



# Jacksonville ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB

Monthly Newsletter  
Established 1951



Volume 22 Issue 200

Maggio/May 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Buon Giorno A Tutti (A Good Day to All)!

I am pleased to report that Melanie Matrascia has accepted to fill the BOD Reporting Secretary position. This action once again achieves our goal to keep the BOD in full strength. Thank you, Melanie, for volunteering your time and talents in taking on this position. I strongly feel that you will excel in executing your Secretary duties ...Congrats to you!!

Thanks to the Entertainment Committee (Lucy Cortese, Chairsperson), the Club's CY 2017 Event Schedule is very active. Activities include the upcoming Garage Sale, a Casino Cruise, Friday night dancing to DJ music, a Jumbo Shrimp Baseball game, the Alhambra Dinner Theatre, A Day at the Dog Track, and let's not forget our Fall Italian Festa.

The monthly General Meetings as well as the Friday Night at the Club events will also have entertainment activity from time to time. Please consult your Monthly Newsletter for updates to the Event Calendar. This calendar will be treated as a "Living Document" that is prone to change as needed.

I am pleased to report that the Club's Membership has steadily been increasing and now stands at 173. It is interesting to note the number of folks that have "found" us via the Internet (Club's WEB site and Facebook) and have thereafter decided to join us. We are also receiving enquiries from folks who are moving to Jacksonville from all around the USA.

It saddens me to inform the Membership of the failed attempt to have our young meet and "Brainstorm" about Club activities that would encourage them to frequently attend. For those who have interest in this quest I say, "It's not over".

Volunteers who offered their time/talents during the period of Mid-March to Mid-April

Carolyn Beach, Peter Calabrese, Martha Calabrese, Mella Carroll, Lucy Cortese, Moe Cooper, Angelo Giardino, Cirino Lombardo, Linda Lombardo, Melanie Matrascia, Gina Mielech, Gabe Nero, Giuliana Nero, Peggy Rose, Marylin Sorrentino, Sandy Smith, Linda Springsteen, Anne Stepp, Mary Ann Wetzel, Vinny Zammataro

Chi ben comincia è a metà dell'opera (A good start is half the battle).

Ciao,

Mario

E-mail: [mfcortese@att.net](mailto:mfcortese@att.net)

**Congratulations to our April Volunteer of the Month Winner, Gabe Nero !**

**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

Ann Barni 6/17  
Sandy Smith 6/17  
Mena & Lou Vesce 2/18

**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 Giardino  
*Vice President*

Lucy Cortese  
*Treasurer*

Gina Mielech  
*Asst. Treasurer*

Melanie Matrascia  
*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

### Sympathy

\* Much sympathy to Edith Muggar, who lost both her sister and her brother 3 weeks apart. Edith is Linda Springsteen's mother so our condolences to Linda also on the loss of her aunt and uncle. \*

### Get Well

\* Father Tom Cody \*

### Thinking of You

\* Anthony Di Benedetto \* Rosa Smith

### Welcome New Members!

\* Lucia Bonavita \*

**It's hard to believe, but it's almost member renewal time! As the songs goes, "Time passes much too quickly, when we're together laughing." Look for your renewal letters in the beginning of June and join us for another year of friends, great food and fun!**

**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 - MAGGIO/MAY 2017**

DOMENICA	LUNEDI	MARTEDI	MERCOLEDI	GIOVEDI	VENERDI	SABATO
	1	2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Casino Cruise *Club Rented*
7	8	9	10	11 Dining with Dignity (Offsite)	12 Tombola Lesson	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 General Meeting/ Dinner	22	23	24	25	26 Pasta & Bingo or Tombola	27
28	29	30	31			

**Our next volunteer date to serve @ Dining with Dignity is Thursday, May 11th, 2016.** You can find out more about the program by visiting <http://www.homeagainsj.org/> . Also, you can email or call Mario Cortese (mfcortese@att.net / (904) 586-2616 for more details or to volunteer your time and talents to this worthy cause.

**For those interested in Bocce please contact Peter Calabrese at IACbocce@aol.com**

**Jacksonville Italian American Club**

**TOMBOLA LESSON**

Friday, May 12, 2017 @ 6:30 PM

Join us for an authentic lesson of the Italian game Tombola, taught by Anna Mullaney. There will be Finger Foods and Fun! \$5.00 admission for all.

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**GENERAL MEETING**

Sunday, May 21, 2017 @ 1:00 PM

**MENU:**

Fresh Tossed Salad w/Shrimp, Italian Porchetta Style Roast, Creamy Polenta w White Bean Puree, Side Vegetable, Dinner Rolls, Home Made Dessert, Coffee



**HOST:**

Jim & Doreena Ranieri



**DONATIONS:**

Members: \$14.00 \* Non Members: \$18.00 \* Ages 8 – 17: \$6.00\* 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, May 19th, 2017***

**Margie Rimmer will be selling jewelry at the Sunday dinner with a percentage of proceeds donated to IAC.**

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**Pasta & Tombola or Bingo**  
Friday, May 26th, 2017 @ 6:30 PM



**MENU:**

Spaghetti/meatballs, garlic bread, salad, cake dessert, coffee

**HOST:**

Mario & Lucy Cortese



**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, May 25th, 2017***

For details and reservations, please email Mario Cortese at [mfcortese@att.net](mailto:mfcortese@att.net)

**MAGGIO/MAY BIRTHDAYS  
BUON COMPLEANNO!**

- 3 Lucy Burchianti
- 3 Gina Mielech
- 3 Monica Anello
- 5 Angie Caprio
- 12 Joseph Anello
- 15 Donalee Wright
- 18 Cydelle Mango Mendius
- 18 Maria Nicholson
- 19 Peter Calabrese
- 21 Evangeline Pollackov
- 25 Maxine Russo
- 28 Anna Mullaney

**MAGGIO/MAY ANNIVERSARIES  
FELICE ANNIVERSARIO!**

- 14 Vincenzo & Rose Sicari
- 30 Bill & Kathy Easterling
- 31 Patrick & Denise O'Neill

**Advertise your company or service in the  
IAC newsletter**

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

**\$100/month or \$1200/annual for 1/2 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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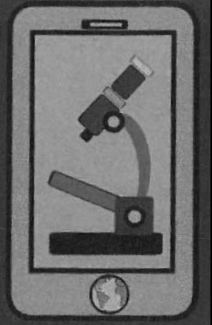
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**UPCOMING EVENTS!!**  
Mark Your Calendars!

**VICTORY CASINO CRUISE** - Saturday, May 6, 2017

Calling lucky ladies and gents for a gambling cruise trip to Port Canaveral. Great fellowship on the air-conditioned bus drive--bring snacks and drinks to share. Fees include bus trip, cruise fare, buffet and gratuity, entertainment, free drinks while gaming, taxes and port fees. \$55 payable by April 20th. Picture ID required. BUS LEAVES PARKING LOT AT ORANGE PICKER ROAD (WELLS FARGO) AT 7AM, RETURNS 7PM

Chair: Anna Mullaney

**DANCE NIGHT** - Friday, June 9, 2017

Get ready to put on your Dancing Shoes June 9th, when the IAC will host a Dance Night open to everyone! Join us and DJ Dennis Miller for a 1950's Sock Hop Dance! Look for more details in the June newsletter and on our website [www.iacofjacksonville.com](http://www.iacofjacksonville.com)

**NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK** - Friday June 16, 2017

Join your IAC family for a fun night cheering the Jumbo Shrimp Baseball team. 3B Lower Deck is reserved for our club. Buffet 6:00-7:30pm and game starts at 7:00pm. Admission, food and fireworks for \$20. Payable by June 1st.

Chair: Lucy Cortese

**NIGHT AT ALHAMBRA** - Friday, August 4, 2017

Enjoy the ever-popular show ANNIE with your IAC family. A special evening including great food, award-winning musical, tax and gratuities for \$ 59. RSVP and fees payable by July 15th.

Chair: Lucy Cortese

# Our Italian Heritage Mama Mia! (Happy Mother's Day)

My earliest childhood memories of my mother are in the kitchen. Mom would tell us that she did not know how to cook when she married my dad, but you could have fooled us. I remember her baking bread Monday morning for the week ahead. There were long loaves, dinner rolls and my favorite, fried dough that we would have with our homemade beef broth soup seasoned with home grown canned tomatoes and a little rice. As I got older we made homemade pasta and meat filled ravioli. We would roll out the pasta and it would be air drying on sheets over all over the house. Her meat filled ravioli is like no other, filled with veal, chicken, pork, spinach and cheese. My granddaughters have wonderful memories with their great grandmother, turning the handle of the pasta machine. Mom still likes to cook sometimes, but now she tells me it's my turn to carry on those family traditions. ~ **Linda Springsteen**

I was born and raised in Naples, Italy in a very close family. I was the only daughter with two brothers, and my relationship with my mother was very strong. I knew I gave her great pain when I married my husband and came to the states, but she never used her sorrow to upset me. She was a very wise woman with lots of humor and I was very fortunate to have her until she was 90.

I still remember what she told my husband Frank one time. Looking at him straight and with a serious face she said, "I hate Christopher Columbus because if he would not have discovered America, you would not have been able to take her away from me." I love you mamma and I still miss you terribly." ~ **Anna Mullaney (Evangelista)**

There are countless memories I have of my mother's love and sacrifices for her family. One such time was demonstrated by my parents' decision to leave their roots and family in Sicily and come to America to make a better life for themselves and their children. There were two of us at that time. In 1952 my mother, my older brother Gaetano two years old, and myself at one year old embarked on a ship to sail to America and docked in New York's Ellis Island. My father unfortunately had to wait two years until he could join us in America due to immigration laws back then.

Imagine - a young bride with two small children within the first two years of getting married and having to leave her husband behind on a thirteen day journey with hardly any sleep. It's no wonder she arrived in New York with a nervous breakdown. Fortunately, she did have family here to welcome us and care for us. That was the beginning of many sacrifices made by my parents so we could realize "The American Dream". I love and miss my mother tremendously!  
~ **Cirino Lombardo**

My mother was the most important person in my life and when she died I almost did too. She was beautiful, loving, caring, and I loved her very much. She raised 11 children with me as the oldest and we were lucky to have her in our lives. When she finally decided to go to a doctor and have a physical, they discovered that she had leukemia, the incurable kind. She passed away 10 days later, she was only 46. She was the most important person in my life and her death hit me very hard. I stayed home for 3 months - I was already in the US at the time - and refused to see anybody. Finally, I opened the door to my Parish priest and he convinced me that my mother would want me to go on living. My brother Giuseppe was so attached to her that he nearly died himself. She came to him in a dream and gave him some numbers to play on the Lottery and he won. That's how they were able to pay her doctors and hospital bills. My family was very poor. I don't know if anybody believed this story but there was no other explanation for the money. Faith and love works in mysterious way. Mamma may you rest in peace! ~ **Maria Nicholson**

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



**May 12th – Tombola Lesson**



**May 21st - General Meeting**



**May 26th – Pasta & Bingo**

