

Volume 27
Issue 258
April
2022

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

I hope this finds everyone healthy, wealthy and wise!

We have some good news. We have received our grant! So hopefully we will be starting soon on the new landscaping in the front of the club. The landscaper is Ed Renna from **RennaVations Landscaping**. He is also a member of the club but hasn't been able to attend any of the functions as of yet. He will be installing a sprinkler system that will cover the front area of the new plants only. I think we will be pleased with his work. There are other things planned for later but that's when we make more money. It will probably begin in a few weeks but we have six months to complete the work according to the grant.

In April we will be having Pot Luck for our general meeting. Our chef has a very busy month and he isn't able to break away to do our meal. Thankfully Chef John told me well in advance and that's why we will be having Pot Luck. We haven't had that for a while so it will be refreshing. Think about what are your favorite side dishes or desserts. We have some awesome cooks in our membership and I can't wait to see what you all come up with. The club will provide roasted chicken.

Just a side note, the way we have to set up our tables, it's hard to move them away from under a vent so please bring a sweater or jacket if need be. Everyone has something they are not happy with at times and we want to be able to make all of you comfortable so please come prepared.

Reminder: If you have not been authorized to be in the kitchen at our events, please do not enter the kitchen during our events. It is a safety issue. The authorized volunteers can assist you. Please give the volunteers some time to eat and enjoy the event before asking for to-go boxes. They will be brought out in due time, as always. You could also bring your own to-go box from home if you wish. Remember these are volunteers - your fellow club members - that provide the meals and accommodations and should be treated as such. This is a time for camaraderie and conversation. Relax and enjoy it like Sunday Dinner at Nonna's when you were little instead of rushing off after your meal!

Spaghetti To Go will be April 29th. We can always use volunteers on the Thursday before and for Friday. Check your calendars and volunteer!

See you soon!

Melanie

OFFICERS

Melanie Matrascia

President

Mark Rose

Vice President

Mike Matrascia

Treasurer

Sal Santapola

**Asst. Treasurer &
Membership Dir.**

De Santapola

Secretary

John Corsi

Club Chef

Tom Cody

Club Chaplain

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Cosentino

Joe Farina

Eunice Manzo

Gina Mielech

Anne Stepp

Al Zammataro





St. Joseph's Transportation Ministry

Mass Bus Service

To and From St. Joseph Catholic
Church

(Serving the immediate St. Joseph Parish
Community)

5:30pm Vigil Mass – Saturday Evenings

10:00am Mass – Sunday Mornings

Interested?

Please contact:

*Michael Broach, Director of Trans-
portation*

St. Joseph Catholic Church

(904) 891-0746

Email: mcbroach@stjosephsjax.org

Welcome New Members !



Norbert & Margaret Phillipps

Robert & Mary Pettignano

Gerald & Laura Lopez

John Pinson

Patricia Gavaletz

Edward Maddalena & Diana Tennant

Anne Grix

Dawn Fossa

Nancy Perrone

MaryAnn Wetzel



Ann Barni

David & Ramona Frances



**Our sincere sympathy to
Lucy Santos and her family
on the sudden and
unexpected loss
of her granddaughter in law**



General Meeting - April 24th, 2022

Guest Speaker

C. D'Angelo Author of "The Difference"



Trying to find happiness and meaning again—in more than her beloved Italian food—she stumbles into a genealogy mission to discover childhood information about her idol, aka her grandpa, who died years ago. He never spoke about his Italian immigrant past and now she's determined to find out the reason for his unusual secretiveness.

Save the Dates

FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW & DINNER



Saturday September 17, 2022 5pm - 9pm

**\$1,500 in
Cash Prizes**



ITALIAN HERITAGE FAMILY GATHERING

Sunday October 9, 2022—1pm



ITALIAN MAMA REVISITED

by Lucia Cortese

spent all day preparing an Easter feast sublime
cooking for my loved ones always worth my time

course 1 spinach salad plus tomatoes Italiano
course 2 lasagna like they bake in Milano

course 3 rainbow tastes fit for a queen
red potatoes yellow squash fresh beans of green

stuffed mushrooms marinated leg of lamb
chef extraordinaire my guests say that I am

coconut macaroons lovely decorated cakes
desserts by Publix 'cause this cook never bakes



UPCOMING EVENTS! (Subject to Change)



April 4th, 2022 @1:00 PM Club Social

April 6th, 2022 @6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

April 24th, 2022 @1:00 PM General Meeting

April 29th, 2022 @5PM– 7PM Spaghetti to Go

May 2nd, 2022 @1:00 PM Club Social

May 4th, 2022 @6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

May 13th, 2022 @7:00 PM Bingo

May 14th, Alhambra Dinner Theater 12 Noon (Sold Out)

May 22nd, 2022 @ 1:00 PM General Meeting

May 27th, 2022 @5PM– 7PM Spaghetti to Go



RSVP Changes and Email Communications



Our Membership is growing, which is a good thing, but it is making it a necessity to change some of our guidelines for attending events/dinners.

Our events will have a maximum of 96 attendees (including the kitchen staff) or sometimes less depending on the event. For example, if we are having a DJ or a band, we might have to pare down the maximum to 80 to allow room for band set up, equipment, etc. Please understand this is for the safety and comfort of everyone attending.

All of our events will now have an RSVP stipulation of number of attendees or a cut off date, **whichever comes first**. Since the attendance can fill up quickly, we are advising that you do not wait until the last minute to RSVP if you want to participate. If you find the event is closed when you RSVP, we can put you on a list to be called if there are cancellations.

This is a reminder to check your spam/junk folders for email communications and EVITE emails. Periodically, a communication can be detected as junk from your internet carrier because so many people are being sent the communication at one time.

If you have any questions or concerns about this issue, send an email to rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com, call the club @904-586-2700 or speak to a Board Member at one of the events you are attending. Our goal is to be fair to all of our members.



CLUB SOCIAL

Monday, April 4th @ 1:00 PM





Italian Heritage

Best Hidden Gems in Italy



By Sal Santapola

As we continue to write about our Italian Heritage we turn our attention to the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea and one of the 20 regions of Italy, Sicily (sisälē). Located in the central Mediterranean Sea, south of the Italian Peninsula, from which it is separated by the narrow Strait of Messina. The region has five million inhabitants. The capital city of Sicily is Palermo. Mount Etna is its most prominent landmark, one of the tallest active volcanoes in Europe and one of the most active in the world. Sicily is an autonomous island region and with a group of small islands around it make up the region known as Regione Siciliana. The Bourbon's ruled the island in the 1800's until it became a part of Italy on March 17, 1861, when the current Italian Republic was known as the Kingdom of Italy.



Historically speaking Sicily is influenced by many countries with a blend of cultures from all over the world. These cultures include Phoenicians, Greeks, Arabs, Spaniards, Normans, Romans, British, French and finally Italians. The influences are still visible today within cultural traditions and historical sites. The Sicilian language is also slightly different but can be considered more an Italian dialect. The biggest difference in the language is that Italian is a world-wide known language. It is the third-largest language spoken on the European continent. People speak Italian in Italy, Switzerland, Croatia, Slovenia, San Marino, and Vatican City.

There are around eighty-five million people speaking Italian. And only about five million people that can speak Sicilian. UNESCO Heritage Language lists the Sicilian language because of the fewer number of people who can speak Sicilian. Sicily is the 4th biggest wine producer in Italy.

There are twenty-nine towns and cities in Sicily. Our Hidden Gems are Cefalu and Ragusa.



Cefalù (tjefa'lu) is one of the most beautiful villages in Italy. It is one of the busiest holiday destinations and resorts on the island. It is located on the northern coast of Sicily, about forty-three miles from Palermo. Cefalù offers one of Sicily's finest beaches. The squares, streets and churches of this medieval town are so postcard-pretty with the Arab-Norman architect. With amber stone buildings, mosaic-adorned cathedral, and dramatic mountain backdrop. Cefalù is a haven of tranquility, a refuge, and a sanctuary of religious inspiration. The Old Harbor has many fishing boats and visitors stop by watching the fisherman maintaining their boats, mending their nets, and discussing the day's catch.

The Cathedral of Cefalù (Duomo di Cefalù) in Piazza Duomo is a Roman Catholic Basilica. It is one of nine structures included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site known as Arab-Norman Palermo and the Cathedral Churches of Cefalù and Monreale. The cathedral was erected between 1131 and 1240 in the Norman architectural style dedicate to the Savior, St. Peter and St. Paul.

In the Piazza del Duomo square, you will find various restaurants featuring classic Sicilian cuisine. Located right under the cliff, it is a charming view of the ancient cathedral right at the heart of Cefalù.



The Museo Madralisca is home to famous artwork, collected by the Baron Enrico do Mandralisca who was an enthusiastic art collector in the 19th century. Here, you will find a stunning display of Greek ceramics and Arab pottery, ancient coins, statues and much more.

A must visit to the Santuario Gibilmanna a religious landmark is one of the six Benedictine monasteries, which were commissioned around the year 600 AD by Pope Gregory the Great.

One of the delights of the village is the "*pasta taianu*," that is pasta in the pan: layers of pasta with meat, fried eggplant, pine nuts, raisin and pecorino cheese baked in a large crock. Some of Cefalù dishes recall its buildings, as the *carne murata* (walled meat) that evokes a Norman stronghold made of layers of meat, onions, and potatoes with battlements of fresh basil, oregano, and pepper.

For more information go to: [Towns in Sicily, Sicily, Italy \(summerinitaly.com\)](http://www.summerinitaly.com)

Next up Part B Ragusa, Italy & Matera Basilicata



April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 *Club Rented*
3	4 Club Social 1:00PM	5	6 IAC BOD MTG 6:30PM	7	8	9
10 *Club Rented*	11	12	13	14	15	16 *Club Rented*
17 Happy Easter!	18	19	20	21 *Club Rented*	22	23
24 General Mtg 1:00PM	25	26	27	28 STG Prep Day	29 Spaghetti to Go 5PM to 7PM	30

General Meeting

Members & their Guests Only

Sunday, April 24th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM.

MENU:
POT LUCK!

The club is providing Roasted Chicken

HOST:

IAC Board & Members

DONATIONS:

\$5 and a Dish



Everyone please bring your favorite dish, or something store bought.

RSVP's are for maximum headcount of 96 people OR

Wednesday, April 20th, 2022 WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.

using **Evite** (preference) OR rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com

OR call the Club at **904-586-2700**

NO RSVPS ACCEPTED AFTER 96 ATTENDEES or APRIL 20TH, 2022

WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

PLEASE, NO WALK INS IF YOU DID NOT RSVP

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Italian American Club
PO Box 600725
Jacksonville, FL 32260
904.586.2700



www.iacofjacksonville.com



**Club Social
Monday, April 4th @ 1:00 PM**



**Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 6th @ 6:30 PM**

**General Meeting
Sunday April 24th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM**

