

Volume 27
Issue 259
May
2022

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

Greetings Members,

I trust that everyone had a beautiful and blessed Easter/Resurrection Day! It means many things to many people. It's usually one of the busiest days in church besides Christmas!

We had some things change a little bit with our landscaping for the club. None of us realized, even the first landscaper, that we didn't have a source or means of watering the plants after putting them in so we changed landscapers, which we really like. He has already put in a sprinkler system. He is a super nice guy and a member of the club. His name is Edmond Renna and his company is called RennaVations. Clever play with the name. He will be back in a week or two to start putting the plants in the ground. We will have to do things in phases because there aren't enough funds from the grant to do it all at one time. It would be amazing if we had 60 members that would donate \$50.00 to help in moving this along or if there were 30 members that would be willing to donate \$100.00. It would really be incredible to finish this job in a quicker time period. I feel we will all be impressed in the job that Ed will do. Honestly I can't wait to see the finish!

We have a couple of things planned for the upcoming months and hope you all will really consider joining in. In August we will try another Cocktails and Dance. We had quite a few people who signed up for the last one but actually didn't show up. That makes it difficult to plan. If you want to participate in our next dance, we will be collecting in advance. In September we have the Reverse Raffle planned. Any information you would like to know about this, just ask Sal Santapola. He has all the info.

Don't forget about Spaghetti To Go! That will be coming up on May 27th. It's a wonderful thing to see our members come and support the club. Again, I will say if it weren't for STG and rentals, we would had to have closed the doors to the club when the pandemic hit us.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Bingo and the General Meeting.

Ciao!

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



BYLAWS CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON MAY 15TH 2022

Article III
Membership

Section 1. Categories of membership are: individual.

Section 2. All members must be of good moral character and reputation, be eighteen (18) years of age or older. To be in good standing, a member must have paid his/her dues for the current year, volunteer and attend general meetings being on time.

Section 3. All members who previously attained Life Membership status in the past are to be grandfathered in under previous By-Laws. The Board of Directors has the right to deny or cancel membership at will for any reason.

Article IV
Application Procedures

Section 1. Application for membership shall be made by completing an application form endorsed by at least one (1) member in good standing and/or an in- person interview by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Applications with membership dues shall be submitted by the membership chairman to the Board of Directors. Upon approval, the membership chairman will notify the applicant of his/her acceptance and request his/her attendance at the next meeting to be introduced to the general membership. Names of new members will be published in the newsletter.

Article V
Dues

Section 1. The membership year is the period of July 1 through June 30. New membership dues will be prorated from the month a member is accepted to the club until the following June 30.

Section 2. Annual dues are payable in advance by July 1st. Dues not received by July 1 will be considered delinquent. Delinquent accounts will be notified and charged a \$15.00 late fee plus dues paid in full by July 31st. If dues and late fees are not paid in full by July 31, the member will be automatically dropped from the membership roster.

Section 3. Once dropped from the rolls, former members must reapply for membership.

Section 4. The annual dues for membership in the Italian American Club and necessary assessments will be determined by the Board of Directors. After reviewing the club's annual budget, a decision will be made by the Board of Directors on whether to lower or raise the annual dues and charge any assessments necessary to maintain the financial well-being of the Italian American Club.

Notification to raise or lower the amount of annual dues and charging necessary assessments will be published in the club newsletter. Discussion and voting on proposed changes will be held during the next general meeting after publication.

The annual dues are:

- (A) \$60.00 per person.
- (B). Prorated dues: new membership dues will be prorated
- (C). Late fees \$15.00 if not paid by July 31st.

Article VI
Meetings

Section 1. Regular membership meetings will be held once a month

Section 2. In addition to regular meetings, when necessary, the President may call a special meeting/town hall meeting.

Section 6. The Secretary is responsible for all club correspondence as directed by the President.
a. He/she shall record and report the Minutes of the general monthly meeting and the monthly Board of Directors meeting and shall maintain file copies of the proceeding.

Membership Annual Renewal

As our fiscal year-end approaches, this is a reminder that your annual membership will be due no later than July 1, 2022

Emails will be forthcoming with your invoice.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to your prompt response.

Save the Date

FUND RAISING REVERSE DRAW & DINNER

Saturday September 17, 2022 5pm - 9pm



\$1,500 IN CASH PRIZES

\$50 Donation
for each Ticket

**10 CASH
PRIZES
\$25—\$100
Plus
Other Prizes**

Sponsor a Table

Receive -

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

Donation \$550

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

Sign up at general meeting or contact

the club 904-586-2700 rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com



Join us for a Fun
Evening

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

Save the Date

ITALIAN HERITAGE FAMILY GATHERING

Sunday October 9, 2022—1pm



LIMONCELLO...ITALIAN ELIXER MAGNIFICO

Without a doubt, the most popular liqueur in Southern Italy is that yellow delight...limoncello. Serve it cold as an after dinner aperitif or as a refreshing summer drink over ice. The blend of citrus tang, sugary goodness and alcohol kick make you want to shout, *That's Italian!*

This recipe is simple and delicious. Ingredients are basic: lemon peel, grain alcohol or vodka, and simple syrup. The hardest part? Waiting patiently for the fermentation to occur. Try it, you'll like it!

6-10 lemons 1 bottle of grain alcohol (Everclear) or vodka

3 1/2 cups water 2 1/2 cups sugar

Container large enough to hold 1/2 gallon or more

Let's get started!

1. Remove rind from each lemon with a peeler or very sharp knife. Take care not to include any white pith which will make the drink bitter. Place shavings in a glass container.
2. Add alcohol to container and cap tightly. Let sit for 1-3 weeks. Longer time, stronger taste.
3. Make a simple syrup of water and sugar. Bring water to a gentle boil, add sugar and stir until dissolved. Let mixture completely cool.
4. Strain the lemon peels and add the liquid to the syrup. Chill in the fridge or freezer--enjoy!
5. Recipe makes about 1/2 gallon or two bottles. One to drink, one to share with paisani.



Lucia says:

"WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS...MAKE LIMONCELLO!!!"

Joe Farina



CLUB SOCIAL
Monday, May 2nd @ 1:00 PM



Italian Heritage

Best Hidden Gems in Italy



By Sal Santapola

Ragusa (r-aa-g-OO-s-aa Ra-gusa) is a beautiful and unique historical town in Sicily. It is built on a wide limestone hill between two deep valleys, Cava San Leonardo and Cava Santa Domenica. Together with seven other cities in the Val di Noto of southeastern Sicily about 56 miles (90 kilometers) from Catania and is part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ragusa is divided into two towns: Ragusa Superiore (upper town) and Ragusa Ibla (lower old town).

Ragusa Superiore, a busy town with sensible grid-pattern streets and all the trappings of a modern provincial capital. This sloping area of tangled alleyways, grey stone houses and baroque palazzi on handsome squares is effectively Ragusa's historic center and it is quite magnificent. Ragusa contains nine major churches and seven major palazzi, all Baroque.



In Via Roma is the square and the Cathedral of San Giovanni Battista which is the main catholic church in Ragusa, dedicated to Saint John the Baptist. The Church was rebuilt twice and the version that you see today was completed in 1718.



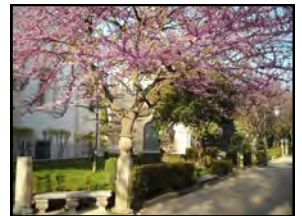
In visiting the old town of Ragusa Ibla, you will get an incredible view and at night, the scenery is very suggestive thanks to the many lights illuminating the narrow streets and hillside houses. This same view used a number of times for the hit Italian detective series 'Inspector Montalbano.'

The Church of Santa Maria Delle Scale means "St. Mary of the Stairs," since the church is located along the stairway and rebuilt in 18th century with the Baroque style. There are many other beautiful churches to visit that were constructed in the 17 and 18 centuries: The Basilica of San



Giorgio, San Giuseppe Church, The Church of the Souls of Purgatory, Santa Maria Dell' Itria and the Church of San Filippo Neri.

The scenic Giardino Ibleo Hyblean Garden built in the mid-nineteenth century is another interesting place to visit. With rich vegetation, splendid palm trees, exotic plants, and aquatic species. There are pools of water lilies, fountains, and sculptures. Take a stroll through the historic and tranquil garden. Its right in the heart of Ragusa!



Matera the most spectacular city of Italy located in a remote corner of southern Italy in the small region of Basilicata. Matera is known as the city of caves with breathtaking scenery, stylish cave hotels, and a fascinating history. The nearest airport is 65km (40 miles) away in Bari in the neighboring Puglia.

Matera is one of the oldest continuously inhabited settlements in history dating back to the Palaeolithic period. On the other side of the ravine from the sassi (ancient neighborhoods) you can see the simple forms of the Neolithic caves where people lived seven thousand years ago. The *sassi* are a series of grottoes carved out of limestone, unsteadily on the edge of a ravine.

It was not always a desirable location, about half of the 30,000 population were moved to new homes in the modern part of the city between 1953 and 1968. Matera became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993, a European Capital of Culture in 2019.

One of the Matera highlights is the many *chiese rupestre* (archaeological site), churches that have been carved out of the soft tufa rock. Many of them contain ancient frescoes (a painting done in watercolor on wet plaster).



Some cave churches to visit include Santa Maria de Idris, which sits high on top of a rock, and San Pietro Barisano, the largest rupestrian church, which dates to the 12th century.

Most of the caves in Matera are now homes, hotels, restaurants, bars and on the edge of town in Sasso Caveoso you can wander through uninhabited caves and get a sense of what it was like to live here years ago. It is the rawer side of town, and the most fascinating.

Visit the Casa Noha an historical house where you can watch a 30-minute film about the history of the town. Another extraordinary setting is the MUSMA, an art museum of the 17th century cave palace.

For more information go to: Sicily, Ragusa Things to do | Visit Sicily official page
Matera: The Most Spectacular City in Italy (neverendingvoyage.com)

Next up Calabria

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Club Social 1:00 PM	3	4 BOD MTG 6:30 PM	5	6	7 *Club Rented*
8	9	10	11	12	13 BINGO! 7:00 PM	14 *Club Rented*
15 General Mtg 1:00 PM	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 STG Prep	27 STG	28 *Club Rented*
29 *Club Rented*	30	31				



General Meeting

Members & their Guests Only

Sunday, May 15th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM.

MENU:

Homemade Pizza with Various Toppings, Cucumber and Tomato Salad,
Fresh Fruit Medley, Cheese and Olive Trays, 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, May 11th, 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 MAY 11TH, 2022

WHICHEVER COMES FIRST

PLEASE, NO WALK INS IF YOU DID NOT RSVP



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Italian American Club
PO Box 600725
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904.586.2700



www.iacofjacksonville.com

Club Social

Monday, May 2nd @ 1:00 PM

Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 4th @ 6:30 PM

BINGO

Friday, May 13th

@ 7:00 PM

\$5.00

**Members and their
Guests Only**



General Meeting

Sunday May 15th, 2022 @ 1:00 PM

