

Volume 27
Issue 257
March
2022

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



President's Message

Dearest Members,

It's wonderful to see the response we have been getting at our General Meetings! I think we all feel as though we've been let out of confinement. It will be great if we continue with this type of participation from the membership.

I have filled the VP vacancy with member **Mark Rose**. Mark will make a wonderful addition to our Board and we look forward to working with him.

Things seem to be going uphill for the club lately. We have resumed Spaghetti To Go and it is still popular with the community. I would really like to see more of our own supporting STG. We also sell Cannolis too.

We had another successful Spaghetti To Go this month. 250 meals sold! Again, I reiterate that the club would be closed if it weren't for STG and rentals. It would be greatly appreciated if we had more support from the members. I only saw a handful of members come to pick up meals. Thank you to those few members - you know who you are!

Here is a reminder that we will be voting on a raise in our dues and a change to the member's benefits. This was in the February newsletter and is posted again in this month's newsletter, so please read that information and be prepared to vote if you attend the March General Meeting..

Also check and double check your email junk and spam folder if it seems you are not receiving the newsletter or other emails coming from the club. You don't want to miss anything!

If you're wondering what you can do for the club? VOLUNTEER!

Ciao for now,

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





**BIRTHDAYS
BUON COMPLEANNO!
March**

Gail Dasta	1
Debra Humphrey	1
Woody Stephens	4
Joe Frisco	5
Vito Ditrapani	6
Marilena Blajian	6
Jackie Keener	13
Vinny Russo	14
Ann Clemente	14
Dina Kessler	14
Pat Flaherty	16
Don Hayes	19
Raymond Manzo	19
Porfirio Sperandio	20
Rita Patrick	21
Joseph Salomone	21
JoAnn Leigh Gramm	22
Giuliana Bremer-Nero	22
Delores Stephens	23
Dennis McGrann	23
Felicia Yacuzzo	29
Ronnie Patterson	30

Welcome New Members !



Marino & Josephine Ortiz



CLUB SOCIAL

Monday, March 7th @ 1:00 PM



**ANNIVERSARIES
FELICE ANNIVERSARIO!
March**

David & Nancy Pitruzzello 23

Volunteer!



Have YOU Volunteered?

Get Involved!

Cooking, Serving, Cleaning,

**Check in, Yard Work, Spaghetti to Go, Newsletter Con-
tribution, Set Up, Club Sitting and much more.**

This is YOUR Club!!

**REMINDER CHANGES TO THE BY LAWS REMINDER
TO BE VOTED ON AT THE MARCH 13th , 2022 GENERAL MEETING**

Article V
Dues

Currently:

The annual dues are:

- (A) \$50.00 per person.
- (B). Prorated dues: new membership dues will be prorated
- (C). Late fees \$10.00

Proposed: Increase of \$10 per year for annual dues

The annual dues are:

- (A) \$60.00 per person.
- (B). Prorated dues: new membership dues will be prorated
- (C). Late fees \$10.00

Article XIII
Benefits

Currently:

Section 1. The following benefits are available for use by club members in good standing only.

- a. Rental of club and other rental components will be available at reduced prices after the member has attained 1 full year of membership in good standing. During the 1-year probationary period, full rental prices will be paid.
- b. Use of the club equipment free of charge.
- c. Cost of functions at member price.
- d. Free of charge annual Christmas Party.
- e. When a member in good standing (or a member of their immediate family) passes away, the family will have the use of the club after the funeral at no charge as long as the club is not rented.

Proposed: Removal of the Free Christmas Dinner as a benefit as we are not able to extend it to all of our membership due to Fire Code and Safety regulations.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

(Subject to Change)

- March 2nd, 2022 @6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting
- March 7th, 2022 @1:00 PM Club Social
- March 13th, 2022 @1:00 PM General Meeting
- March 25th, 2022 @5PM- 7PM Spaghetti to Go
- 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



March 2022

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

General Meeting

Members & their Guests Only

Sunday, March 13th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM.

MENU:

Corned Beef and Cabbage,
Bread, Salad, Dessert

HOST:

John Corsi

DONATIONS:

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

**RSVP's are for maximum headcount of 96 people OR
Wednesday, March 9th, 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 MARCH 9TH, 2022

WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

PLEASE, NO WALK INS IF YOU DID NOT RSVP





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.

Going forward, 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.



With much Sympathy to Ed and Martha Bartlett on the loss of their beloved son.

Our condolences to Linda Springsteen on the loss of her brother.



A LIFE WELL-LIVED

Member Spotlight: Ann Barni

Who is this world traveler who traversed the planet...from Alaska to Hawaii? From Sicily to Sardinia and the Greek Islands? From the Caribbean south to Panama and east to Hong Kong? And naturally her favorite spot, Bella Italia? A history buff, she bought a CD at age 16 for a trip to China. Five decades later when she visited the Great Wall and Terracotta Soldiers, her dream finally came true!

This adventurous gal is Lifetime Member of our Italian American Club, ANN CONSTANTINE BARNI.

Ann hails from an ethnic suburb of Pittsburgh, the first child in her large Italian family born in the US. Always bilingual, she spoke their native tongue to her parents, English to her siblings. Ann admits that her mother was her greatest influence. Mama insisted that her "*Mericana*" daughter learn to read and write in Italian, sending her to the Lodge for instruction. Ann knows all the lyrics to those lovely folksongs that her Neapolitan mother sang to her as a child. Lucky IAC folks enjoy her "O Solo Mio" at club sing-a-longs.

A mother of two boys, Ann found herself a single mother after 16 years of marriage. She went to work as a department store clerk. Through hard work and eagerness to succeed, Ann rose to the position of shoe buyer for thirteen branches. When she married Leo Barni, the couple decided to move to Jacksonville where her eldest sister lived. Ann says, "I belonged to an Italian club since I was 21, and was thrilled to discover our club."

Ann has been a dedicated club member since the 1970's, serving on various committees and as Secretary for many years. When the board encouraged her to run for IAC president, she refused. "They weren't ready for a woman president back then," Ann laughs and says, "but I'm glad we have a good one now!" Some of her favorite times were representing our club at Florida Federation of Italian Clubs and being the interpreter when Italian Navy ships docked in town.

When IAC was planning the expansion of our current building, the club had no collateral for a bank loan. Eighteen members signed a promissory note for the construction project including Ann and Leo. She admits, "We worked like Hell to raise the money"...dinners, dances, fund raisers, 4th of July celebrations downtown and making "tons of meatballs" at the canning kitchen.

An ardent love of all things Italian prompted four trips to the land of her ancestors. In Naples, Ann connected with *La Famiglia* and fell in love with her *paisani*. At age 80, this feisty lady attended a traditional Italian wedding of her *cugini*. Her mother shared love of the Sea and Ann was enchanted by the majestic Mediterranean. Living at Pablo Towers in Jacksonville Beach for 18 years, she says, "I thank God every day to look out my window and see the ocean."

Ann brags about her long-time involvement in IAC and membership in the local chapter of the Sons of Italy. When asked why it is important to make this connection she replies, "I feel camaraderie when I am with other Italians." Thanks, Ann Barni, for a life celebrating your Italian heritage and...for the mortgage-free clubhouse we enjoy today!

- Lucia Cortese

Italian Heritage

Best Hidden Gems in Italy

By Sal Santapola



Umbria (OOM|bree|ah) is a region of central Italy. Umbria population is 900,000, area square miles is 3,265 and the capital is Perugia. It is the only region without a coastline or a border with another country. Umbria neighbors are: Tuscany to the west and the north, Marche to the east and Lazio to the south.



Umbria is known for its landscapes, traditions, history, culinary delights, artistic legacy, and influence on culture. The region is characterized by hills, mountains, valleys, and historical towns such as Perugia (known as an important university center), Assisi (a World Heritage Site associated with St. Francis of Assisi), Gubbio, Spoleto, Orvieto and Todi. All the towns of Umbria are small. Farming in the hills and valleys is prosperous, producing wheat, corn (maize), potatoes, sugar beets, grapes, and olives. The wine of Orvieto is exceedingly popular throughout Italy.

Nature lovers will enjoy Umbria's unspoiled mountains and sparkling rivers. Country lanes that pass olive groves and flower-carpeted fields make nice walking paths all over the region. Lake Trasimeno is one of Italy's largest lakes, perfect for water skiing and boating. It also boasts three islands that can be reached by ferry.

Umbria is also Italy's spiritual center- famous as the birthplace of two of the world's most famous saints, St. Francis, and St. Benedict. In Assisi, you will want to visit the famous basilica of San Francesco. Frescoes by Giotto vividly tell the story of St. Francis's life. The birthplace of St Francis of Assisi, the creator of the order of the Friars Minor. Assisi is one of the most beautiful, peaceful spots in Italy. It should not be missed and is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world.

Religious pilgrims have come here for centuries to see where St. Francis is buried and the Basilica of Santa Chiara (to see the tomb of St. Clare). Visit the Remo delle Carceri to see caves where medieval hermits withdrew from the world (you may find such solitude quite appealing).



Orvieto is a picturesque hillside town perched dramatically on top of enormous porous rock cliffs. Dating back to Etruscan times, Orvieto is split in two: the old-town hilltop and the new town at the base, connected by escalators and elevators, as well as a cable car (the most scenic form of transport). Sprinkled with ancient monuments, tombs, a large cemetery,



and a network of underground passageways dating back to the Middle Ages, there is much to uncover in this hillside town. Visit the 16th-century Saint Patrick's Well with its historic spiral staircase, discover ancient artifacts inside two archaeological museums, explore the Albornoz Fortress, and admire the Gothic Duomo Cathedral with its glittering, mosaic-adorned façade and impressive paintings done in watercolors on wet plaster.

Orvieto is everything a typical Italian town should be - quiet, unassuming, and blissfully traffic free. It is a popular location for shopping, dining and exploring the nearby vineyards for the finest Classico wines. You can browse local handicrafts and ceramics along Via del Duomo and whatever you do, do not leave without admiring a view of the Umbrian valley from the Torre del Moro!



Nestled within central Umbria, Perugia is the region's thriving capital. This picturesque Etruscan town is charmingly medieval, with a backdrop dominated by Italy's largest fortress, the Rocca Paolina. Believed to be older than Rome, Perugia lives up to its steadfast reputation. Explore Perugia's attractive center overflowing with Etruscan ruins, including the third century Sorbello Well. Visit Piazza IV Novembre, where the Fontana Maggiore fountain forms the centerpiece.



Other sights include the Italian art museum, La Galleria Nazionale dell' Umbria, the church of Sant'Angelo and the monastery of Saint 'Agnese. You will also find the University per Stranieri, an excellent Italian language school, as well as the first wine school in the world in Perugia!

As if all that was not enough to tempt you to Umbria, Perugia is also the 'Chocolate Capital of Italy.' It is home to world-famous chocolatier, Perugia, creators of the legendary Baci chocolate kisses. Visit in October and immerse yourself in the Euro Chocolate Festival with its theater and music performances, cooking demonstrations, and chocolate art exhibitions!



For more information go to: Things to see in Umbria (umbria-italy.org)

Next up Ragusa and Cefalù, Sicily



Italian American Club of Jacksonville

PO Box 600725
Jacksonville, FL 32260
904-586-2700



We invite you to join us for our

FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW & DINNER

Saturday September 17, 2022 5pm - 9pm



\$1,500 IN CASH PRIZES



\$50 Donation
for each Ticket

Includes:

- Entry into Raffle Draw for cash prizes
- Dinner

*Only 100 tickets to be sold
in Advance.*

***You don't have to be
present to win!***

***Payouts will be adjusted
based on total tickets sold***

Reservations can be made

- at our general meetings
- Mail check to the Club

Last day for purchase is
September 9th. 2022
Contact Sal Santapola
904-586-2700
rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com

**GRAND PRIZE
\$1,000**

**10 CASH PRIZES
\$25 - \$100**

Sponsor a Table
Receive -

- 8 Reverse Draw tickets
 - 8 Heads & Tails
 - Table Sign
 - Recognition at the event
 - Name in the Newsletter
- Donation \$550

Join us for a Fun Evening

- ◆ Pasta Dinner
- ◆ Cash Bar
- ◆ Door Prizes
- ◆ Heads & Tails

*All the funds that we receive will go toward our Italian American Club yearly expenses which is over \$40,000.
No one under the age of 18 is allowed to play..*

REVERSE DRAW RULES

1. *Maximum number of tickets to be sold is 100*

Donation \$50 per ticket

2. *Last date to purchase tickets - Sat, Sept. 9th, 2022*

3. *All tickets will be drawn blindly until only the Final Grand Prize ticket remains.*

4. *Grand Prize is \$1,000 Ten additional prizes of between \$25 and \$100 will be drawn.*

5. **THE FINAL FOUR** *tickets remaining, those ticket holders will decide whether to continue with the raffle or split the \$1,000 prize. If any ONE person wants to continue, the raffle will go on. If there is agreement to stop, the Grand Prize will be split. If one or more of the four remaining holders is not present and all of those present wish to stop, those not present will be presumed in agreement.*

6. *Winner of any prize need not to be present to win.*

Payouts will be adjusted based on total tickets sold

HEADS & TAILS GAME/PAY OUT IS 50% OF TOTAL MONEY

- * Purchase Beaded Necklace—Maximum 3 for \$5.00 each.
- * Place Necklace over your head
- * Place your hands on your head or butt
- * Coin is flip showing heads or tails
- * If your hands are on your head and the coin is heads you stay in the game
- * If Your hands are on your butt and the coin is tails you stay in the game
- * If your hands are on your head and the coin says tails you are out of the game
- * If your hands are on your tail and the coin says heads you are out of the game
- * If you purchased more than one Necklace and loss the round, you give up that Necklace
- * The game moves on until there is one person left and that would be the winner!

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Italian American Club
PO Box 600725
Jacksonville, FL 32260
904.586.2700



www.iacofjacksonville.com



Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 2nd @ 6:30 PM



Club Social
Monday, March 7th @ 1:00 PM

General Meeting
Sunday March 13th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

Food Drive!
Please bring non-perishable items to the
March 13th IAC Dinner.

