

February 2023
Volume 28
Issue 268

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



Our Mission Statement – *The Italian American Club is dedicated to supporting American traditions in our community while maintaining our Italian heritage.*

Message From The President...

Dear Members,

Our first meeting of the new year was fantastic! We had a speaker, George Vancore, from Field of Dreams in attendance and he gave us an excellent presentation about their program. It was a wonderful talk and in the end the members donated \$1700.00! THANK YOU for your generosity. To learn more about the program see the article on page 4 and click on the link to view their web page. It is my hope for the club to continue supporting Field of Dreams and K9s for Warriors.

We had a wonderful dinner that was made by Joe Farina and his wife Catherine. Many thanks to Joe for preparing the dinner for the club. Also, many thanks to those who helped with set-up, preparations and serving.

Following dinner, we paid tribute to our membership by recognizing continuous membership by presenting a Membership Appreciation certificate to members of 15 and 20 or more continuous years of membership. See newsletters for more details.

Our latest project at the club is a new flagpole, being erected in the front of the club. Read more about the project in this newsletter.

We hope to see you at the next general meeting and Happy Valentine's Day to everyone !

Cordiali Saluti (Kind Regards),
Melanie
President

OFFICERS

Melanie Matrascia

President

Mark Rose

Vice President

Mike Matrascia

Treasurer

Sal Santapola

Asst. Treasurer

Membership

Dir.

De Santapola

Secretary

John Corsi

Club Chef

Fr. Tom Cody

Club Chaplain

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Cosentino

Joe Farina

Eunice Manzo

Gina Mielech

Anne Stepp

Al Zammataro



Welcome New Members!



Enrico Clausi
Dom Mancini
Salvatore Mantegna

News!



We will now be selling 50/50 raffle at the door and throughout the general meeting rather than going around to each table.

We're looking for a few volunteers to help sell tickets each month.

Send an email to rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com if you are interested in helping. You will need to be at the club and ready to sell by 12:30 PM on General Meeting days. Thanks in advance for volunteering!

Justin Santos—Personal Chef/Catering

904-400-4599 ChefsantosJ904@gmail.com



SPAGHETTI TO GO!

Friday, February 24th,
2023

5PM to 7 PM

Stop by the Italian American Club on your way home from work, or wherever you're coming from and grab some dinner for the family! Pasta, 2 meatballs and bread!

Support YOUR Club!



Miranda Sparks—Realtor

904-449-0049

CLUB SOCIAL

Monday, February 6th, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Come join your fellow IAC members to play some games, chat, snack just a little and spend times with friends!



February 2023

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

February General Meeting

Sunday, February 12th, 2023 @ 1:00 PM.

MENU:

Enchiladas, Refried Beans, Yellow Rice,
Chips and Salsa and Dessert

HOST:

John Corsi

DONATIONS:

Members: **\$15**, Guests: **\$17**, 8-17: **\$8**, 7& Under: **Free**

RSVP's are for maximum headcount of **90** people **OR**
Wednesday, February 8th, 2023 WHICHEVER COMES FIRST
 using Evite (preference) OR rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com
 OR call the Club at **904-586-2700**

PLEASE DO NOT ANSWER WITH MAYBE. ANY MAYBE RSVPS WILL BE CHANGED TO NO.

FIELD OF DREAMS

For those of you that weren't able to attend the January General Meeting, here is some information about the Field of Dreams organization. To learn more and find out how you can help, here is the link: [Field of Dreams](#). On that page there are links to FAQs and Board Members if you have questions.

What is Field of Dreams?



Field of Dreams is a specially designed baseball field that will allow children with intellectual or physical disabilities the opportunity to play baseball, to wear a uniform and play as a member of a team. FOD is a place where all our areas exceptional kids can meet on the field and play baseball. What child does not want to hear the cheering of the crowd? What child does not want to receive a trophy? And what child does not want the opportunity to play America's favorite sport? At Field of Dreams, they will, and they can.



Update on Flagpole Project



Vice President Mark Rose has been working with Nicholas Martin from the St. Joseph Scout Troop to install a new flagpole on the Club property. This will be Nicholas' Eagle Scout project. Mark will be coordinating and overseeing the project.

There will be both an American flag and an Italian flag with the finished project.

Compassionate Corner



Our condolences to Al Abbatiello on the unexpected passing of his daughter Annmarie.



**Father Tom Cody
Robert Magno
Joanne Potson**



Carlo Clemente

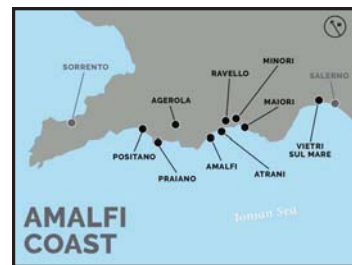
Italian Heritage

Best Hidden Gems in Italy

By Sal Santapola



Atrani is a small charming, enchanting town on the beautiful Amalfi Coast in the Campania Region. It has a little bit less than a thousand inhabitants and is an extremely popular town with a rich historical heritage. The town is between the sea and the high mountains, and it offers one of the most beautiful views on the entire Amalfi Coast. Compared to the most popular coastal towns such as Amalfi and Positano, Atrani is also known as one of the most authentic places in Italy because it remained untouched despite the mass tourism over the last 50 years.



Even though this picturesque town is exceedingly small, there are still many things to do. Also, you will be delighted with its climate, which is mild during the winter months and never particularly sultry during the summer months. Atrani is full of small narrow streets that intertwine, creating a labyrinthine network of magnificent paths and tunnels. These streets kept their medieval charm over time, so wandering around the town is a unique feeling.

You can calmly admire the countless alleys between the white houses. Atrani is located on a hill, so the streets are usually steep with stairs.

The most popular street in Atrani is Via dei Dogi, which extends throughout the whole town. At the end of this street, you can admire an enchanting landscape, churches, and caves perched on the beautiful mountain.



The tiny historical center called Piazzetta Uberto I is the heart of the town. It is so small that it almost looks like a courtyard with a fountain and few bars. The center of Atrani is located just a few steps from the beach and is accessible through stairways or narrow but gorgeous alleys. This little corner of paradise is a locals' social, cultural, and gastronomic meeting place. It is particularly beautiful in the evening when it lights up and gives you a truly unforgettable experience. The beauty of Atrani lies in the scenic beach and the intricate maze of lanes and houses, built on top of each other, that make it look like a nativity scene, especially at night with the lights glimmering.

The small but gorgeous beach is where you can swim and sunbathe. The beach is mostly sandy, very well equipped with sunbeds and umbrellas, and is known for crystal clear water and splendid panorama of the town in Atrani. The beach is known for its soft black sand. This is quite the luxury to the feet compared to the pebbly beaches of the Amalfi Coast!

The church dedicated to San Salvatore de Birecto is located on the top of the staircase near the Piazzetta square and constructed in the 10th century. This church is the place where the dogs of the famous Amalfi Republic were crowned. It still has medieval elements, such as the bronze door from Constantinople in 1087, like the Amalfi Cathedral, and a 12th-century marble barrier.



A little way above the old public road that connects Atrani and Amalfi is the Cave of the Saints, believed to be part of an old Benedictine monastery founded in 986. The entrance to the small cave, which opens onto a terraced lemon grove, is enclosed by one of the arches supporting a water channel. The cave's walls are decorated with Byzantine-style frescoes from the 12th depicting the four evangelists. In the green background there is the warrior, St George.

Enjoy the refreshments at one of the outdoor bars, or a seafood meal on the waterfront.

For more information got to: [Atrani Things To Do - Visit Beautiful Italy](#), [Atrani, the smallest and most enchanting village in Italy - ital-iani.it](#) & [Amalfi Coast: the charming village of Atrani \(charmingitaly.com\)](#)

Next up Little-Known Villages in Italy - Gubbio



Members Appreciation Luncheon Sunday January 15, 2023



Membership is the cornerstone of our Italian American Club. Without our membership we would not be able to open the doors. We thank all our members for your continued support, your input as we move ahead for fun and fellowship in this new year 2023 and the years to follow. We appreciate all the support the members offer with their time and talent. Thank you

Members with five to nine years

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
Gregory & Marilena Blajian	2013
Jennifer Burroughs	2013
Miguel & Wanda Freay	2013
Anne Stepp	2015
Gabriel & Giuliana Bremer-Nero	2015
Sal Nicolosi	2015
Al Abbatiello	2016
John Borghese	2016
Vincent Zammataro	2016
Mike & Melanie Matrascia	2016
Edward & Mary Ann Wetzel	2017
Mary J. Castaldi Cooper	2017
Joseph Pecorella	2017
Joe & Catherine Farina	2017

We have over 100 Members with four years or less

Members with ten to fourteen years

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
Carm Gordon	2009
Allen & Verna Carrel	2009
JoAnn Leigh Gramm	2010
Vincent & Teena Burchianti	2011
Don Hayes	2011
Kathy Easterling	2011
Angelo & Michelle Giardino	2011
Shirley Moore	2012

Members with fifteen to nineteen years

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
Sandra Smith	2004
Georgette Cornello	2004
John & Gail Dasta	2004
Carlo & Ann Clemente	2005
Mena Vesce	2005
Pat Flaherty	2006
Pete & Mella Carroll	2007
Chris Clemente	2007
Maurice Cooper	2007
Gina Mielech	2007

Members with twenty or more years

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Year</i>
<i>Ann Barni</i>	<i>1970 's</i>	<i>Margie Rimmer</i>	<i>1992</i>
<i>Mario & Lucy Cortese</i>	<i>1970"s</i>	<i>Dominick Sorrentino</i>	<i>1996</i>
<i>Georgianne Pionessa</i>	<i>1970's</i>	<i>Marilyn Sorrentino</i>	<i>1996</i>
<i>Ralph DeCicco</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>Lucy Buchianti</i>	<i>1998</i>
<i>Val Lyman</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>Frank & Anna Mullaney</i>	<i>2001</i>
<i>Lucy Santos</i>	<i>1987</i>	<i>Linda & Wayne Oberti</i>	<i>2002</i>
<i>Maria Nicholson</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>Emanuel Tasso</i>	<i>2002</i>
<i>Vinny Russo</i>	<i>1991</i>		

The members that were able to attend on Sunday January 15, 2023 were given a Certificate of Honorary Membership that acknowledges and recognized for their years as members of the Italian American Club.



Members with fifteen to nineteen years

Carlo & Ann Clemente

Gina Mielech & Mena Vesce

Mella & Pete Carroll



Members with twenty years or more

Frank & Anna Mullaney

Lucy & Mario Cortese

Dominick Sorrentino & Margie Rimmer

Ann Barni & Georgianne Pionessa



10-DAY CRUISE ON NORWEGIAN VIVA (New Ship)

September 30th, - October 10th, 2024

Mediterranean: Italy, Greece & Croatia

Ports start in Rome (Civitavecchia), Florence, Naples, Messina, Siracusa, Valletta, Corfu, Dubrovnik, Split, Koper & Trieste (6 ports in Italy)

Cruise begins in Rome and ends in Trieste, Italy where you will disembark.

Tour Name—Italian American Club

For Members, Families and Friends



SPECIAL PRE-BOOK PROMOTION for 2 in a Cabin

TIMING: January 24, 2023 - March 23, 2023

*** HOLDING SPACE FOR 10 INSIDE CABINS**

COST - \$1,707.19 per person \$3,454.38 for 2

Plus 2 Perks & \$100 on board credit per cabin

*** HOLDING SPACE FOR 10 BALCONY CABINS**

COST - \$2,495.20 per person \$4,990.40 for 2

Plus 4 Perks & \$100 on board credit per cabin

♦ **Studio For One Person \$2,650.64**

Plus 2 Perks

Subject to change until booked.

Perks are: Unlimited Open Bar, Specialty Dining, Shore Excursions Credits and Free WIFI

. Note all other expenses are additional: Airfare, Transfers, pre/post hotels, Trip Insurance, Beverage Gratuity, Dining Gratuity and Prepaid Gratuities for the crew onboard.

All Prices quoted above includes cruise, port charges & taxes

Deposit \$125 per Person Due no later than March 23, 2023

Final Payment due on or before May 19, 2024

To book contact Suzanne Fisher at 904-260-3401 ext. #201 We need names as they are read on your passports and dates of birth. Also make sure to let her know if you have an NCL latitudes number and if you have sailed with them previously. The cabins must have 2 people to get that price. Any other questions Suzanne will be happy to help you.



11571 San Jose Blvd., Unit 2 Jacksonville, FL 32223

904-260-3401

cruisenews@cruisecenterjax.com

**Volume 28
Issue 267**

Italian American Club of Jacksonville
PO Box 600725
Jacksonville, FL 32260
904-586-2700



www.iacofjacksonville.com

Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023 @ 6:30PM

Club Social

Monday, February 6th, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

General Meeting

Sunday, February 12th, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Spaghetti to Go

Friday, February 24th, 2023 @ 5:00 PM

February Birthdays

A Very Happy Birthday to:

Jennifer Burroughs, Antoinette O'Connor, Joseph Long, John Corsi, Marina O'Toole, Anne Stepp
George DeMarino, Colt Mefford, Jack Cosentino, Edmund Renna, Raymond Manzo, John Amici
Gregory Blajian, Emanuel Tasso, Sal Nicolosi, Miguel Freay, Chuck Perrone, Joe Frisco

February Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to These Lovely Couples!

David & Ramona Francis
Raymond & Eunice Manzo
Edmund & Sheila Renna

