

Volume 26
Issue 247
May
2021

ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB of JACKSONVILLE



President's Message

Dear Members,

Can you believe we are already into May!! Where is the time going?

We are trying to get some things going on at the club for everyone to be able to enjoy. Since most of you have had your vaccinations by now, we want to get some fun happening!

Looking at May 21st for Co-ed Bunco, meaning it's not just for the women! We also want the men to join. Bunco is such a simple game to play! We always have a great time. There are 5 positions paid out and the more people who play, the bigger the payout. Gina will send out an email to get a count of who will be playing so we know how many tables to set up. We will start at 7:00 and play three rounds. Snacks will be available. Let's have a great time with this!

Starting the first Monday in June, we will have Open House. Doors will open at 12:00 and everyone is invited to join for all kinds of games and cards. You are invited to play Bocce also.

I would like to talk about our Heritage Fund. This is something that many organizations do, such as churches, to raise money in memory of loved ones. As of now, we have several people who have been remembered with their name on our plaque. The Heritage Club is supposed to be a special account for those who would like to donate to the club in anyone's name. This is always a delicate subject but please allow me to talk about it. If there are those who feel they love their club enough, they want to be remembered by a large donation, please don't hesitate. The Club is always open to the generosity of its members by leaving a donation in their will. The Club is only functioning with the financial help of its members. We would like to work on the landscaping in the front of the club, in which the Heritage Club would be beneficial for both the member and the club.

I would like to thank all those who participated in the making of the meatballs and working on Spaghetti To Go. **Thank you to those that make it a point to stop by and purchase dinners on Spaghetti to Go night. Your support is at the core of keeping the club going! Thank you! Grazie Mille!!**

Please remember that membership dues will be coming up soon. I believe you will be receiving notification from Sal Santapola in your email so keep watch.

See you all at the General Meeting on the 16th!

A presto,

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!

May

Shirley Brechler	1
Lucy Burchianti	3
Gina Mielech	3
John Fitzgerald	13
Donalee Wright	15
Maria Nicholson	18
Terri Fitzgerald	18
Peter Calabrese	19
Stephen Verrigni	22
Barbara Hagenah	28
Mary Ann Lynn	28
Anna Mullaney	28
Mary J. Cooper	29
Keith Kessler	29

Welcome New Members !

Debra Humphrey
Mark & Denise Rose
James Talarico



Get well soon!



Get Well!

George Nicholson
Mario Cortese
Tony De Benedetto
Ray Register

With Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to
Don Hayes
on the passing of
his beloved son



ANNIVERSARIES
FELICE ANNIVERSARIO!

May

Joseph & Carol Dodi	3
Chuck & Nancy Perrone	11
Vincenzo & Rose Sicari	14
Terry & Carol Schoenekase	16
Bill & Kathy Easterling	30
John & Perlita Merola	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!!

May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						I Rental
2	3	4	5 Board Meeting 6:30 PM	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day Rental	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 General Mtg 1:00 PM	17	18	19	20 Rental	21 BUNCO! 7:00 PM	22
23 / 30	24 / 31 Memorial Day (31)	25	26	27	28 Spaghetti to Go! 5PM TO 7PM	29

General Meeting

Sunday, May 16th, 2021 @ 1:00 PM.

MENU:

Salad, Bread, Roasted Pork
Yellow Rice w/ Vegetables, Cranberry -Orange Relish,
Dessert

HOST:

Elizabeth Dore and the IAC Board

DONATIONS:

Members: \$15.00 - **Guests:** \$17.00 - **Children 8 to 17:** \$8:00 - **Under 8:** Free

Please RSVP *no later than Noon, Wednesday, May 12th, 2021*

using **Evite** OR rsvp@iacofjacksonville.com OR call the Club at **904-586-2700**

Italian Immigrants



Italian immigrants who were not citizens of the USA, by time the WW2 started in December of 1941 were considered “enemy aliens”.

My mother not yet a citizen fell into that category. Both my mother and father were immigrants, however, my father had started his papers while a merchant seaman long before they were married in Italy, March 1939. Shortly after their marriage, they migrated to America and my father quickly became a citizen.

As an “enemy alien”, my mother had to report to the State Department every month to prove her allegiance to the USA. While there, they would test her by asking questions about American history, such as who the first president was, etc. My father, now, to support my mother and show his devotion to their new country of choice, volunteered and became an air raid warden.

During the war, New York City, like most of the country were under blackout conditions in the evenings. Street lights, auto headlights and all illuminations were not allowed. My father’s task was to walk his route every night to make sure no lights were showing from house windows. My father’s nickname became “Frankie No Lights”.

Shortly after the war, my mother was granted citizenship. As a benefit, I got the best school grades in American History because my mother would go over all the history questions she had to answer to the state department with me. We were all proud of our achievement in becoming American Citizens.

Vinny Russo



Come join us on May 28th 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, pick up a dinner, support your club and see what everyone is raving about!**

Friday, May 28th, 2021 5PM to 7PM





Italian Heritage

Best Hidden Gems in Italy



If you're looking for a city which looks untouched by time, then you simply must head to **Bergamo** (pronounced Br Gaa Mo), known in Italian as **`La Citta` Dei Mille`** ("The City of the Thousand"). Bergamo is a beautiful walled city 37 miles northeast of Milan, and the 4th largest city in the **Lombardy region** with a population of 122,000. An authentic Italian city Bergamo is a stunning destination in Northern Italy worth visiting.



Bergamo is divided into two parts. **Citta` Bassa**, the busy and modern lower town still has some buildings from the 15th century. Over the years elaborate architecture was added and it is now a vibrant city with a wealth of shops, bars, excellent restaurants and has a number of beautiful churches, art galleries and museums.



The **Citta` Alta** upper town is a beautiful walled city with buildings that date back to medieval times with its rich heritage of art and history.

The very best view of Bergamo is to take the **funicular** (cable car) up the side of the mountain and straight to the very top of the city where Bergamo's stunning position in the Alpine foothills really comes into its own.

The 16th century Venetian Walls surround Citta` Alta by 6 kilometers (3.8 miles). In July, 2017 these walls were officially designated as UNESCO World Heritage Site that must be seen in person to truly appreciate them.

The center of Citta` Alta is the Piazza Vecchia ("the Old Square"). Full of buildings and monuments, as well as great café's and gelaterias. The arches are decorated with a unique center fountain with four magnificent lion sculptures. Don't miss out on a delicious gelato at the Café` del Tasso, considered the best gelateria in the town by the locals.



While in the area visit the Cappella Colleoni. This church stands out with its colorful marble façade which features biblical scenes.



A must visit is to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. The basilica displays varied architectural styles, from early Christian to Baroque. The Colleoni Chapel is one of the loveliest buildings and has been acclaimed as one of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in Italy.

You will experience a different type of food in Bergamo due to the cooler climate. Farm staples such as corn, root vegetables, mushrooms, meat and dairy are the main ingredients in a lot of dishes. **Risotto Alla Milanese** is a popular Italian dish. **Polenta** is most well-known, paired with stewed and roasted meats. Another popular dish is **Casoncelli**, which is a handmade pasta is shaped like a half-moon.



For the sweet tooth there is a **Gelato "Stracciatella"** flavor - one of the most loved gelatos in Italy. Of course, we can't forget the wine. The Lombardy region produces wines of exceptional quality with a distinct flavor profile.



For more information about Bergamo click on the link bestofbergamo.com. Next up Genoa, Liguria -Sal Santapola

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Italian American Club
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904.586.2700



www.iacofjacksonville.com



Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 5th @ 6:30 PM



Bunco Night!
Friday, May 21st, 2021 @ 7:00

General Meeting

Sunday, May 16th @
1:00 PM

