



# Amici d'Italia

## Lodge 2791

### Jacksonville, Florida

Volume 2 - Issue 14

#### OFFICERS

President : *Annette Guarino*  
 Vice President: *Dominic Addeo*  
 Past President: *Mark Gregorio*  
 Orator: *Bob Sussan*  
 Recording Secretary : *Cathy DiTrapani*  
 Financial Secretary: *Dominick Sorrentino*  
 Treasurer: *Annie Sheen*  
 Trustees: *Sal Santapola*  
           *De Santapola*  
           *Mo Cooper*  
           *Joe Pecorella*  
           *Jack Cosentino*  
 Guard: *Donna Addeo*  
 Grand Lodge Trustee: *Fran Bosi*  
 Grand Lodge 2nd VP: *Mark Gregorio*  
 Chaplain: *Carmen Roman*  
 Founder: *Alba Rapisarda Renninger*

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## The Amici Newsletter

### May 2025

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT....

Our April General Meeting was our Scholarship Dinner. What a pleasure to meet our recipients and their families and hear them read their essays. The Lodge is most proud of the work of the Committee and of our two scholarship recipients: Jack Liuzzo of Bishop Kenny High School (Duval) and Kate Vitori, of Fernandina Beach High School (Nassau).

Our May meeting will honor our Mothers and Aunts and Sisters and Daughters. We will also have a special presentation of our up and running website: [ItaliainJax.org](http://ItaliainJax.org). And since May is the month of honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we will recognize all our veterans in our Lodge.

We are continuing to Promote our shared culture, Preserve the best of our heritage and Protect our reputation through our Committee on Social Justice. We have so much of which to be proud.

Avanti,

Annette



## ABOUT US



The Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® (OSDIA) is the largest and oldest national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States. Founded in 1905 as a mutual aid society for early Italian immigrants, today OSDIA has thousands of family members located in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, making it the leading service and advocacy organization for the nation’s estimated 26 million people of Italian descent. Our missions include encouraging the study of Italian language and culture in American schools and universities; preserving Italian American traditions, culture, history and heritage; and promoting closer cultural relations between the United States and Italy.



### May Birthdays



- 3 Gina Mielech
- 5 Frank Rinaldi
- 8 Mary Wright
- 21 Maria Gregorio



**L/r Jack Liuzzo Bishop Kenny High School and  
Kate Vitori Fernandina Beach High School.  
Congratulations, Winners of \$1 000 Scholarship.**

*Wishing you a Speedy Recovery after  
your Surgery Get Well Soon  
Marilyn Sussan and praying for Jack Cosentino  
scheduled for Surgery on May 22nd.  
We lift up in prayer Mario & Lucy Cortese,  
grieving the loss of his brother Giovanni Cortese,  
and Nancy Perrone, mourning the passing of her  
beloved sister, Christie McGuire.  
May God Bless them with Eternal Peace.*

“O Lord, you give me light; you  
dispel my darkness.”  
Psalm 118:28



# The Amici Newsletter Lodge 2791 May 2025

## Information, Activities and Updates

### Meetings

### Mailing Address Contact Information



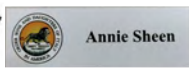
- Council meets 1st Tuesday of the month.
- Lodge meets the 3rd Friday of the month at 6:30pm at *Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church 7860 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville Florida 32256. **Next Meeting May 16, 2025***
- Mail address: *Amici D'Italia Lodge 2791 PO Box 8985 Jacksonville, FL 32239-8985*
- President: *Annette Guarino email annette57@aol.com phone 914-548-7821*
- Newsletter: *Sal Santapola email saldesanta@gmail.com phone 904-887-8758*
- Compassion: *Georgianne Pionessa email ajp19@comcast.net phone 904-727-7112.*
- Webmaster: [www.italiainjax.org](http://www.italiainjax.org) Giancarlo Zepeda email [support@pendabrytemetal.com](mailto:support@pendabrytemetal.com)



The book club meets periodically at 6:30pm. New location and date will be announced.  
 Book Discussion: *Playing for Pizza*, a Novel by John Grisham  
 Chair Leader Cheryl Callavini 904-744-1779  
 RSVP to attend 904-866-8527



### Golf Shirt/Name Tag



Golf Shirt - Cost \$25 - Name Tags Cost is \$13  
 Contact Annie Sheen for Golf Shirt or Name Tags. [Anniesheen@comcast.net](mailto:Anniesheen@comcast.net)  
 Italian Heritage Cook Book - \$20 - Purchase at the general meeting.

### Scholarship



**Scholarships - Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America**  
 National Leadership Grants – General Information Through the Sons of Italy Foundation® (SIF), and tens of thousands of family members located in all fifty states and the District of Columbia, the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America® (OSDIA) has awarded tens of millions of dollars in scholarships to date. The Foundation is excited to support more talented youth to achieve their dreams. Scholarship applications for next year: Go to web page - [www.osdia.org/scholarships/](http://www.osdia.org/scholarships/)

### Committees



We continue to reach out for volunteers to assist on each committee which are the following: **Fraternity, Philanthropy, Membership, Culture, Finance & Communications.**  
 Committees established and are on going are: Fraternity, Finance, Philanthropy (Charities & Scholarship). Contact Sal Santapola @ [saldesanta@gmail.com](mailto:saldesanta@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

### Night out Social Vito's Pizza

Thursday May 22, 6pm

Members, Families & Friends enjoying a delicious meal of Stuff Shells on April 25, Friday at our Annual Frank Purpura Memorial Scholarship Dinner & Celebration.



Save the Date

Salvare La data

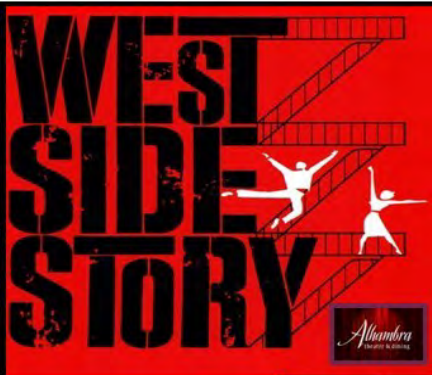
- May 6 Council Meeting 6:30pm
- May 16 General Meeting 6:30pm
- May 22 Restaurant Social Vito's Pizza 1531 Monument Rd Ste 7 - 6pm
- May 20 - Meeting at IAC 6:00pm - NCL Cruise Rep Presentation 9 Day Cruise (page 6)
- July 19 Tea Party at IAC - Additional details to follow
- October 4 Bocce at IAC - Stay tuned for more information
- December 7 Annual Holiday Brunch at Hidden Hills Golf Club



# The Amici Newsletter Lodge 2791 May 2025



On Saturday March 29, members from OSDIA, IAC, Family & Friends a total of 72, enjoyed the performance of the West Side Story.





# The Amici Newsletter Lodge 2791 May 2025

## April 25, 2025 Friday, Our Annual Frank Purpura Memorial Scholarship Dinner and Celebration



Winner of \$1000 Scholarship Award Kate Vitori with her family, I/r Annette Guarino President, Scholarship Committee, Carmen Roman and Robert Reggio. Not in the photo are other committee members, Josephine Burgio and Lucy Cortese. Photo on the right is Winner of \$1000 Scholarship Award Jack Liuzzo with his family.



JOIN US TUESDAY MAY 20TH, AT ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB 6PM LOCATED AT 2838 WESTBURY RD. JAX 32223, FOR PRESENTATION BY NCL REPRESENTATIVE. LIGHT FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE SERVED.

**9 DAYS 10 PORTS GREEK ISLES, ATHENS, MYKONOS & CROATIA**  
**CRUISE ON NORWEIGIAN VIVA - SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 - OCTOBER 5, 2026**

Ports start in Istanbul Turkey, Kusadasi Turkey, Mkonos Greece, Athens (Pireaus) Greece, Olympia (Katakolon) Greece, Corfu, Greece, Dubrovnik Croatia, Kotor Montenegro, Split Croatia

Disenbark Ravenna Italy (Venice Italy)

**SPECIAL PRE-BOOK PROMOTION FOR 2 IN A CABIN**

**TIMING - April 4, 2025 - May 23, 2025**

**\*HOLDING SPACE FOR 16 INSIDE CABINS (IB)**

Cost - \$2,189.67 per person \$4,379.34 for 2  
 Plus 2 Perks & \$100 on board credit per cabin

**\*HOLDING SPACE FOR 25 BALCONY CABINS (BB)**

Cost \$2,720.27 per person \$5,440.54 for 2  
 Plus 4 Perks & \$100 on board credit per cabin

**Studio For One Person \$3,782.62**

**Plus 2 Perks**

**Price Subject to change until booked**

*10% Military Discounts & 5% Teachers discounts can be addressed/added as club members book*

**All Price quoted above includes, cruise, port charges and taxes.**

**DEPOSIT \$125 PER PERSON DUE ON / BEFORE MAY 23, 2025 (AFTER THIS DATE PRICING/AVILABILITY SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

**Perks are: Package A** - Unlimited Open Bar, Specialty Dining for Balcony 4 dinners, Inside Cabin Dinning 2 dinners, \$50 Shore Excursion Discount 1 tour per port passenger 1 in cabin & 150 minutes of Wifi per person

**Package B** \$50 Shore Excursion Credit 1 tour per port, 150 minutes of Wifi per person, 10 photo package for the cabin plus \$100 shipboard credit for the cabin

**NOTE - All other expenses are additional: Airfare, Transfers, pre/post hotels, Trip insurance, Beverage Gratuity, Dining Gratuity and prepaid Gratuities for the crew onboard.**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE ON OR BEFORE MAY 15, 2026**

To book contact **Suzanne Fisher at 904-260-3401 ext. #251**. She need names as they are read on your passports and dates of birth. Make sure you let Suzanne know if you have an NCL latitudes number and if you sailed with NCL previously. **The cabins must have 2 people to get that price.** Any questions Suzanne will be happy to help.



11571 San Jose Blvd., Unit 2 Jacksonville, FL 32223

Contact Suzanne @ 904-260-3401 ext #251 Hours: M-F 9am – 5pm





**Amici D'Italia  
Lodge 2791**  
ORDER  
Sons and Daughters of Italy  
IN AMERICA

Our New  
Website is Live  
[www.italiainjax.org](http://www.italiainjax.org)

## Our New Website is Live! Visit [www.italiainjax.org](http://www.italiainjax.org)

We're excited to announce the official launch of Amici d'Italia's brand-new website: [www.italiainjax.org](http://www.italiainjax.org)!

This site is designed to be a central hub for all things Amici — a place to stay updated on events, browse photos, learn about our history, and stay connected with fellow members.

### Here's how you can get involved:

#### Send Us Your Feedback & Suggestions

We'd love to hear your thoughts! If you have ideas for features, pages, or content you'd like to see, please let us know. This is *your* club website — help us make it great.

#### Add Your Profile Picture & Bio

Members can now create an account and, if they choose, add a profile photo and short bio. This will appear in our **private Member Directory**, viewable **only to logged-in members** to ensure everyone's privacy.

To submit your info, just visit the **Contact page** on the website and upload your photo and a few details about yourself.

*Don't worry about formatting or writing style — just send the basics, and we'll take care of the rest!*

#### Spread the Word

Share the link with friends and family who might be interested in our community. Whether they're curious about Italian culture, local events, or just good food and company, everyone is welcome.

Visit us today at [www.italiainjax.org](http://www.italiainjax.org) and help us bring Amici d'Italia to life online!

*Grazie mille!*

Giancarlo Zepeda  
Communications, Amici d'Italia | Lodge #2791



## President Trump Pledges Renewed Support For Columbus Day

We are deeply grateful for the recent statement pledging support for Columbus Day and the Italian American community from President Trump.

In a Truth Social post earlier this week, President Trump announced he will be *"bringing Columbus Day back from the ashes,"* and that he is *"hereby reinstating Columbus Day under the same rules, dates, and locations, as it has had for all of the many decades before!"*

This recognition is profoundly symbolic for the Italian American community, as it acknowledges the significant contributions we have made to the nation. Columbus Day holds special importance to Italian Americans, as it represents not only our history, but also the resilience of our community in the face of anti-Italian American discrimination.

OSDIA looks forward to continuing to build strong relationships with the United States government, and advancing the interests of our community.





**May/June**  
**2025**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <b>Council Meeting 6:30pm</b>	7	8	9	10
11 <b>Mother's Day</b>	12	13	14	15	16 <b>General Meeting 6:30pm</b>	17
18	19	20	21	22 <b>Vito's Restaurant Social 6:00pm</b>	23	24
25	26 <b>Memorial Day</b>	27	28	29	30	31
<b>1 June</b>	2	3 <b>Council Meeting 6:30pm</b>	4	5	6	7

**BUONA FESTA  
DELLA MAMMA!**

[ Happy Mother's Day! ]