meeting @ 10:00am, June Dinner @ 12:00pm



Societa Vittoria Italiana

Vittoria Lodge
P. O. Box 1212
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-0975

Scholarship Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Age _____

City, State, Zip _____

Male _____ Female _____

College Student ID # _____

Name of Lodge or Auxiliary Member Sponsor _____

Relationship to Member _____

Graduation date if in High School _____

School (Plan on) attending _____

COMPLETE mailing address of school / department the check will be sent to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State , Zip _____

Deadline is JUNE 1

No Applications will be accepted at the June dinner

This is the ONLY Official form to be used for 2023 applications.

If the college like, U of I, requires any additional paperwork to be submitted with the check, you are to submit the completely form filled out with your application.

Please submit photo with application

(please include applicant's name on back of photo)

Send Applications to:

Vittoria Lodge
P. O. Box 1212
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-0975