



JUL/AUG 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

Mailing address:
PO Box 4994
Des Moines IA 50305

www.iaccfia.org

Telephone 515-280-3719

A Message From The President

by Paolo Bartesaghi

E siamo arrivati all'estate!
And we have arrived to summer!

If any of you have passed by the new Italian American Cultural Center building on Fleur Drive, you may have noticed, that finally, some reconstruction work has begun on the roof of the mansion. Eagle Construction Group is doing a wonderful job of getting the roof back to shape. Thinking about this work, I began to research the history of roofs and the various styles that exist in Italy.

From the dome of the Pantheon to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the trulli of Puglia to the terracotta roofs of Florence, Italians craft the most beautiful ceilings and roofs in the world. In their more every day residences too, Italian builders take pride in a well-crafted rafter and a nice bit of slate. Just look upwards at the amazing roofs and ceilings of Italian character properties.

The concept of a roof was known very early in the history of humanity. The pre-historic hunters and gatherers retreated into caves to get away from inclement weather and other dangers. However, they needed to find more flexible solutions for longer hunting trips. The oldest roof was supposedly made of the skin of a woolly mammoth in Siberia around 42,000 years ago. Soon afterwards, small settlements of huts built with mammoth tusks and branches covered with skins and mud sprung up.



The roofs of early civilizations were made with various combinations of brick, wood and mud reinforced with vegetation until the first roof tiles supposedly emerged around 3,000 BC in China. Roof tiles also started to be used in Ancient Greece and Babylon around that time. Later on, the usage of roof tiles spread almost throughout Europe with the Romans.

The surrounding materials and the development of the civilization dictated the construction and the roofing. Ancient civilizations, for example, mostly featured roofs made of mud brick and straw in north Africa, the Middle East, India, and South America. Baked clay roof tiles and stone were prevalent in southern Europe and the Far East. Straw and wood shingles were mostly used in central and eastern Europe. Scandinavia and Siberia mostly featured grass-covered roofs.

Continued



We Reflect & Remember

Noah L. Lacona
James A. Lacona
James N. Lacona
Teresa Tursi Marasco Lacona
Delores Davisson
Edward Beltrame, Jr.
Roma Lea Kouri
Maria Bevilacqua
Peter Joseph "P.J." Renzo
Yvonne Aversa
Pat Fatino
Steven Righi
JoAnna Schmeling
Ann R. Graziano Costanzo
Josephine Lenzini
Frank DeBartolo
Roland Smith
Timothy "Tim" Neugent
Alfonso Cariglino

Friends of The Center

Societa' 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



Classes and Events



JUL 31 - AUG 4
Bella Italia Day Camp



AUG 26
Red, White & Green Italian sauce class



OCT 4
Ciao! Siete Pronti!?
Our language classes are back!



Dec 1-2
Our 1st Indoor Holiday Market!

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

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

Around The Center

by Patricia Civitate

One of the most popular displays at the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa is the picture flip charts. Each of these charts has 40 two-sided frames and is tall enough for easy viewing. Each frame contains one or more pictures.

One of the flip charts has colorful pictures of various towns and villages throughout Italy. These pictures give the viewer an idea of what they might see when planning a trip. Another of the charts contains pictures and history of local early Italian restaurants. Many of these businesses date back to the first Italian owned restaurant. The chart also has pictures and information about our present day Italian-American eateries.

But two of the most popular charts are the Wedding flip charts. Photographs displayed in these charts contain wedding pictures dating back to 1913 and up to the present. The pictures shown may be of the bride and groom alone or of entire wedding parties. Presently, we have ninety-nine wedding pictures on the flip charts and recorded.

OPEN INVITATION

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to enlist the help of our friends and readers. Because of the generosity of our supporters in the past, we have about forty wedding pictures on hand that are in need of identification of some or all of the individuals. I would like to set up a couple of sessions for anyone who would be interested in going through the pictures on hand to help identify one or more of these individuals. They could possibly be a member of your own family or a close friend.

Our Mailing Address Has Changed

Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa
P.O. Box 4994
Des Moines IA 50305

Pronto Presto Pizza Party

Saturday, May 6, was the date of the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa's Pronto Presto Pizza Party. Visitors were invited to enjoy some pizza, play outdoor games, and enjoy time with friends.

Jon Turner of Parlo Pizza sponsored the event to benefit the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa. He provided the pizza, baked in his outdoor oven. The event was held in the parking lot and courtyard of the Cultural Center. Graziano Brothers loaned the Center the use of bean bag throws, along with large Italian Connect Four and Italian Jenga games. The Murrow family loaned the Center additional outdoor games.



A great big "Thank You" to Jon Turner, Graziano Brothers, and BRAVO for helping us make this event a success. We also want to thank all of the volunteers who helped. We couldn't have done it without you.

Not only the materials but the forms of the roofs kept changing throughout history. Completely flat roofs were prevalent in the equatorial belt since no pitch was needed due to the lower amount of precipitation. Due to the longer rainy seasons, multi-tiered hip roofs (or sometimes roofs with even more sloping sides) developed in China. A typical example is the pagoda. Ancient civilizations of the northern Mediterranean featured single-pitch and gable roofs with the pitch increasing the further north we go.

Even though cupolas were already featured in simple tents made with branches or mammoth tusks, the first preserved mathematically correct cupolas were constructed in Ancient Rome around 100 AD. Roman architects realized that they could obtain a stable form by rotating the arch. First, this was used predominantly for religious structures. Around 700 AD, the cupola architecture spread to the Middle East where its development is closely related to the spread of Islam since it became a constituent part of mosques. The first cupolas were supposedly entirely made of wood. Later on, only the ribs were wooden and covered with stone or tiles. Larger structures only featured stone- and later concrete-built cupolas, for example on the Pantheon – Roman concrete (opus caementicium).



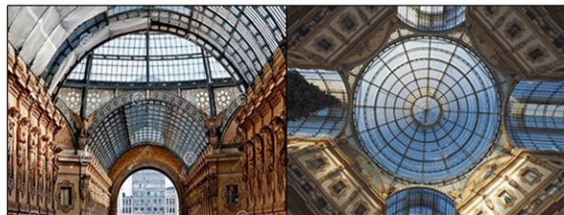
Domed ceiling of the Pantheon in Rome

Due to the progress in Europe almost coming to a complete standstill in the Middle Ages, slate and wood shingles were more prevalent with thatching in the countryside instead of baked roof tiles. Clay and ceramic roof tiles were a sign of wealth and prestige, thus mostly appearing on religious structures and castles/palaces. Most of the population, however, had to rely on wood and straw, which were prone to accidental or deliberate fires. After the plague epidemic in Europe, which decimated as much as 30 % of the European population, roof tiles became more accessible and prevalent.



Slate tiles

In the last 200 years, industrialization has contributed greatly to the development of roofs. Manufacturing facilities and factories produced roof tiles in mass with them soon becoming the prevalent roofing material across the entire developed world, followed closely by slate, depending on its availability. The usefulness of roof tiles was improved by the invention of the system for fixing the tiles onto roof battens, which allowed for roofs with steeper pitches.



Glass ceiling and roof in the galleria in Milan

New materials and roof manufacturing methods emerged in the 20th century, which extended their service life and let the user adapt their appearance.

I hope you found this information interesting. As always, thank you for your continued support in the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa as we spread Italian culture throughout your community.



Typical conical roofs in Apulia



Multicolored terracotta cylindrical pieces



Main cathedral in Florence

Parli Italiano?

Italian Language Classes Beginners & Advanced

8-week courses beginning October 4th

www.iaccofia.org

Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa

Italian-American Cultural Center of IA
in partnership with

Cooking with Alessandra
presents:

RED, WHITE & GREEN ITALIAN SAUCES

August 26th
9:00am to 12:00pm

In this class you will learn how to make 3 unique Italian Pasta Sauces and pair them with their matching pasta. Each participant will enjoy taste-testing and leave with recipes and one of the pastas. \$60pp
Class held at: Cooking With Alessandra
333 E Grand Ave #103, Des Moines IA

Register: www.iaccofia.org
Contact: Bartesaghi@iaccofia.org



Curiosities

by Paolo Bartesaghi

Milan And A Home Museum - It is among the most important and best preserved museum houses in all of Europe. The



brothers Fausto and Giuseppe Bagatti Valsecchi, ancient Milanese nobles, who put aside their degree in law and studied every detail founding a unique model for the homes of the upper middle class of the city that will then be imitated throughout Italy.

The majestic coffered ceilings with gold pine cones, the imposing chandeliers, the precious works of art, the stained glass windows, the imposing fireplaces, the artifacts, the lamps, contribute to underline the refined and precious family atmosphere. A grandiose work in neo-Renaissance style that has maintained the absolutely original appearance of that time. Unaffected by big tourism, (in reality there are also many Milanese who have never been there) Casa Bagatti Valsecchi is certainly among the greatest Milanese jewels that deserve at least once to be seen.

Milan And Its Marble Worksite - The Duomo of Milan is the largest church in the Italian Republic and largest example of Gothic architecture in the world. Construction began in 1386 and has 135 spires.

On the outskirts of the city stands the Cantiere Marmisti (Marble warehouse) of the Veneranda Fabbrica del Duomo di Milano, a laboratory where the numerous statues and ornaments from the Gothic Cathedral that need maintenance or restoration operations are welcomed and cared for. In the same complex there is also a deposit called the "cemetery" which houses hundreds of statues and other "retired" works. These are not destroyed, but guarded with care and dedication and, in some cases, even restored, if the damage is not excessive. It is thanks to the great skill of stonecutters, marble workers and ornamentists that the precious architectural and decorative elements of the Duomo resist the challenges of time and pass on their beauty over the centuries





In Our Library

New to our library is the book "*Michelangelo*" by Susie Hodge. This is a book in The Great Artists Series.

Michelangelo traces the life of this great Italian artist from his birth in Caprese in the late 1400s to his death in 1564. Chapters include information about his education during the Renaissance period and explore how he achieved the title of Master.

The book also tells of how he faced challenges as he strove to complete the work that was commissioned to him. An epilogue and a timeline are included, providing additional information about his life and times.

This book contains many photographs of the master's work. It is easy to see from these examples why he attained the great fame. His knowledge of anatomy led to the creation of sculptures that are nearly unmatched in their accuracy. His drawings and paintings are renowned for their detail. The photos in this book allow readers to see the details of his work clearly. They are not for those who are uncomfortable with viewing the naked human form, as many of his works are nudes. Some of the photos are pieces you will recognize and some may be of art works that are new to you.

This is an interesting, informative text. We invite you "*to check it out.*"

Painting With A Twist

On April 30, the Heritage Advisory Board of the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa teamed up with Painting with a Twist of Urbandale to provide a fun, artistic opportunity for participants. Everyone in attendance had a delightful time, painting a Venice-themed portrait and enjoying some wine. If you've never tried this type of event before, we recommend it!





Bella Italia Day Camp

July 31 - August 4
9:00AM - 12:00PM

Games

Crafts

Dancing

Cooking

Language

An interactive day camp designed for children ages 6-12 to have fun while learning about about all things Italian.

Presented by Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa
2633 Fleur Dr., Des Moines IA 50321
\$50 per camper

Register at www.iaccofia.org

Contact: Pat at Civitate@iaccofia.org or Therese at riordan@iaccofia.org

Indoor Holiday Market

Watch for our first Indoor Holiday Market taking place December 1 & 2.. Many vendors will be present and a wide variety of items will be available for sale. Further details coming soon! Contact Paolo at Bartesaghi@iaccofia.org



Curiosities

by Paolo Bartesaghi

The Fork And Its Entrance Into Europe - The fork only appears in the European courts between the 15th and 16th centuries, because before then, it was customary to eat mainly with the hands. A very first appearance of cutlery dates back to the 11th century, when Princess Maria, granddaughter of the Byzantine emperor Constantine VIII and wife of Giovanni, son of the Venetian doge Pietro Orseolo II, used to bring food to her mouth with a fork of oriental gold. Another tradition has it, however, that the Byzantine princess who promoted the strange artifact was Theodora, sister of Emperor Michael VII and wife of the Doge of the Serenissima Domenico Selvo. However, various religious authorities, including the austere and upright friar Pier Damiano, condemned its use, also because the shape of the fork recalled demonic forms.



In Italy, however, its common use can be found as early as the 15th century, presumably earlier than in any other European country. In the famous painting *Nastagio degli Onesti*, painted by Sandro Botticelli in 1483, for example, it can be seen that the diners depicted used cutlery.

From Florence, through Caterina de' Medici, wife of Henry II, the particular tool was introduced in France, but it was not always well received. Louis XIV, for example, preferred to use his hands to eat and decided to adopt the fork at official dinners only when his court moved to Versailles in 1684. It seems,

however, that Charles V greatly appreciated forks and even became a collector.

In the United Kingdom the object remained unknown until the 17th century. In 1611 English writer, Thomas Coryat discovered its existence after a stay in Italy and was so impressed that, back home, he tried to introduce it in England, earning the nickname of "Forks".

The affirmation of the fork in history was not simple and uniform. The Church remained a convinced opponent for a long time and allowed its use without hesitation in the various religious institutions only starting from the 18th century.

VITTORIA LODGE AUXILIARY

Happy summer to all!

Our annual June dinner for all members was catered by Great Caterers of Iowa. A delicious meal was served. It's always an enjoyable time when visiting with others and catching up on everyone's activities.

Please check out our facebook page for additional summer activities. Otherwise, we hope to see you at the polenta party on September 17th following the 2:00 meeting. You are welcome to bring your favorite topping.

Wishing you a safe summer,

Deb Fleishman

President, Vittoria Lodge Auxiliary

Società Vittoria Italiana

Next Men's Meeting September 17th @ 2:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETING: Haven't been to monthly lodge meeting in a while? Please mark your calendars and join us! We invite fresh ideas and involvement.

LODGE WEBSITE: We will be updating our lodge website very soon. Check us out at <http://vittorialodge.com>.

LODGE SHELTER: The lodge outdoor shelter which includes tables, grill and fire pit area, is a great place for family and friend gatherings now that its summer time. Open to all members. Contact A.J. at 515-971-6711 if you would like to reserve.

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 RECIPIENTS: We were very happy to have received 15 applications for scholarships this year. It was a tough decision as only 10 scholarships were awarded. The Vittoria Lodge and the Vittoria Lodge Auxiliary are honored to provide a \$500.00 scholarship to the following students:

Zoe Leonhardt, granddaughter to Diane Underwood; **Lexi Magnani**, daughter to Alan Magnani (member); **Leah Chicoine**, granddaughter to Mary Rose and Eugenio Fugaccio (member); **Hunter Cruchelow**, son to Todd (member) & Lisa Cruchelow, grandson to Darlene Cross and nephew to Orlando Vivone (member); **Andrew Smith**, grandson to Robert Danti (member); **Jeremy Romitti**, son to Barry Romitti (member); **Deric B. Van Houten**, grandson to Charles Maurice Van Houten (member); **Kathryn Van Houten**, granddaughter to Norma Van Houten and son to Mike Van Houten (member); **Evan Bryan**, son to Eric Bryan (member); **Cross Battista Pezzetti**, grandson to Phil Pezzetti (member).

TONINI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP: If you are a member of the Lodge or Auxiliary and you have a son, grandson, daughter or granddaughter attending Dowling Catholic High School for the upcoming 2023-24 school year, the lodge is sponsoring a scholarship through the Tonini Family Scholarship program. Contact Randy Prati at 515-321-8941 for more information.

HAPPY JULY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS: Jeffrey Jennings, Frank Forneris, Roscoe (Rocco) Vacco Jr., Orlando Vivone III, Angelo Vignaroli, Noah Fiori, Ildo (John) Rossi, Cole B Patton, Mike B. Van Houten, Eugenio L. Fugaccia, Rev. Frank E. Chiodo, Lawrence (Larry) Lassiter, Jeremiah Joens, Phillip J. Pezzetti, Michael Lucente, James Blasco, Richard Stefani, Randall Stefani, Edward J. Palandri, Neal Prati **Buon Compleanno!**

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS: Bill (Michael) Bernardo, Chad Chicoine, Ned F. Chiodo, Dominic Fontana Jr., Charles M. Van Houten, Kevin Brooks, John Natale, Ryan Stefani, Jeff Anderlik, Teonte Gentosi, David J. Van Houten, Paul Gits **Buon Compleanno!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

August 27th – Corn Feed. Bring the family, food & games. @ 12pm at Lodge outdoor shelter.
September 17th - Meeting @ 2:00pm. Polenta Party after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.
October 15th – Lodge Clean Up Day 8:00am. Lunch Social @ 12:30pm; Meeting @ 2:00pm

ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN OF IOWA (IAWI)

JULY/AUGUST
NEWSLETTER

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

It's A Beautiful Summer! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and donated over Spring for our charities. Congratulations to our newest members as they will be a great addition to our club. We are excited to bring in more new members at our June Gelato social as well!

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:

If you would like to join IAWI \$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

CHEER AND SYMPATHY

If you would like a card sent to one of our **members** contact Susan Witt at 763.772.2859 or email iawofiowa@gmail.com

July BBQ Food Sign-up

If you would like to sign up and bring food to the July BBQ meeting please email iawofiowa@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS TO

All of our July and August Members!

Dates to Remember:

July 14th-12pm-2pm Better Home & Garden Tour Picnic

July 25th-6:30pm IAWI meeting BBQ at Columbus Park Shelter

August 12th-Oelwein 150th Anniversary-Italian American Festival

September 16 9:30 am - Italian American Women Brunch at IACCOFIA

September 16 11:30am -Woodland Cemetery 175th Anniversary Lot 9

September 30th -6:00pm IAWI Fashion Show at Krause Center