

Volume 27  
Issue 256  
February  
2022

# ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



## President's Message

Dear Members,

Already we are in the second month of the new year! I was told a long time ago that the older one gets, the faster time goes. It certainly seems that way.

Our Installation Dinner was a success! It actually was the largest attended dinner in a very long time. We welcomed the 2022 two term IAC Board Members. We are still in need of a Vice President if there are any members that want to fill the position. I thank you for your vote of confidence to continue as your President.

At this time, there are things that I feel need to be addressed. We have been running out of seats at some of our dinners and we will be implementing a new policy. **For everyone's safety and respect to our Fire Code, there will be a cap put on the number of members allowed to attend.** If you were there for the Installation dinner you could see how crowded we were. Please don't take it personally. Also, **we will no longer reserve a table for less than 8 people.** If anyone wants to save places, please make sure a member of your party is there early to do so. Regarding the thermostat, if you tend to feel chilly, please bring a sweater or a jacket rather than ask us to reset the thermostat. We can't avoid setting up some tables under a vent. We set the thermostat for the comfort of the majority and those cooking in the hot kitchen.

We have some serious business to take care of and I want to start with this: Since January of 2021, costs have been steadily on the rise. We as the Board have tried to manage for over two years to not raise prices on anything affecting the members, but financially the club has to move to another level because of how **everyone and everything** has been affected by COVID.

After 30 years or more we will need to pass the affects along to you the members and raise our yearly dues to \$60.00 per member. Our insurance has gone up \$83.00 monthly, gas has risen \$50.00 monthly and garbage collection is up \$60.00 monthly. The club was forced to install a fire suppression system for insurance purposes. This called for an electrician and the gas company to run new power and gas lines to the **tune of over \$12,000.00.** The Board has deemed this raise in dues totally necessary. It won't fully pay for the increases in expenditures but it will help. Please keep this in mind as you vote for the bylaws changes (listed in this newsletter) at the March general meeting. I know I've said this before but it doesn't make it any less true, if not for Spaghetti To Go and rentals, the club would have to close down. All of us on the Board hope you the members will understand.

Hope to see you soon,

Melanie  
President Italian American Club, Inc.

## OFFICERS

Melanie Matrascia  
**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!**  
February

Jennifer Burroughs	1
Antoninette O'Connor	3
John Corsi	4
Anne Stepp	5
Beverly Widell	6
George DeMarino	6
Colt Mefford	7
Bobbi de Cordona-Hanks	8
Jack Cosentino	11
Maria Tomlin	13
David Pitruzzello	14
Joe Cornello	16
Mary Glavin	16
Sheila Renna	18
Nancy Pitruzzello	19
Eunice Manzo	19
Karen Amici	21
Gregory Blajian	22
Emanuel Tasso	22
Sal Nicolosi	23
Mary Lee Meriweather	25
Nancy Perrone	25
Janice Holycross	25
Diane Frisco	27
Cathy Ditrapani	28

*Welcome New Members !*



**Mary Baldwin**  
**Gina Cristi**  
**Dennis & Elena McGrann**  
**Michael & Denise Myers**  
**Joe & Anne Salomone**

**Art & Marianne Boyds**  
**Tony & Pamula Galdi**  
**Jim & Diane O'Meara**  
**Ronnie Patterson**



**CLUB SOCIAL**

**Monday, February 7th @ 1:00 PM**



**ANNIVERSARIES**  
**FELICE ANNIVERSARIO!**  
February

Dennis & Elizabeth Dore	6
Art & Marianne Boyds	14
Raymond & Eunice Manzo	19
Edmond & Sheila Renna	24
David & Ramona Francis	27

**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!!**

**CHANGES TO THE BY LAWS  
TO BE VOTED ON AT THE MARCH 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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- b. Use of the club equipment free of charge.
- c. Cost of functions at member price.
- d. 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.



**UPCOMING EVENTS!**

(Subject to Change)



**February 2nd, 2022 @6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 7th, 2022 @1:00 PM Club Social**

**February 20th, 2022 @1:00 PM General Meeting**

**February 25th, 2022 @5PM- 7PM Spaghetti to Go**

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

# February 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	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 General Meeting	21	22	23	24	25 Spaghetti to Go	26
27	28					

## General Meeting

Members & their Guests Only

Sunday, February 20th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM.

### MENU:

Baked Ziti with side of Sausage and Peppers,  
Salad, Rolls & 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, February 16th, 2022 WHICHEVER COMES FIRST.**

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

OR call the Club at 904-586-2700

**NO RSVPS ACCEPTED AFTER 96 ATTENDEES or FEBRUARY 16TH, 2022**

**WHICHEVER COMES FIRST**



# Alhambra

theatre & dining

12000 Beach Blvd Jacksonville, FL 32246

904-641-1212



**Date - Saturday Matinee May 14th, 2022**

**Theatre opens 12pm—Lunch served until 1:20pm**

**Show begins 1:50pm**

**Cost \$68.00 per person**

**Includes: Show, Dinner & Gratuity**

**Alhambra has reserved 55 seats for us**

**Sold 47 seats and 8 seats are available**

**We need your commitment ASAP**

**Contact Sal Santapola - 904- 586-2700 or email**

**[rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com](mailto:rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com)**

**Make check payable to Italian American Club**

**We Must have payment no later than April 1, 2022**





## 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](mailto: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.



**Ralph DeCicco**



**Carlo Clemente**



## BOOK CLUB!

Do you love to read and share your love of reading? Member **Jennifer Burroughs** is offering to head up a book club for our IAC Members that are interested. The Book Club would meet once a month on a Thursday evening at the IAC to discuss the selected book. More details will follow once there is an idea of how many members are interested. If you are interested, please send an email to [rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com](mailto:rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com) with the subject line "Book Club". A great way to make new friends!

## VALENTINE'S DAY TRIVIA

1. Who is the Greek god of love?
2. What is the Latin & Spanish word for love?
3. Where is the 'Pont Des Arts Love Lock Bridge' located?
4. Who invented the first heart shaped chocolate box?
5. In which country are Saint Valentine's Keys given to lovers?
6. Which birthstone is thought to attract love?
7. Who is the Roman god of desire, erotic love, attraction and affection?
8. Who wrote the very first Valentine's message on the eve of his execution?
9. What bird is often associated with love and Valentine's Day?
10. Which gangster was said to have orchestrated the St. Valentine's Day massacre?
11. Which fruit is sometimes called pomme d'amour, or love apple by the French?
12. Love Heart sweets are made by which confectionery brand?
13. Name the two young Italian star-crossed lovers whose suicides reconcile their feuding families?
14. Who was the love of Queen Cleopatra's life?



(answers on last page)

# Italian Heritage

## Best Hidden Gems in Italy

By Sal Santapola



Herculaneum (**Her-cu-la-neum**) was a 2000-year-old, ancient Roman city about five miles to the southeast of Naples, in Campania, Italy. With about 4,000-5,000 inhabitants, this splendid town lay in the shadow of Mount Vesuvius. Although it was a small seaside fishing town, Herculaneum was a wealthy town that possessed a considerable number of lavishly done up houses with colored marble cladding, buildings with frescoed roofs and mosaics, classic Roman furniture, wine racks, household shrines and much more. Since the town takes its name from Hercules, from the Greek god Herakles, it is believed the town was an Ancient Greek town as far back as the sixth century BC.

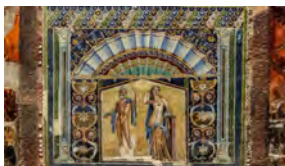
In A.D. 79, this prosperous city along with Pompeii and other Roman towns were destroyed by the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. It was engulfed and buried by superheated pyroclastic flows of molten rock that encased it into a solid mass of pumice and ash. A horrific disaster although, it converted the living, breathing city of Herculaneum into a thoroughly protected time capsule. As archaeologists dug into the ruins in the recent years of mid-18th century, they discovered well preserved wooden and other rare organic artefacts such as roofs, racks, beds, baby cots, doors, food and even some three hundred skeletons along the seashore. Since then, it has been a fascinating destination for many travelers.



Several houses, varying from grand townhouses to more humble lodgings, have been revealed in varying condition and it is possible to see many intact rooms and walls, frescoes, and decorative mosaic floors and to walk along the original cobbled streets that passed between the properties. Another highlight is the well-preserved Roman Baths complex with the original mosaic floored marble baths surrounded by various carvings and murals.

Though smaller in size than Pompeii, Herculaneum was impressive and affluent, which once can identify due to the various excavation projects over the centuries. Few sites in the world are preserved as well as Herculaneum, which led to it being designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**What to See in Herculaneum?** While there is plenty to explore and observe at Herculaneum, here are some of the top sites you should visit.



**House of Neptune** located a little further from the House of the Charred Furniture, was created as a tribute to the gods Neptune and Amphitrite. One can notice a courtyard and alcove here, along with the remains of a fountain. The primary attraction here is the stunning glass mosaic wall with marble masks over it. The mosaic was designed with vivid colors.

**Villa of the Papyri** considered one of the most magnificent villas in Herculaneum, this site gained fame due to the discovery of numerous papyrus scrolls -- mysterious sheets of illegible text. Its stunning architecture is still identifiable with the multiple frescoes, marble sculptures and bronzes that were discovered. It is thought to once have a vineyard and gardens, and a direct view of the sea from its terraces and intricate patterns featuring the gods.



**The Thermal Baths** date back to the 1st Century BC. They clearly divide separate areas for men and women. One can still identify how the water was heated by a large, still-intact furnace. Notice the changing rooms, the different hot and cold bathing areas, and even the storage areas for clothing.

Other top sites that you should visit are **Hall of the Augustales**, **Samnite House** and the **House of the Deer**.



Herculaneum is open from 8:30 AM to 5 PM between November 1st to March 14 (final admission at 3:30 PM). Its closed on January 1st, May 1st and December 25th. **Duration:** A tour of all the main attractions at Herculaneum should take about 3 hours. The best time to visit Herculaneum is during the off-season, between October to April. Herculaneum is located at Corso Resina, 187, 80056 Ercolano NA, Italy.

For more information go to: [Herculaneum Historical Facts and Pictures](#) | [The History Hub](#)

Next up Umbria



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Italian American Club  
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904.586.2700



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



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 2nd @ 6:30 PM**



**Club Social**  
**Monday, February 7th @ 1:00 PM**

**General Meeting**  
**Sunday February 20th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM**



1. Eros
2. Amor
3. Paris, France
4. Richard Cadbury
5. Italy
6. Amethyst
7. Cupid
8. St. Valentine
9. Dove
10. Al Capone
11. Tomato
12. Swizzles
13. Romeo & Juliette
14. General Mark Anthony