

October 2022  
Volume 27  
Issue 264

# 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...**

**Happy 71st Anniversary to our Italian American Club of Jacksonville!**

Ciao (Hello) Members,

Happy Fall! We are in our busy time of the year and have many exciting events planned for the month of October and encourage you to join us, so be sure to mark your calendar (see page 3).

Our September 17th, Saturday night Reverse Draw Fund Raiser was a remarkable success and lots of fun. The funds we raised for our Landscaping Project was over \$3,500 dollars. Many thanks to Sal and De Santapola and Diane and Jim O'Meara for leading this effort and to all the volunteers who helped. A big thank you to our members and guests who supported the event. We will plan on our 2nd Reverse Draw Fund Raiser for next year.

We look forward to our Italian Heritage gathering, where we'll be sharing our Italian background, Potluck Luncheon and much more exciting activities. This is one event you don't want to miss.

Bingo! We will be trying out the new way to play the game. With these new concepts and with a greater attendance, you can win more cash prizes.

Join us for our exciting Halloween Party where you can dress up in a costume (it is not required) and enter the contest... Dancing to the music of DJ Smilin' Tom, games, appetizers, cocktails and prizes. We need advance payment no later than October 9th.

As we get closer to some of the other party celebrations, it will be necessary for advance payment and we will advise you of the time to send in the funds.

Finally, Spaghetti to Go is at the end of the month. This is a key fundraiser for the club and we appreciate your support both in purchasing the dinners and volunteering.

Have a great month!

Grazie

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**

Fr. Tom Cody

**Club Chaplain**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jack Cosentino

Joe Farina

Eunice Manzo

Gina Mielech

Anne Stepp

Al Zammataro



## Italian American Club Heritage

*(All photos were the artistic work of Rocco Morabito who gave rights to IAC for use.)*

The Italian American Club was incorporated in 1951, Jacksonville's oldest ethnic organization. On June 11, 1978 the new clubhouse on Westberry Road in Mandarin opened to the excitement of members who raised funds for the construction. Cutting the ribbon for the dedication was President, Mike Bucca; Chaplain, Fr. Caesar Russo; Counselor, Tony Marinucci; and Building Chairman, Frank Aiello.



Members of the Italian American Club built an extravagant float and participated in the Bicentennial city-wide celebration in 1976. The display incorporated the vibrant colors of the Italian flag- red, white and green, and displayed a life-size replica of a Venetian gondola. Through community outreach and its annual FESTA ITALIANA, IAC has promoted its mission of Italian culture and heritage for 70+ years.

Hosting visiting ships from the Italian Navy was a regular event for the Italian American Club. Their native foods prepared by Italian-American Mamas provided comfort to the homesick sailors. At the lovely wooded site in Mandarin, Italian music and entertainment added to the festivities, offering authentic hospitality of *BENVENUTO*, welcome.



The dedicated ladies of the Italian American Club mixed, rolled and cooked thousands of the meatballs at the Mandarin clubhouse on Westberry Road. The authentic savory delight was enjoyed at club dinners and events like World of Nations, FESTA ITALIANA and Spaghetti-To-Go. *Mama mia, that's some spicy meatballs!*

# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Club Social 1:00PM	4	5 BOD Mtg 6:30pm	6	7	8
9 Italian Heritage 1:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Bingo 7:00 PM	22
23/30	24/31	25	26	27 Spaghetti to Go - Prep	28 Spaghetti to Go 5pm- 7pm	29 Halloween Party 7:00PM



## NOVEMBER

- BOD Meeting - 2
- Club Social - 7
- General Meeting - 13
- Spaghetti to Go - 18

## DECEMBER

- Club Social - 5
- BOD Meeting - 7
- Christmas Party - 11
- Spaghetti to Go - 16
- New Year's Eve - 31

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2022 FUNDRAISER



It is that time of year when the Italian American Club begins their Wreaths Across America campaign.

On December 17, 2022, wreaths will be placed at the headstones of Veterans buried at National Cemeteries across America. The live balsam wreaths are placed to honor all veterans and active military.

The Club sponsors wreaths at the **St. Augustine National Cemetery**. The Club has been very generous in supporting this worthy holiday cause. This year the mission of Wreaths Across America is to Find a Way to Serve and encourages other organizations to develop plans to inspire young people to find a way to serve. The cost is \$15.00 for each wreath. For each 2 wreaths sold (\$30.00) an additional wreath will be added in the Club's total donation. Wreaths can be donated in honor of loved ones.

Donations must be collected by **November 1st, 2022**. Last year, the Club and members donated **\$700.00**. We would like to surpass that total this year. We encourage members to attend the wreath laying ceremony on December 17, 2022. In keeping with this year's campaign we would also encourage your children/grandchildren attending. This is a very moving ceremony and a very special way to get in the spirit of Christmas.

"We are not here to decorate graves. We are here to remember not their deaths, but their lives." Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America.

**Mary Ann Wetzel** will be chairing this program. She will be soliciting wreath sponsorship at club activities. You can also send inquiries to [rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com](mailto:rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com). Your email will be forwarded to Mary Ann and she will assist you.

**REMEMBER \* HONOR \* TEACH**

### Welcome New Members!



**Marina O'Toole**  
**Cheryl D'Angelo**

### Compassionate Corner

Much Sympathy to  
Kathy Easterling  
and family on the  
loss of her beloved  
husband, our friend  
and member,  
Bill Easterling

Our condolences to  
Greg Mosley  
on the passing of  
his father, Floyd





### **NEW GAME FORMAT PLEASE READ!!**

We are excited to begin a new format to play BINGO. Rather than paying a \$5.00 admission fee, then another \$1.00 before the game begins then for each game pay a quarter for each board, in a basket, we will charge one fee when you arrive that evening. This way you don't need to handle money all evening.

The new fee will be \$15.00 for three boards, collected when you arrive. You will select your three boards and play all three boards for each game. We will play 10 games plus the cover all. If you want to play more than three boards each game, it will be an additional \$5.00 for each additional board. After the 10 games are played, you will have an opportunity to purchase additional boards for the cover all. Each additional board will cost \$1.00 each.

### **BINGO NIGHT!!**

**IAC Members and Their  
Guests Only**

**Friday, October 21st, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**\$15.00 Admission**

**RSVP by Wednesday, October 19th, 2022 using **Evite**  
(preference) OR  
[rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com](mailto:rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com)**

**OR call the Club at**

**904-586-2700**



### **Italian Heritage Celebration**

**Members & their Guests Only**

**Sunday, October 9th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM.**



### **MENU:**

**Pot Luck!**

We're asking our members to bring their favorite Italian recipes  
Main Dishes, Side Dishes or Desserts

Evite will have a "What to Bring" section so you can let us know what you'll be bringing

### **HOST:**

**IAC Members!**

**Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.**

**RSVP's are for maximum headcount of 80 people OR**

***Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.***

using **Evite** (preference) OR [rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com](mailto:rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com)

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



**Come share a dish and your Italian Heritage!**



# FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW

On Saturday, September 17th we had our Fund Raising Reverse Draw Event which was a great success. We personally want to thank all our members who volunteered and made this happen. Without their support we could not have done this.

Many thanks to all the Members and Guests who participated and supported this activity. Thank you to Dolce's Italian Restaurant who catered the event. We had many compliments for the food, prizes and how well everything was accomplished.

Above all we raised \$3,547.29 for our Landscaping Project.

Co- Chairs of the Reverse Draw Sal & De Santapola & Jim & Diane O'Meara

REVERSE DRAW PRIZES	WINNERS
\$50 CASH	Sal Dilorio (not present)
\$15 Italian America Club Gift Certificate	Jerry Smith
\$25 CASH	Lucy Santos (not present)
\$25 Moon Dog Gift Certificate	Joe Humphrey
\$50 CASH	Ed Maddelena
\$25 Don Juan Mexican Restaurant Gift Card	Dom Sorrentino
\$25 CASH	Toni Billello
\$35 Wakame Japanese Restaurant	Tom Sohacki
\$25 CASH	Rozanna Rogari
\$15 Italian American Gift Certificate	Carol Capone
\$50 CASH	Vinny Zammataro
\$25 CASH	Vivan Parks
\$25 Outback Gift Card	Dennis McGrann (not present)
\$100 CASH	Colt Medford
\$25 Moon Dog Gift Card	Joanne Patchett
\$50 CASH	Phyllis Bosner
\$25 Outback Gift Certificate	Denise Rose (not present)
\$50 CASH	Romona Francis
\$100 Classic Cuts Gift Certificate	Pat Gavaletz
\$50 CASH	Martha Edwards
\$15 Italian American Club Gift Certificate	Mary Humphrey
<b>\$1000 Final Prize – was divided @ \$250 Ea.</b>	
\$250 CASH	Terri Fitzgerald
\$250 CASH	David Francis
\$250 CASH	Teresa Bishop
\$250 CASH	Kevin MacAvoy (not present)
<b>Heads &amp; Talis Game – CASH \$180</b>	Joanne Patchett



# FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW



**Co-Chairs L/r Sal Santapola, De Santapola, Diane O'Meara & Jim O'Meara**



**Winners of the Grand Prize of \$1,000 & split \$250 ea.  
L/r Diane O'Meara making the presentation to:  
Terri Fitzgerald, David Francis & Teresa Bishop.  
Kevin MacAvoy, also a winner was not present.**



**Cutting the cake and getting ready to serve, L/r Carm Gordon & Gina Mielech**



**L/r Marcia Rogerio, Pat Gavaletz, Jackie Keener & Mary Ann Baugh**



**Winner of the Heads & Tail Game  
Joanne Patchett is holding up her winning of \$180 with Terri Fitzgerald looking on.**



**Phyllis Bonser & Mo Cooper enjoying their time at the event.**





# **FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW**

## **TABLE SPONSORS**

- ◆ **NED & MARY ANN WETZEL**
- ◆ **TOM & JANET SOHACKI**
- ◆ **CASTALDI – COOPER**
- ◆ **PERRONE AMICI**

**THANK YOU!**



## **DONATIONS**

**Chuck Perrone**



**Wakame**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



**CATERED OUR BAKE ZITE DINNER**

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



[www.iacofjacksonville.com](http://www.iacofjacksonville.com)

### **Club Social**

**Monday, October 3rd, 2022 @ 1:00 PM**

### **Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**

**General Meeting - Italian Heritage  
Sunday, October 9th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM**

### **Bingo**

**Friday, October 21st, 2022 @ 7:00 PM**

### **Spaghetti to Go**

**Friday, October 28th, 2022 @ 5:00 PM**

### **Halloween Party!**

**Saturday, October 29th, 2022 @ 7:00 PM**

