



SEP/OCT 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

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A Message From The President

by Paolo Bartesaghi

Come state? Come e' andata la Vostra estate?
How are you? How has your summer been?

As you will see in the next few pages, our capital campaign for the remodeling of our new building is underway. Some things have already been completed and there is more to be done. A big thank you to all who have helped us till now. Considering the remodeling and the different areas that will be created, a typical Italian art came to mind, the majolica ceramic.



Majolica is a type of pottery in which an earthenware clay form (usually a red earthenware) is covered with an opaque white glaze (traditionally a lead glaze including tin), then painted with stains or glazes and fired.

The first known glazed tiles come from Egypt and Mesopotamia, the glaze, a thin glassy layer, is therefore an ancient discovery. However, in ancient times, this pottery technique covered with a dull glaze was exclusively Oriental and had been lost over the years. Indeed, the Greco-Roman world did not know it, and developed the use of paint on fresh plaster ("frescoes"), stucco, or mosaics. It is the Sasanid Persians who, around the year 850, rediscovered the use of tin as an opacifier for glass, and who again manufactured glazed tiles with an opaque glaze. Their Abbasid neighbors, with Baghdad as their capital, also used this technique, a technique which spread throughout the Arab-Muslim world, from the gates of Constantinople to Spain. Under the Fatimids, Egyptian potters decorated entire rooms in palaces from Cairo.

The technique was later imported to Spain, and the Spanish Moors eventually traded these tin-glazed wares to Italy through the island of Majorca. Majolica was popularized in the mid-15th Century and takes its name from the Spanish island of Majorca. The art of majolica spread across Europe, with Italy becoming one of the leading producers during the 15th and 16th centuries

Tin-lead glazes were well known around the Mediterranean, but this style of painting on a white opaque glaze became associated with the wares that the potters of the island of Majorca (aka Maiorca) exported far and wide. These wares at first were more associated with the use of luster overglazes that had been introduced through the Moorish invasion of the Spanish peninsula in the 8th

continued



We Reflect & Remember

RoseMarie "Rosie" Gibson
Patricia Gabriel
Mario Butler

Friends of The Center

Società Vittoria Italiana
www.vittorialodge.com

Society of Italian Americans
www.siadm.com

Italian-American Women of IA
www.italianamericanwomenofia.com

Italian Folk Dancers

Grant Supporters



Classes and Events



SEP 9
Volunteer Work Day
Help us work on our to-do list.

OCT 4
Beginning Italian Language
Advanced Italian Language
Learn from the best -
Paolo & Mark

OCT 8
Italian Heritage Dinner
Join us for our annual dinner

OCT 9
Heritage Observance
Procession begins at 10:45AM

OCT 21
Italian Dual Citizenship
See if you qualify.

NOV 4
Hands On Ravioli
Presented by Rose & Theresa

DEC 1 & 2
Holiday Market
A unique shopping experience for you
holiday gifts & decor

TBA
Dolci Festivi
Watch our web site for information

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



Celebrate! ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH



A month of Italian events!
Join us in celebrating our Italian Heritage.

OCT 4 BEGINNING ITALIAN CLASS

OCT 4 ADVANCED ITALIAN CLASS

OCT 8 HERITAGE MONTH DINNER

OCT 8 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARDS

OCT 9 HERITAGE OBERVANCE CEREMONY

OCT 21 DUAL CITIZENSHIP CLASS

Registration/details at www.iaccofia.org

ITALIAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER OF IOWA
2633 Fleur Drive, Des Moines IA 50321



Business Record

Italian-American group will launch campaign to renovate new center at Butler Mansion

By Kathy A. Bolten, Senior Staff Writer

| Aug 10, 2023 | Business Record Insider, Real Estate & Development

Earlier this year, the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa made the final payment on a contract to purchase property at 2633 Fleur Drive, locally known as the Butler Mansion. The group is now planning a fundraising campaign to pay for improvements to the building. Pictured, from left, are Jeff Lamberti, Susan Defazio, Therese Riordan, Paolo Bartesaghi and Loretta Sieman. Photo by John Retzlaff

A campaign to raise between \$5 million and \$8 million to renovate the new home of the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa will be launched this fall, a goal supporters say is “very doable.” “I’ve raised money for things a lot harder than this will be,” said Jeff Lamberti, chair of the group’s board of governors. “What we are trying to do is create a home for our museum but also do much more than that – create a place that will include banquet facilities, meeting rooms and event spaces. Our previous location was mostly a museum and cultural center. “This [new location] will be much more than that.”

Early this year, the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa made the final payment on a \$3.3 million contract to purchase property at 2633 Fleur Drive in Des Moines, Polk County real estate records show. The 7-acre parcel includes what is locally known as the Butler Mansion, a three-story iconic white building that sits on a hill overlooking Gray’s Lake, Water Works Park and downtown Des Moines. The mansion was built by Earl Butler, an engineer and world traveler, in 1934. Butler wanted a house that would “inspire him to stay home,” according to Jay Pridmore, the author of “Des Moines Architecture & Design.” Butler commissioned a local architecture firm to design the house that “features white-case concrete walls, curved interiors, indirect lighting and arrangement of rooms that ... put the most important living areas in the back, where they overlooked the countryside,” Pridmore wrote.

Previous owners of the property include Open Bible College, Jack Kragie and Elizabeth Newell, and Bob Boesen, from whom the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa purchased the property.

Pat Schneider, a vice president with Ferguson Commercial Real Estate Services, represented the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa in the transaction. She said the group wanted to find a place that looked like a cultural center and had character. “When people in the group saw this building, they knew it would work,” she said.

The Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa had been located in a one-story building at 1961 Indianola Ave. for several decades. Relocating the center and its activities will allow the organization to expand its offerings and provide the area with unique event space to lease, said Loretta Sieman, a member of the group. “There’s going to be a lot of programs you normally wouldn’t associate with a center like this.” The new center is expected to include:

- A museum that will host traveling exhibits.

- A cultural center that will provide interactive displays and Iowa Italian heritage exhibits.

- An education center that will offer classes in such things as Italian language, genealogy and folk dancing. It will also provide classes for young people and others pursuing a high school diploma.

- An art studio that will offer classes in Italian arts.

- A demonstration kitchen where cooking classes will be held.

- A theater room where lectures, movies and social gatherings can be held.

- A merchant store that will provide Italian goods and artifacts.

- An Italian cafe and coffee bar that will feature food and beverages prepared with Italian herbs and vegetables.

Also planned are a bocce pavilion that will be large enough to host national tournaments; banquet hall, event spaces and catering kitchen; outdoor courtyard; a garden with Italian herbs; and a vineyard that will allow the community to help with harvesting and grape stomping.

The group’s programs will be expanded to include more activities for youth and older adults.

continued on next page

A large contingent of Italian immigrants came to Iowa between 1900 and 1920 to escape poverty in their home country, according to history on the website of the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa's website. Many settled in Central Iowa, where they worked in coal mines or on the railroads. Others opened stores and restaurants. Lamberti's grandfather immigrated to Iowa from Italy. Lamberti's father, Donald Lamberti, co-founded Casey's General Store in the late 1960s.

When plans for the proposed new center began to emerge, some in Iowa's Italian community were apprehensive, Jeff Lamberti said. "There was some apprehension about whether this was the right thing to do. I've met with them and the response has been good. We are getting good buy-in."

Now that the property has been acquired, the group is planning improvements to the building and working with RDG Planning & Design on remodeling the interior redesigns. One major improvement – the replacement of the roof – is underway.

Lamberti said that once the architectural drawings are complete, the fundraising campaign will begin. He estimated that the campaign will last about 12 to 18 months. Renovation work on the building will likely begin during the campaign, he said. "When this entire project is done, we want people to walk into the building and say 'Wow,'" Lamberti said. "We know this is a large project to undertake but we're confident we can raise the money and create something special that people will be proud of."

Butler Mansion facts

Address: 2633 Fleur Drive, Des Moines

Year built: 1934, according to Polk County Assessor

Original owner: Earl Butler, an engineer and world traveler

Total number of rooms: 28, plus 10 bathrooms

Total square footage: Originally 13,000

Central ramp: Seven levels of the house accessed by 300-foot-long ramp

Amount of steel used to build original house: 110 tons

Amount of concrete in original house: 115 train-car loads

It was called the "Home of the Future" in the late 1930s because it included: Automatic heating and air conditioning; automatic water softening; electric garbage disposal, dishwasher, dish towel dryer and garage door opener; cold storage room for freezing game; ice cube freezer with 675-cube capacity; 19,000 feet of telephone cable connecting eight telephones; and in the dining room, a frosted-glass panel that concealed 96 red, blue and yellow light bulbs that allowed the room to be any color.

Unique features: A spotlight made by General Electric that was installed in a room on the top story of the house. In inclement weather, Butler helped guide airplanes to the airport. Also, a secret room on a lower level that Butler installed to store alcoholic beverages.

Will the Italian-American festival return?

The most frequently asked question of people with ties to the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa is whether the group's annual festival will return.

The answer is an unequivocal "yes," said Jeff Lamberti, chair of the group's board of governors. "A lot of planning goes into it and right now, our first priority is fundraising for the center. But the festival will return." Lamberti said the earliest the festival would be held is in mid-2024. However, 2025 is likely more realistic, he said.

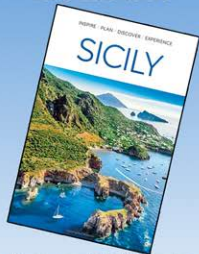
The Italian-American Heritage Festival of Iowa, Viva L' Italia, was first held in 2009. The festival's goal is bringing awareness of Italian culture.

The festival was held on the Court Avenue bridge its first two years; in 2011, it moved to the Western Gateway Park. An estimated 16,000 people attended the two-day event, which was last held in 2019.

In Our Library

Are you planning a trip to Italy? Our reference library contains materials to help you in your planning. If learning the Italian language is one of your goals, we have books and other materials that might help. You might even consider joining one of the Italian language classes that will be offered this fall. (Look for more information in this month's Newsletter.)

Our library also contains street maps with marked points of interest. You might find a place you would like to visit that you hadn't heard about before.



One example is the Dorling Kindersley Travel Guide to Sicily. This book contains information on the architecture, galleries, churches, hotels, beaches and many other places of interest on the island of Sicily. Several books of this type are available for reference or check out.

The Center also has information on each of Italy's regions that you might find helpful in planning your itinerary. You might enjoy reading about some of these places even if you're not planning a trip right now.

Give us a call at (515) 280-3719 to make an appointment to explore these resources or send an email to riordan@iaccofia.org. We love to share.

Around The Center

By Patricia Civitate

In keeping with tradition, Mayor TM Franklin Cownie will again proclaim October as Italian Heritage Month in Des Moines. The Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa has planned several events celebrating Italian Heritage Month.

OUTSTANDING CITIZEN AWARD(s) - Nominations for recipients of this year's Outstanding Citizen Award will be accepted in one of the following categories:

An Italian-American, living or deceased, who has contributed to the betterment of the community through his or her actions.

An individual, regardless of nationality, living or deceased, who has contributed to the Italian-American Community by his or her actions.

Potential recipients of the award should be nominated in writing by a letter containing the nominated recipient's name, address, and a narrative of their contributions. Please mail nominations to The Italian American Cultural Center of Iowa, PO Box 4994, Des Moines, IA 50305

Deadline for sending nomination is the third Sunday of September, which is previous to the September meeting of the Heritage Advisory Board. Final selection will be made by a simple majority vote of the Heritage Advisory Board.

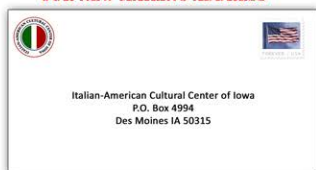
LANGUAGE CLASSES - Italian language classes for beginners and advanced students will begin October 4th and continue each Wednesday evening until November 22nd. To enroll, please contact Paolo Bartesaghi at 515-991-2729 or bartesaghi@IACCOFIA

HERITAGE DINNER and HERITAGE MONTH OBSERVANCE - The Heritage Month dinner will be held at the Cultural Center, 2633 Fleur Drive, on Sunday, October 8. Doors open at 5:00 pm and dinner, which will be catered by Scornovacca's Ristoranti, will be served at 5:30 pm. To make the required reservations, please contact Randy Prati at 515-321-8941.

The 84th annual Heritage Month observance will take place on Monday, October 9, at the Cultural Center, 2633 Fleur Drive. Parking will be on the north side of the building. The procession will begin at 10:45 am, with the ceremony following. After the ceremony, a program with refreshments will be held in the court yard of the Cultural Center.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP CLASS - A Dual Citizenship class will take place on October 21 at the Cultural Center. Kathy Foggia and Linda Henderson will be the instructors. Additional information may be found in this newsletter.

OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS



Why is Corsica not Italian?

by Paolo Bartesaghi

Corsica is the fourth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea after Sardinia, Sicily and the island of Cyprus. Today, it belongs to France politically but geographically, culturally, and historically this island belonged to, and is still linked to, Italy. Corsica was conquered by the ancient Romans together with the island of Sardinia following their victory in the First Punic War and was used as a land of exile for Christians. It fell into the hands of the Byzantine Empire in the year 555, until the arrival of Charlemagne in 774, who took the island and all of central and northern Italy.



At the end of the 8th century, it was the turn of the Moors. Even today, the Corsican flag depicts the head of a Moor. In 828, the island passed at the behest of Bonifacio II to the Count of Lucca, who defended it from Saracen raids. In 1073, the administration of the island was entrusted to Landolfo, bishop of Pisa, by the will of Pope Gregory VII and then to the Republic of Pisa. The latter, which had always maintained trade with the island, helped Corsica experience a truly flourishing period from every point of view. There are testimonies of that period still today, from the beautiful architectural works, to the Tuscan influence in the idiom and culture of the island; one of the most appreciated vines of Corsica was brought to the island by the Pisans. However, this bright period ended in 1284, when Genoa defeated Pisa during the "battle of Meloria". For many years the island was disputed by the two and by the Kingdom of Aragon. In 1295, the Treaty of Anagni was signed, establishing the birth of the Kingdom of Corsica and entrusting it and Sardinia to King James II of Aragon. He, however, showed much more interest in this Sardinia, leaving Corsica fend for itself. In 1347, an assembly made up of the main exponents of power on the island decided to ask for protection from the Republic of Genoa which thus obtained the sovereignty of the island. In the 18th century, following general discontent on the island, the first groups of independence activists arose to claim a free Corsica. At the head of this movement was Pasquale Paoli, only thirty years old at the time, a decisive figure in the Corsican revolt, the first true bourgeois revolution in Europe. Pasquale Paoli was responsible for the creation of the University of the Italian Language in 1765, at the time the official language of the State of Corsica.



Pasquale Paoli

To Paoli we also owe first democratic constitution of independent Corsica (which the philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau also collaborated in drafting) from 1755 to 1769. In 1769, Corsica was conquered definitively by France during the Seven Years' War. France had lost all the colonies it possessed in America, which now became the property of England. She therefore badly needed Corsica to at least maintain control over the Mediterranean Sea. Disregarding the fact that in the meantime the island had become an independent republic, she took advantage of the weakness of the Republic of Genoa which also longed to reconquer the island, leading it to sign the Treaty of Compiègne in 1764. Genoa was in fact incapable of countering the revolutionary spirit of the islanders on its own and, according to the treaty just signed: the France of King Louis XV under the government of Germain Louis Chauvelin and the Duke of Choiseul, would send its troops to Corsica at the expense of Genoa, to help the latter to conquer the island again. In reality for France, it was a cunning plan to extort Corsica to Genoa. Indeed, once there, the French did not attack the islanders, they tried to convince Pasquale Paoli to go over to their side and occupied the Genoese offices on the island for about 4 years during which they squandered all the money of Genoa, causing it a huge debt. Genoa was thus forced to recognize France as the legitimate master of Corsica through a treaty signed in Versailles.

A bloody military campaign of conquest of the island by the French government followed, in which Pasquale Paoli was an absolute protagonist, in a vain attempt to protect his Republic from the invaders; on May 9, 1769 at Ponte Nuovo, the Corsicans were defeated but with honor, demonstrating admirable courage. Pasquale Paoli survived that battle and was exiled to London only to return to Corsica again some 20 years later. Until 9 May 1859, Italian was the official language in Corsica, after which French became official. Another language spoken on the island was Corsican, a dialect of the Tuscan family. The Corsican is made up of many variants enclosed in two main linguistic groups: the "Cismontano", which is spoken above all in the north of the island and closer to Italian; then we have the "Oltremontano" which is more widespread in the south of Corsica, more archaic and closer to the language spoken in the north of Sardinia. Since 2002, Corsican primary schools have offered the opportunity to learn the Corsican language native to the island, which has also been recognized as a French regional language since 2013. Furthermore, on the island, the road and tourist signs are bilingual: French and Corsican.



Corsica 1769

Curiosities - Acquasparta

by Paolo Bartesaghi

Acquasparta, in the province of Terni, is one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. This Umbrian town is one of the symbols of the Renaissance thanks to the presence of the Cesi family who, in their splendid 16th century home, hosted intellectuals and scientists such as Galileo Galilei, who experienced



some of his most important inventions right in the halls of Palazzo Cesi.

The great Corteo delle Contrade opens the historic "Renaissance Festival" from June 10 - 25, an event that includes an interesting Gastronomic Competition, the Giostra dei Tamburi and a suggestive Great Game of the Goose. New this year are the Games of the Ladies, who will compete in games inspired by the traditions of the time. Acquasparta, with this Festival, returns to the fore by celebrating the Renaissance season through the re-enactment of the arrival in the city of Prince Federico Cesi, known as the Linceo and founder, in the 17th century, of the very famous Accademia dei Lincei, the first scientific association in Europe. The careful attention to beauty at the Festival, both in the accessories and in the clothing, offer inspiration for this year's theme: The "wefts" (weaves), not only in the refined fabrics, but also aimed at the "mystery wefts" that surround the events and history of the Accademia dei Lincei.



Acquasparta is known for refined and tasty gastronomy. The "Picchiarelli" hand-rolled pasta is exquisite, served with an excellent spicy sauce. Also, among its treasures, the flavors of the earth such as truffles and precious oils cannot be missed.

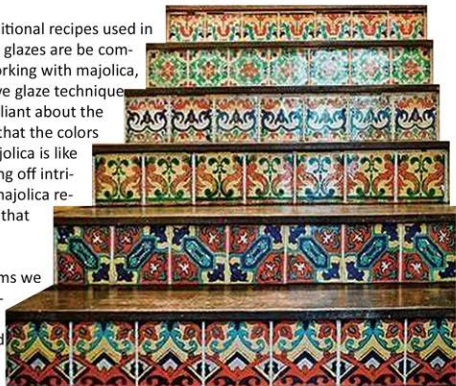
Majolica, continued from Page 1



century. Later, especially during and after the 15th century, the term "majolica" referred not only to lusterware, but all tin-lead glazed ware produced on the island or reminiscent of it. Faience and delft wares are offshoots of the majolica wares exported to Italy. They are very similar tin-glazed ware. Faience wares (first produced in the Italian town of Faenza) and later wares produced in the town of Delft have a slightly different visual flavor from Mediterranean majolica. Faience was traditionally produced on a very pale earthenware clay, while Delft is a very distinctive blue and white tin-glazed pottery that was produced in the Netherlands in around the 16th century. Sometimes the work was known as istoriato wares, which means "painted with stories".

Today's potters avoid the traditional recipes used in the original majolica wares. Lead glazes are being completely avoided. However, there are plenty of benefits of working with majolica, one of the biggest is that majolica is typically a less expensive glaze technique and you can do all your decoration in one firing. What's brilliant about the fact that majolica can be fired at such a low temperature is that the colors are so much brighter, creating some fantastic results. As majolica is like having a lovely white, blank canvas, it's also great for showing off intricate brush work as the lines of the colored glaze on top of majolica remain very precise. It also tends to be very viscous, meaning that the glaze doesn't move so much in the firing process.

It will be fun to have a majolica wall in one of the many rooms we will have at the Center. I hope you found this information interesting. As always, thank you for your continued support of the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa as we spread the Italian culture throughout the community.



La Brocca di Gallo

Once upon a time in the republic of Florence, there were two rival families - the Medicis and the Pazzis. As the wealthiest and most powerful clan in all the land, the Medici family had a lot to celebrate. And celebrate they did, throwing lavish festivities for virtually any occasion.

While the Pazzi family also had strong influence, they still played second fiddle to the Medici family. They resented this greatly and brainstormed what should have been a very cunning solution: They would enlist a double agent to convince the Medicis to host one of their signature shindigs in the village of Gallina; Then, once the Medici family members and their guards were properly inhibited from their indulgences and excess, they would sneak a team of hired assassins in to pick them off.

The plan was proceeding along without a hitch - until the assassins triggered the chickens. On the outskirts of the village was a yard full of roosters, and upon crossing them, the birds erupted into a frenzy. The assassins froze. They panicked. And they were eventually captured and executed.

After the fortuitous turn of events on that evening in 1478, the grateful Medicis sent each of the peasant families of Gallina a ceramic rooster as a symbol of good luck, protection, and prosperity. Known in Italian as *La Brocca di Gallo*, the ceramic rooster pitcher grew in popularity and remains a staple in Italian households today.



Bella Italia Day Camp

This year's Bella Italia Day Camp featured Italian sea-going sailors Marco Polo, Amerigo Vespucci, John and Sebastian Cabot, Giovanni da Verrazzano, and Giosafat Barbaro. These brave men and their crews discovered many places and learned much about other civilizations.

Snacks and crafts also followed a nautical theme. Snacks included Goldfish, pasta with shrimp, and banana boats. Campers had fun making the pasta and crafting their banana boats. They said their favorite snack was the Pizzicat! cookies, made with strawberry jam or Nutella. Campers colored small lanterns and created sea monsters. They made matching and fishing games to help them practice the Italian words they had learned. They also played Spio Qualcosa (I Spy) with their Italian color words. "Euros" were earned for their hard work, which they then used to purchase items in the Mercata. Of course, singing and dancing were part of their morning. Gracy Kirkman and Brooke Murrow were guest dance instructors to help Mrs. C with the dancing. A big "thanks" goes to them. Campers also sang Fra Marino and even tried to do it in a round.

This year's campers had fun and even learned a few things along the way. Each one got to keep a booklet with information on the explorers and recipes to help them remember their experience. We're looking forward to next year's camp. Keep your eyes on the Newsletter next Spring to discover the dates for Bella Italia 2024.



Parco dei Mostri

By Jennifer Caito-Ellingson

North of Roma within the walls of Viterbo there is a garden that can give anyone nightmares and adventure in one sitting. The *Parco dei Mostri*, also named Garden of Bomarzo, was built in the mid 16th century with statues of monsters and unusual findings. Pier Francesco "Vicino" Orsini built the garden of chaos. But why did he do it?

The disturbing creatures were created by using blocks of local peperino stone, the typical magmatic rock of the historical Tuscia region. Each creature as a magical mystery to itself.

Many looked for inspiration in Orsini's life. Orsini was a military leader for the pope's army and fought in the Battle of Heshdin and was taken prisoner by Philibert of Savoy. It took him three years to be able to return home when the treaty of Cateau-Cambresis brought peace. Not long after Orsini returned home from the war, his wife Giulia died and he was hit by grief hard. Orsini was also an accomplished poet and as he recovered from his hardships he started painting the garden in bright colors for fifteen years until his death in 1585.

At the beginning of the path one will find Greek sphinxes placed next to the statue of Orsini coat of arms. Each sphinx leaves inscriptions for one to ponder. The sphinx on the left reads: *Bosco Sacro di Bomarzo* and the sphinx on the right reads: "You who enter here, think carefully and then tell me if all these wonders are made to astonish or for art." As one winds through this intriguing but disturbing garden one will also find the Leaning House that tilts letting one decide on entering. The Orcus, one of the most famous monsters in the garden, is a Roman god of the underworld. His eyes wide open and his mouth shout with anguish and fear and an inscription on his top lip reads: "All thoughts fly." The admirer can walk into the mouth and enter a secluded grotto while eating one's picnic on Orcus's tongue that serves as a table. One should be careful however as every word, even a whisper, can be heard from the grotto.

In addition, to these famous sculptures one can find others; a Pegasus fountain, the giants of Hercules and Cacus, an enormous turtle and whale. An elephant symbolizes Hannibal's defeat at the hands of the Roman Republic during the Punic Wars (264 BC – 146 BC). While the Temple of Eternity honored his wife, Giulia.

When Orsini went away the garden became forgotten for many years until Surrealists rediscovered it in the 20th Century. Artist Salvador Dali ended up becoming inspired by the garden and painted *The Temptations of Saint Anthony* along with shooting a short film. Garden of Bomarzo became an inspiration for numerous novels and the 1967 opera, *Bomarzo*.

Are you adventurous enough to walk through the Park of Monsters?





Celebrating 125 Years of the 5th Street Bridge & Des Moines' Little Italy

Friday, September 15 | 6:00 pm
5th Street Bridge, Downtown Des Moines
\$200 per person

Please join us on Friday, September 15 for a special al fresco dining experience on the 5th Street Bridge in Downtown Des Moines. We're honoring 125 years of the 5th Street Bridge's special connection to the South Side and the Italian-American community with a multi-course meal and musical entertainment. Because you've been a valuable member of our community, you get the first chance to reserve tickets for this unique evening. There are only 100 tickets available and the pre-sale ends Friday, September 1, so grab your tickets soon!



Don't miss out on this one-time event!

Scan the QR code or visit friendsofdesmoinesparks.org to purchase tickets.

Food and entertainment for the evening is supported by:

Aposto
Baratta's
Exile Brewing
Funaro's Deli
Graziano Brothers
Scornovacca's
South Union Bread Cafe
Tumea & Sons Restaurant
and the Italian-American Cultural Center of Iowa

Each guest will receive a limited edition 5th Street Bridge print from our friends at Bozz Prints!



This event is hosted by the Friends of Des Moines Parks.

Our mission is to preserve, protect, improve, and promote the use of Des Moines' parks, greenways, and recreational programs. Support from individuals and organizations has been enriching our communities since 1993.

Societa' Vittoria Italiana

Next Men's 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.

CORN FEED: The annual Corn Feed was held on August 27. The committee served up corn on the cob, brats and as well as several delectable sides and desserts. It was a good way to end the summer fun socializing with fellow lodge members.

KITCHEN UPDATE: Pardon our mess...we purchased a new oven hood system to replace the old one. Check it out at our next meeting in September.

LODGE SHELTER: The lodge outdoor shelter which includes tables, grill and fire pit area, is a great place for family and friend gatherings. 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.

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.

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

HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS: Steven Walker, Mario Medici, Mark Gibbons, Frank Stefani, David Steele, Michael Brooks, Jeremy Brooks, John Romitti, James Romano, Brian Rodenkirk, Ken Magnani, Dominic Berardi, Rob Fiori, Spencer Fontana, Brad Boeckmann, Alex Battani **Buon Compleanno!**

HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY WISHES TO OUR MEMBERS: Joseph Ballantini, David Miller, Antonino Cosenza, Jeff Magnani, Ned Chiodo Jr., Richard Fontana, Michael Ugolini, Ron Fontanini, Bill Seamands, and Austion Fiori **Buon Compleanno!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

September 17th - Meeting @ 2:00pm. Polenta Party after the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

October 8th - IACC Italian Heritage Dinner at the Cultural Center @ 5:00pm

October 15th - Clean Up Day 8:00am, Lunch 12:30pm & Meeting @ 2:00pm

November 4th - Auxiliary Craft Show

November 5th - Lodge Memorial Mass 9:00am

November 19th - Lunch Social @ 12:30pm; Meeting @ 2:00pm

ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN OF IOWA (IAWI)

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
NEWSLETTER

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

Hoping you had a beautiful summer! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and donated over Summer 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 activities for Fall 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 **321-239-6902** or email s.witt3525@gmail.com

September Food Sign-up

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS TO *All of our July and August Members!*

Dates to Remember:

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

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

October 22nd-12:00pm-2:00pm 3rd Annual IAWI Pasta Luncheon & Raffle

The Vittoria Lodge Auxiliary

The Iowa State Fair and the beginning of a new school year are signs that summer is drawing to a close. This time of year is also when we resume our meetings and events.

On **August 27th at noon** we will gather for a picnic and games at our shelter house. If the weather doesn't cooperate, this event will be moved indoors. The lodge will provide the meat, sweet corn, beverages and table service. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Our first scheduled meeting is **September 17th at 2:00**. This will be the *polenta party*, which has become very popular with our members. You can contribute your favorite polenta topping or dessert.

Please plan on attending our meetings and becoming involved in the Auxiliary. Be sure to invite or encourage your friends or other family members to join.

If you planted a garden, hopefully you are busy reaping the "fruits of your labor". It has been said that "The fruits of labor are the sweetest of all pleasures".

Hope to see you all soon.

Deb Fleishman

Vittoria Lodge Auxiliary, President