



# Jacksonville ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB

Monthly Newsletter  
Established 1951



Volume 22 Issue 197

Febbraio/February 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Buon giorno signore e' signori (Good day ladies and gentlemen),

As February begins your Board of Directors (BOD) is looking forward to the challenges ahead and doing a great job in taking on the tasks at hand and working together in accomplishing them. Their active participation through all of this, as well as the volunteering effort of other Club members, makes me feel very proud to be part of the effort.

The January BOD meeting accomplished much within less than 1 ½ hrs. We worked out most of the detail of Activity Committee Chairpersons. Below is a list of those who have agreed to take on the tasks at hand. At times, they will be contacting you to help their respective Committee.

- Bar Administrator – Angelo Giardino
- Decorating Committee – Anne Stepp
- Dinner Coordinator – Gina Mielech
- Entertainment Committee – Lucy Cortese
- Festa Committee – Mario Cortese
- Fund Raising Committee –
- Membership Committee – Gina Mielech
- Sickness/Distress Committee – Mena Vesce

The CY 2017 Board of Directors Installation, as part of the January 15 General Meeting, went well (at least no one quit on this day – lol!) Jim and Doreena Ranieri prepared a scrumptious dinner for some 98 folks. Dancing music was provided by Salvo Nicolosi. For me, this was a very special day to remember.

Saluti, ci vediamo al Club (Salutation, see you at the Club),  
Mario Cortese  
Email: [mfcortese@att.net](mailto:mfcortese@att.net)

**Come and Enjoy Italian Hospitality • Food • Games • Music • Fun**

**BOOSTER CLUB**

**PLATINUM TIER - \$100**

Mario Cortese 1/18  
Lucy Cortese 1/18

**DIAMOND TIER - \$50**

Vincent Zammataro 6/17  
Cydelle Mendius 6/17  
Jamie DeMasi 8/17  
Vincenzo & Rose Sicari 12/17

**GOLD TIER - \$25**

Mena & Lou Vesce 2/17  
Ann Barni 6/17  
Sandy Smith 6/17

**Thank you to all the members who continue to support the Booster Club. Your donation helps with the cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter. Grazie.**

**OFFICERS**

Mario Cortese  
*President*  
210-6033

Angelo Guarino  
*Vice President*

Lucy Cortese  
*Treasurer*

Gina Mielech  
*Asst. Treasurer*

Vacant  
*Recording Secretary*

Father Tom Cody  
*Club Chaplain*  
704-8200

**BOARD  
OF  
DIRECTORS**

Peter Calabrese

Tony Di  
Benedetto

Peggy Rose

Anne Stepp

Mena Vesce

Vinny  
Zammataro

Event Volunteers (December 10, 2016 to January 15, 2017)

Carolyn Beach, Dave Borroughs, Jennifer Borroughs, Martha Calabrese, Peter Calabrese, Mella Carroll, Peter Carroll, Lucy Cortese, Joy Fashauer, Angelo Giardino, Gina Mielech, Anna Mullaney, Giuliana Nero, Gabe Nero, Doreena Ranieri, Jim Ranieri, Peggy Rose, Rose Sicari, Enzo Sicari, Sandy Smith, Linda Springsteen, Anne Stepp, Vincent Zammataro

**Congratulations to our January Volunteer Winner, Carolyn Beach!  
Moe Cooper was the winner of the 50/50 and donated his winnings back to the Club!**

**Sympathy**

Much sympathy to friend and member Burt Davison on the passing of his wife, Betty

**Thinking of You**

\*Richard D'Atrio\*

**Get Well**

\*Michelle Giardino\*

**FOR CLUB RENTALS,  
PLEASE CALL ANNE STEPP @ (904) 535-6339**

**Jacksonville Italian American Club**

**THE ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB PHONE NUMBER IS (904) 586-2616**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBBRAIO/FEBRUARY 2017**

DOMENICA	LUNEDI	MARTEDI	MERCOLEDI	GIOVEDI	VENERDI	SABATO
			1 Board Meeting	2	3	4
5 Super Bowl Pot Luck	6	7	8	9 Dining with Dignity (Offsite)	10	11
12 General Meeting / Valentine's Dance	13	14	15	16	17 Pizza & Bingo	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 IAC Dance Night!	25 Club Rented
26	27	28				



## SUPER BOWL/MARDI GRAS POT LUCK EVENT

Sunday, February 5th, 2016 @ 5:00

### MENU

Hot dogs/buns, snacks and **attendees' various food items**

Last Names: **A to G** – Appetizers **H to Q** – Side Dish **R to Z** – Dessert



### Host:

Mario Cortese and IAC Members!

**Cost is \$5 per person, space is limited so call 586-2616 or email Mario [mfcortese@att.net](mailto:mfcortese@att.net) to reserve your spot**

**& let him know what you are bringing to the event!**

**Party begins at 5:00 PM, New Orleans Jazz Music**

**SUPER BOWL viewing on 50" screen**

Best Mardi Gras Costume Contest! Expect the "Baby" to appear! What's Mardi Gras without beaded necklaces?



## GENERAL MEETING/VALENTINE DANCE

Sunday, February 12th, 2017 @ 1:00 PM

### MENU:

Italian Cold Cut Appetizer, Bread, Mixed Salad, Chicken Cacciatore on Rotini pasta (dark meat – thighs), Special Dessert, Espresso and Decaf Coffee

### HOST:

Mario & Lucy Cortese

### DONATIONS:

Members: \$13.00 \* Non Members: \$17.00 \* Ages 8 – 17: \$5.00\* Under 8 – Free\*

### RESERVATIONS:

Use sign up sheets at club or email Mario at [mfcortese@att.net](mailto:mfcortese@att.net) or call (904) 586-2616

***no later than 6:00 PM, February 9th, 2017***



**FEBBRAIO/FEBRUARY  
BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Fred Schmidt
- 1 Jennifer Burroughs
- 3 Joanne DeBenedetto
- 5 Anne Stepp
- 7 Roger Ezell
- 11 Leo Errico
- 12 Diane Preli
- 13 Maria Tomlin
- 14 David Pitruzzello
- 14 Carolyn Beach
- 16 Joe Cornello
- 17 Stella Christian
- 19 Nancy Pitruzzello
- 22 Gregory Blajian
- 22 Emanuel Tasso
- 23 Joe Stypulkowski
- 23 Wanda Freay
- 26 Carl Volpe

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**Rates: \$25/month or \$300/annual  
for business card size ad**

**\$100/month or \$1200/annual for ½ page ad  
\$200/month or \$2400/annual for full page ad**

**Contact: Lucy Cortese [Igcortese@att.net](mailto:Igcortese@att.net)**

**JoAnn Leigh Gramm, P. A.**  
Attorney at Law

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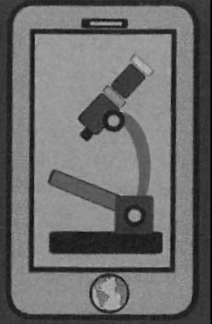
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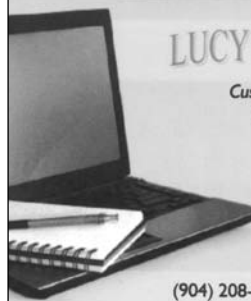
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Lucy Giardino Cortese, MEd  
Freelance Writer and Published Author

(904) 208-0032

[lucy.cortese@comcast.net](mailto:lucy.cortese@comcast.net)





**Pizza & Bingo**

Friday, February 17th, 2017 @ 6:30 PM



**MENU:**

Pizza (Plain, Pepperoni, Veggie style), Salad, Dessert, Decaf Coffee

**HOST:**

Joe & Georgette Cornello

**DONATIONS:**

Members: \$7.00\* Non Members: \$11.00 \* Ages 8 – 17: \$3.00\* Under 8 – Free\*

**RESERVATIONS:**

Use sign up sheets at club or email Mario at [mfcortese@att.net](mailto:mfcortese@att.net) or call (904) 586-2616  
***no later than 6:00 PM, February 15th, 2017***



**IAC DANCE NIGHT!!**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24TH 7:00PM – 10:00PM**

**\$10 for members; \$12 non-members**

**includes light snacks, complimentary soft drink and coffee**

**LIVE MUSIC BY SAL NICOLOSI**

**HAT, GLOVES, SCARVES & SOCK DRIVE**



As the weather turns colder, yes, even here in Florida, the homeless community will be in need of garments to help keep warm. Please find it in your heart to donate *new* garments for this cause. The Italian American Club is collecting hats (knitted beanie types), gloves, scarves and socks for the homeless men, women and children. Please bring your donations to the Italian American Club at any event you attend *now through February 9th, 2017*.

## MEMA'S RECIPE *FOR LA VITA BELLA* by Lucy Giardino Cortese

During WW II my family moved from Little Italy section of Paterson, New Jersey to the far Westside of Duval County now known as Whitehouse. They ambitiously started a restaurant in this wooded, unpopulated section remote from Jacksonville city limits. Garden Spaghetti House was christened, a loose translation of our surname Giardino. Confronted with questions about the exotic cuisine, my parents introduced locals to the wonders of sketti aka spaghetti and pizer aka pizza. Mema, my mother, was the chef and directed all the cooking because...

"NONJA TRUST A SKINNY COOK!"

Unfortunately this restaurant project was short-lived, but we have the distinction of owning the very first establishment in our area that prepared, cooked and served authentic Italiano food. Shortly thereafter my mother became a full-time housewife and new mother (of me) and my siblings. Of course she remained Regina della Cucina and as a child I was relegated to the boring job of prep cook. When I complained of chopping mounds of garlic, she admonished...

"GARLIC IS LIKA LA FAMIGLIA, NEVER TOO MUCHA!"

When I inquired about why her famous Eggplant Parmesan was so delicious, Mema explained the importance of good, quality vegetables and fresh herbs and spices. Wandering through the produce section of Publix, I gingerly examine each eggplant and remember her words...

"PICKA MELANZANE LIKA THE MAN--TALL, DARK AND NO TOO ROUND!"

A bit of wine was always added to Mema's sumptuous Chicken Cacciatore, good robust Chianti. I recall the little round basket-wrapped bottle on the table next to the mini-barrel filled with Daddy's own homemade concoction. She cursed the use of "cooking wine" because...

"VINO NO GOODA TO DRINK, NO GOODA TO COOK!"

Growing up with Italian parents, real quality food was central to our life. Never anything from a can or box entered our kitchen, the focal point of our home. How can I ever forget Mema's last advice to me? On her hospital bed, she grabbed my hand, gazed into my eyes, and imparted her final gem of old-country wisdom...

"WHEN YOU MAKKA SPAGHETTI SAUCE, USA FRESHA TOMATOES."

I have been blessed to learn the magic of Italian cooking at the elbow of the best cook I've ever known. In a trattoria in sunny Italy, fancy New York establishment, or local restaurant touting Italian name, no taste can compare with the memorable flavors my mother lovingly created. I am continually challenged to replicate her savory sauce, marvelous meatballs, and fabulous frittatas. Mema has been gone for a decade, but her recipes and philosophies remain. These guide my life, including her answer to every problem, every despair, every unhappiness...

"PRAY AND MANGIA!" (not necessarily in that order:)

Italian American Club of Jacksonville  
2838 Westberry Road -or-  
P.O. Box 600725  
Jacksonville, FL 32260  
(904) 586-2616/www.iacofjacksonville.com



**February 5th SUPER BOWL!**

**February 12th - Valentine's Dance & General Meeting**

**February 17th – Pizza & Bingo**

**February 24th – IAC Dance Night**



**BINGO**