

Volume 26  
Issue 246  
April  
2021

# ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



## President's Message

Dear Members,

Greetings to one and all! I hope this letter finds you all in good spirits and health.

Our General Meeting of March was a most successful dinner! We had 78 people who attended. It's great seeing our membership at the club again!

Our GM Dinner for April will be our belated Christmas/Member Appreciation Party. We will be doing our modified Pot of Gold tickets aka 50/50. There is still time to buy your tickets before the drawing on April 18th. Mary Ann Wetzel is accepting orders between now and the 18th or you can get them in person at the dinner. You do not need to be present to win. Your name and phone number will be put on the tickets. The more tickets bought, the bigger the pot!

At our last dinner we tried a little something different than the usual eat and run. We played Bunco! The people who played said we should do this on a bigger scale so in May we will play a co-ed Bunco. We will send out an email to get an idea of how many people will come and then we will know how many tables to set up. It's such an easy and fun game with lots of laughter. Watch for that Evite in May!

We also had another successful Spaghetti To Go! Even though it was Lent we still sold about 230 meals and 130 cannoli. If it weren't for the STG, we wouldn't be able to keep the doors open at the club. We still have bills to pay even though our events are few. Electric, water, gas - all those things of necessity - still need to be paid. It would be a wonderful show of support if we had a bit more participation from our members for Spaghetti to Go! We need support for the club! If the members were to come out and buy a dinner or two, we might even reach 300 meals. Treat yourself on a Friday evening with no cooking or cleaning!

Hard to believe but in a few months it will be time to send out membership renewals. Sal Santapola is our Asst. Treasurer/Membership Director. He will be sending the information to you and there will be some information in the upcoming newsletters. Renewal of your membership is the best show of support for our Club. As the pandemic fades into the background, we hope to be seeing all of you at every event.

There is one more thing I would like to mention. We need responsible people who can help Anne Stepp with club sitting. She has been doing this for a very long time and now that she has a childcare job 5 days a week, she needs other members who can share the load of club sitting and rental prep. It is important that rental prep / club sitters be on time, take the responsibility seriously and fulfill their obligations. If this is something you feel drawn to, please speak with Anne. I believe rentals will start to pick up now because people are getting their vaccines and will feel comfortable in larger groups again.

Have a Happy Easter and hope to see you all in April on the 18th!

Ciao,  
Melanie

## OFFICERS

Melanie Matrascia  
**President**  
Vinny Zammataro  
**Vice President**  
Mike Matrascia  
**Treasurer**  
Sal Santapola  
**Asst. Treasurer &  
Membership Dir.**  
MaryAnn Wetzel  
**Secretary**  
Tom Cody  
**Club Chaplain**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ann Clemente  
Carlo Clemente  
Joe Farina  
Eunice Manzo  
Anne Stepp  
Al Zammataro





**BIRTHDAYS**

**BUON COMPLEANNO!**

**April**

Peggy Anderson	1
Joseph Pecorella	4
Terri Witkosky	8
Ed Szczepanik	9
David Burroughs	20
Joseph Dodi	21
De Santapola	21
Mike Ventura	22
Peter Staltare	25
Linda Springsteen	28
Josephine Wilson	28
Margie Rimmer	29
Ralph DeCicco	30
Martha Bartlett	30



*Welcome New Members !*

- Barbara Bain
- John & Rebecca Corsi
- David Francis
- John & Perlita Merola
- Richard Phillips
- Andy Pirolo
- Peter Staltare

*Get well soon!*



*Get Well*

- Joe Cornello
- Joe Farina
- Margie Rimmer



**ANNIVERSARIES**

**FELICE ANNIVERSARIO!**

**April**

Michael & Melanie Matrascia	8
Wayne & Linda Oberti	8
John & Karan Amici	19
Pete & Mella Carroll	30

**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!!**

# Italian Heritage

## Best Hidden Gems in Italy

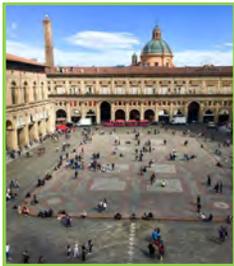


Italy is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world with many famous cities, such as Rome, Venice and Florence. However, there are many hidden gems to visit. In the Newsletters we will enlighten you about many of these destinations

The first one we will talk about is the **Emilia-Romagna Region** located in Northern Italy which is divided into nine provinces. The most popular one is **Bologna** which is the lively, historic capital of the region. The current population is estimated at 390,000. Bologna is an old university city with lavish porticoed walkways and squares, fine historic buildings and storied medieval center. The city is known for its beauty and great cuisine.



The food of Bologna consists of free egg-based pasta such as Tagliatelle, tortellini and mortadella often served in a ragu. Bologna is also known for its fantastic lasagna and sensational gelato. Famous delicacies derive from a rich culinary tradition that has impacted the cuisine of greater Italy. Italians call Bologna the **La Grassa and La Rossa (The Red and The Fat)**, the gastronomic capital of Italy because of its irresistible food specialties. A must try of the Bolognese sauce when making a visit.



You can't miss the Pizza Maggiore. It's located in the center of Bologna next to the Fountain of Neptune and was built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Many events take place on the Pizza during the year.

Visit the two towers (Le Due Torri) are the symbol of the city. The towers are not the same size. The taller tower is called "Asinelli", the smaller one is called "Garisenda". The towers were named after two families to demonstrate their power and they were built in around 1110.



Basilica di San Petronio - located in Piazza Maggiore. The Sixth largest church in Europe. See the intricate sculptures over the doorways. Visitors are must respect a dress code - no hats and your shoulders must be covered.

The porticoes in Bologna form part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. You will find them everywhere. The porticoes are arched arcades which stretch over the pavement to protect you from the rain or the sun. It makes walking very easy whatever the weather.



There is a lot more to see and experience in Bologna. If you enjoy food markets, there are several in the city, one of the favorites is the Mercato della where you discover new varieties of vegetables, meat or fruit.

If you love cars, with a short-day trip you can experience the beautiful Ferrari Museum in Maranello, the Ducati Museum and Factory and the Lamborghini Museum and Factory.

The wine is very good and a trip in the Romagna Region for a day of wine tasting and tour.

One of the neat hidden places is Little Venice (Finestrella di Via Piella), There were many canals which transport goods but only a few remain. The best view-point of Little Venice is a window over looking the canal in the Via Piella.



For more information about Bologna you can click on [https://www.nozio.com/europe/italy/emilia-romagna/bologna/destination\\_guides/history\\_and\\_culture.htm](https://www.nozio.com/europe/italy/emilia-romagna/bologna/destination_guides/history_and_culture.htm)

Next Up - In the May Newsletter our next destination is Bergamo, Lombardy

# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 HAPPY EASTER!	5	6	7 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 General Mtg 1:00 PM	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Spaghetti to Go! 5PM TO 7PM	

## Member Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, April 18th, 2021 @ 1:00 PM.

### MENU:

Antipasto, Bread, Meatballs & Pasta with sauce  
Cannoli's, Cheese Cake w/Fruit, Tiramisu (if all is available)  
Water, Soda or Tea

### HOST:

The IAC Board

### DONATIONS:

Members Only; Sorry, No Guests.

You must be an active member to attend.

Please RSVP *no later than Noon, Wednesday, April 14th, 2021*

using **Evite** OR [rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com](mailto:rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com) OR call the Club at **904-586-2700**



### Proud to be an American

Do you Italian Americans ever wonder what it took your immigrant ancestors to come to the USA?

Here is my version:

My parents migrated to the USA in 1939, much later than the mass migration of the late 1800's/early 20th century. During WW2, America was at war with Italy and often my mother would be crying when she heard the news that her hometown of Naples was being bombed.

After the war, when we could receive mail from Italy, my house was always crowded with older Italian ladies. Most of these women were a generation older than my mother and not formally educated, whereas my mother was educated and could read and write.

My mother became the neighborhood communicator for the uneducated elderly. My mother would read the letters received and write the letters to send to their families in Italy. I remember lots of crying when they received bad news and lots of pastry when they received good news.

Imagine what it took for the Italian immigrants to leave their mothers, fathers, and family so that their children could become Americans!

Remember, these were the days before our present-day technology and methods of communication. When you left your family in Italy for a life in America, it usually meant forever.

We are blessed to be Italian Americans and let us thank God for our immigrant ancestors.

Vinny Russo



Come join us on April 30th for our famous Spaghetti to Go dinners! We have a great time cooking , laughing and we serve a great meal! I want to thank all of our volunteers that help roll meatballs, cook the pasta and the sauce, take orders, pack orders, clean up, etc.! You are all fantastic and we couldn't do it without you! Members, stop by and pick up a dinner and see what everyone is raving about!

Friday, April 30th, 2021 5PM to 7PM

Only two things improve with age...  
Italians and Wine 🍷



Volume 26  
Issue 246

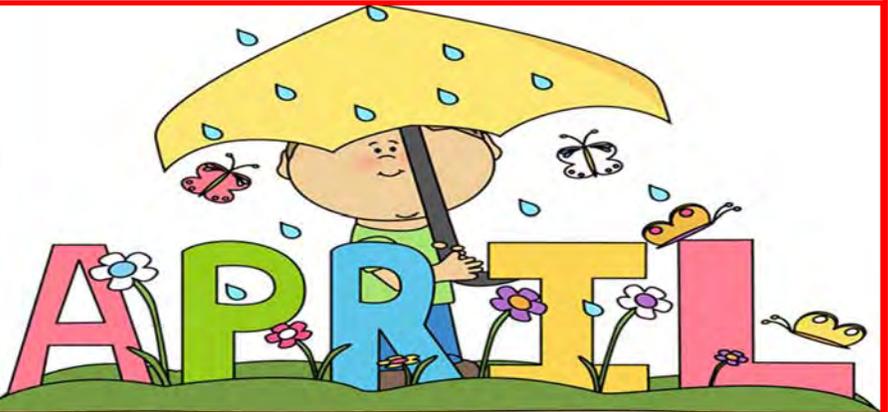
Italian American Club  
PO Box 600725  
Jacksonville, FL 32260  
904.586.2700



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



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 7th @ 6:30 PM**



**General Meeting**

**Sunday, April 18th @  
1:00 PM**

