Italian-American Women of Iowa

***Belle e Forti Le Donne Italo-Americane***

*(Beautiful Strong Italian American Women)*

Hello to all our families and friends out there! We hope you have been safe and healthy these past several months. It is a majority consensus amongst the Italian American Women of Iowa group that we terribly miss the companionship and energy our monthly meetings provide, but we strive on!

We were fortunate enough to gather in a socially distant fashion a few months last fall. This provided the women a chance to catch up and to brainstorm ideas for the upcoming new year. October was a great meeting celebrating National Italian-American Month. Women shared stories and had a few laughs with as few Italian-themed trivia games.

Beginning in 2021 we would like to reserve time at each meeting for “Our Italian Heritage”. Each month a member will be assigned to present an overview of their family history, their Italian roots, family traditions, and any additional information they would like to share. It is important that we share one another’s rich histories so that we have a better understanding how our Italian American community originated, how it defines us, and how its dynamics influenced us to maintain these traditions today. One of our finest members, Pat Civitate, volunteered to speak at our January meeting. Do not miss Pat’s history lesson. I’m sure it will be a doozy and one that will be filled with much laughter and heartfelt memories.

Though we’ve been apart, we haven’t forgotten our dear IAWI sisters and their families. If there is anyone in our community that could benefit from some correspondence, please let our club know by contacting JoAnn Miller @ [prairiejam2@gmail.com](mailto:prairiejam2@gmail.com). We are eager to reach out to others during this time of isolation, especially during these cold, winter months. Another way to stay connected is by friending us on Facebook. Angie Funaro-Wessel has been doing a great job posting interesting information to keep us engaged.

Buon Compleanno to our members celebrating January/February birthdays: Christin Wilson (1/7), She-la Heitman (1/20), Marilyn Soda (2/6), Rosie Gibson (2/12), Gloria Stefani (2/14), Angie Funaro-Wessel (2/16), Nicole Graziano (2/22), and Jennifer Eaton (2/24). Felice Anniversario to Donna & Gary Runge (2/15), and Amy & Rusty Dougherty (2/26). Salut!

The IAWI women experimented with a Zoom meeting during the month of November. If the new year requires continued safe distancing, we may attempt to go this route again until it is safe to gather. Please consider joining our group. We have much to be thankful for as Italian-American women and have so much to learn from one another. Becoming a member of IAWI is truly an opportunity you don’t want to miss.

Our first two meetings for the year 2021 will be held January 26th and February 23rd. As a reminder, IAWI is held generally on the 4th Tuesday of every month. For the latest information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/iawi.iowa>. Ciao!

Respectfully submitted: Frances P. Graziano