



# Amici d'Italia

## Lodge 2791

### Jacksonville, Florida

Volume 3 - Issue 25

#### OFFICERS

President : *Dominic (Dom) Addeo*  
 Vice President: *Mark Gregorio*  
 Communications: *Sal Santapola*  
 Recording Secretary : *Donna Auger*  
 Orator: *Mo Cooper*  
 Financial Secretary: *Dominick Sorrentino*  
 Treasurer: *Annie Sheen*  
 Immediate Past President: *Annette Guarino*  
 Trustees: *Jennifer Burroughs*  
           *Jack Cosentino*  
           *Mathilde Genovese*  
           *Kathy Guillano*  
           *Joe Pecorella*  
           *De Santapola*  
           *Mary Wright*  
 Mistress of Ceremonies: *Margie Rimmer*  
 Guard/Sentinel: *Donna Addeo*  
 Founder: *Alba Rapisarda Renninger*  
 Chaplain: *Carmen Gonzalez Roman*

#### April 2026 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page	
2	- About Us - April Birthdays - Pray List
2	- Scholarship Program
3	- Contacts - Shirts/Name Tags/Cook Book
3	- Committees - Restaurant Social
4	- General Meeting March 20, 2026
5	- New Officers—2026-2027
6	- Easter in Italy
7	- Spotlight on Members - Dom Addeo
8	- Italy Land Tour
9	- Calendar /Happy Easter

## The Amici Newsletter

### April 2026

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Cari amici ~

I hope you all had a joyous, peaceful, and blessed Easter.

In March, I was honored and humbled to be installed as president with the newest council of our OSDIA Lodge here in Jacksonville, Florida. [Congratulations](#) to my fellow council members. I am proud to serve with you as we endeavor to build on the successes of the previous councils and members.

When my lovely wife, Donna, and I joined the lodge in 2021, we were struck by the sense of belonging and camaraderie among the members, most of whom had belonged to the lodge for many years. We felt at home. Since then, membership has grown more than four times in number. As such, one of our challenges will be to foster that same camaraderie and “belonging” among all members. We intend to meet this challenge head on.

In the coming weeks and months, we intend to expand outreach, to establish committees chaired and run by members, and to generate activities and programs based on your suggestions and proposals. A few of you have already reached out to me with some ideas – and I welcome this. The best way for your ideas to come to fruition is for you to actively join us in making things happen. It is your lodge, after all.

In closing, I want to thank my predecessor, Immediate Past President, Annette Guarino, for her tireless efforts to grow the lodge, to expand its reach, and to honor our shared Italian heritage. Likewise, I thank the previous presidents and councils for their efforts in giving us a fantastic OSDIA Lodge.

Lastly, I thank you for your trust in me and in this new council, and in giving us an opportunity to lead it forward.

Ciao, Dom Addeo

## 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.

*Please keep Chuck Perrone & Mary Wright in your thought and prayers as they continue their recovery in rehab. Please offer Prayers for Toni O'Connor as she was taken to the emergence room for health issues.*

Lord, you give me light; you dispel my darkness.  
Psalms 138:28



## April Birthdays

David Burroughs   Kathleen Guiliano   Joseph Pecorella   Margie Rimmer  
Phyllis Callaghan   Georgianne Pionessa   Nancy Rongstad   De Santapola



## OSDIA Scholarship Program – 2026

The Order of the Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) promotes and preserves Italian heritage through education and cultural programs. Each year, our local chapter awards **two scholarships** to high-school students of Italian descent who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement.

Students from public and private high schools in **Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, and Nassau** counties are eligible to apply. All applications are reviewed by the Scholarship Committee, with selections based on grades, activities, community service, and the required essay.

The 2026 review process was completed at the end of **March**, and we are proud to announce this year's recipients:

- ◆ **Avery Spisak** – Yulee High School, Yulee
- ◆ **Pamela Hernon** – Clay High School, Green Cove Springs

**Congratulations to both winners!** They will be recognized at the **April 24 OSDIA Dinner**. Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee for their dedication and hard work. Essays are available upon request.

For information about next year's scholarship program, visit [www.osdia.org/scholarships/](http://www.osdia.org/scholarships/) or contact Scholarship Chair **Carmen Roman** at [cir7331@gmail.com](mailto:cir7331@gmail.com).



## 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, Jax Fl. Friday April 24, at 6:30pm*
- Mail address: Amici D'Italia Lodge 2791 PO Box 8985 Jacksonville, FL 32239-8985
- President: Dom Addeo email [domaddeo@gmail.com](mailto:domaddeo@gmail.com) phone 732-331-7196
- Newsletter: Sal Santapola email [saldesanta@gmail.com](mailto:saldesanta@gmail.com) phone 904-887-8758
- Compassion: Georgianne Pionessa email [ajp19@comcast.net](mailto: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. Meeting at Toni O'Connor's home 12234 Spiney Ridge Drive South Jacksonville, FL 32225. **Next meeting Thursday April 9th at 6:30pm is (cancelled) and will be rescheduled.**

Book Discussion: Loyalty by Lisa Scottoline.  
Chair Leader Cheryl Callavini 904-744-1779

### 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 - \$15 - 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. For more information, read page 2.

### 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.

### Restaurant Social

Cucinella's Restaurant  
Thursday, April 30, 6pm



Join us for food and fellowship at Cucinella's Restaurant 8116 Old Kings Rd S. on Thursday, April 30th at 6pm. Their food and service was excellent on our last visit. Phone (904) 675-1500  
Website: <https://www.cucinellasbrickovenpizza.com>

### Members Enjoyed

Social at  
Maggiano's  
Little Italy on  
March 26



We had a great turnout at Maggiano's Little Italy on Thursday, March 26, with twenty four members and friends enjoying good company and delicious Italian favorites.

Save the Date

Salvar La data

4/7/25 Council Meeting

4/24/25 General Meeting 6pm

4/ 30 /25 Restaurant Social Cucinella's Pizza 6pm



## March 20, 2026 FRIDAY GENERAL MEETING Celebrating St Joseph's Day and Installation of New Officers



Members Celebrating St. Joseph's Day



Decorations on the Tables



St. Joseph's Table



Pres. Dom Addeo & Past Pres. Annette Guarino



Newly Elected Officers — Full list on page 5



## OSDIA Lodge 2791 – Officers for 2026–2027

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<b>Vice President:</b>	Mark Gregorio
<b>Communications:</b>	Sal Santapola
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Donna Auger
<b>Orator:</b>	Mo Cooper
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Dominick Sorrentino
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Annie Sheen
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Annette Guarino
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	Jack Consentino
	Mathilde Genovese
	Kathy Guiliano
	Joe Pecorella
	De Santapola
	Mary Wright
<b>Mistress of Ceremonies:</b>	Margie Rimmer
<b>Guad/Sentinel:</b>	Donna Addeo
<b>Founder:</b>	Alba Renninger
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Carmen Gonzalez Roman

## **With Appreciation and Warm Wishes**

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Past President **Annette Guarino** and the Council who served with her over the past two years. Their dedication, teamwork, and steady leadership have strengthened our Lodge and supported every member.

We also welcome our new President, **Dom Addeo**, as he begins his term. We look forward to a year of fellowship, service, and continued growth within our Lodge community.



## Easter: How does Italy celebrate this festivity?

Source - <https://www.ellci.net/easter-how-does-italy-celebrate-this-festivity/>

Easter is one of the most important holidays of the year in Italy, it marks the beginning of warm-season and outdoor activities. Popular festivals, village festivals, concerts, religious rites and processions are just some of the events organized during this period.

The Easter date is variable since it coincides with the Sunday following the spring full moon. According to this rule, it is said that Easter is low if it falls from 22 March to 2 April, average from 3 to 13 April, high from 14 to 25 April.

How does Italy celebrate Easter? From north to south, especially the Good Friday Passion has inspired numerous and heartfelt rituals that include processions, re-enactments and staging.

### Find out how Italy celebrates Easter

The celebrations of Easter begin the previous Sunday, to remember the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, which was welcomed by the waving of palm leaves. On this day it is not uncommon to see families and children returning home with olive branches blessed in the church (in the absence of palm trees). Thus begins the Holy Week during which various rites are held. Thursday remembers the recurrence of the Last Supper and of the “Eucharistic celebration”.

Good Friday is the day of *Via Crucis*: the streets light up with torches and are crossed by processions that retrace the process, the ordeal and the death of Jesus.

On Saturday at midnight, the bells announce the Resurrection. Sunday is the most important day, Lent, the long period of fasting, is over: colorful eggs, dove-shaped cakes and chocolate eggs are distributed. The egg, symbol of life that renews itself and hopes for fruitfulness, is connected to the meaning of Easter as the feast of spring and the awakening of nature.

In Italy, the so-called Monday of the Angel -Easter Monday – Little Easter or *Pasquetta* – is the last day of celebration. It remembers the meeting of the winged messenger with the women who came to the empty tomb. It became a public holiday in the national calendar only after World War II, to prolong the spring break. Since then the use of out-of-town and open-air excursions has spread.

This year Easter celebration is April 5th. Those who stay or visit Italy are spoiled for choice among the many traditions and costumes that can be admired in every city and village.

### But what makes Easter so distinctive in every city of Italy?

In **Bormio**, we find the tradition of the Pasquali: the parade of allegorical floats adorned with flowers and moss brought by young people in traditional costume.

In the center-north, we find instead Easter celebrations whose protagonist is the egg: the **Sagra and the Palio dell'uovo in Trezzano** with games, battles and parades of allegorical floats.

The dove is the protagonist of the famous celebration of the Scoppio del Carro in Florence, which dates back to the time of the first crusade. On Easter Sunday a mechanical dove hits a cart in front of the Duomo of Florence, thus lighting the fireworks contained in the cart.

**Sicily** is rich in ancient local rituals and customs where **masked characters parade** through the streets of the cities. Among the most suggestive we find the **Real maestranza** in Caltanissetta which dates back to the Spanish domination, the procession of the **Mysteries in Trapani** and the celebrations in Prizzi and Adrano, an eighteenth-century tradition handed down from father to son.

Finally, not to be missed in **Rome**, the evocative Via Crucis of the Pope that reaches the **Colosseum**.

## Member Spotlight

Dom Addeo



I was born in Brooklyn, NY, to parents of Italian descent. My grandparents were immigrants and first-generation Americans, spanning the waves of Italian immigration from the late 1800's and on, from Italy or indirectly from Brazil. Yet they all shared a loyalty to America and a deep pride in being Americans. My paternal grandfather, after whom I am named, and two uncles (one on each side of the family), served in the US Army.

My family appreciated and honored their Italian heritage, mostly through art, music and of course, cuisine. Holidays were a wondrous mix of some of the best southern and central Italian traditions and recipes with the best of American. Naturally, we celebrated the Feast of the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve, which usually exceeded seven varieties and lasted for hours. Baking and cooking were as much an art form as the professional artistry of many in my family, including my father.

When I was just about 13, my parents moved us to Freehold, NJ in the center of historic Monmouth County, surrounded by suburban homes, orchards, and horse farms. It was for me both cultural and social upheaval. Luckily, it was the home of my future wife and best friend, Donna, whom I met a few years later while working at a now defunct department store. This October we will be married forty-five (45) years.

We have always loved coming to Florida (even separately as kids with our respective families). So, in 2011, after leaving Merrill Lynch with more than 25 years, we sold our home in Freehold, NJ and moved full time to Amelia Island. We have since lived in several places in Florida, the longest being in our current home in Jax, Southside. We love the variety that Duval, Nassau, and Saint John's counties offer in activities, culture, etc., and do not intend to leave the area (even as we frequently travel).

We are blessed with three sons, Stephen (who still lives in NJ in spite of our coaxing), James (who lives in Saint Augustine), Mathew (who lives with us), two lovely daughters in law, and four wonderful grandchildren whom we do not see often enough.

Lastly, with nearly forty years of leadership experience at prominent financial services firms, I currently serve as an SVP, Director for First Citizens Bank, headquartered in Raleigh, NC., where I oversee BSA, AML & Sanctions models and platforms, Financial Crimes MIS reporting, and merger & acquisition initiatives in the Compliance realm.

## SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERS

Each month OSDIA will feature **two members**: one sharing their professional life and accomplishments and one sharing their personal or family story and interests. Help us get to know each other—volunteer or nominate a member for the March issue.

### Name

- **Spotlight type:** Professional / Personal
- **Work profession:** title & employer
- **Family background:** one line (origins, heritage, or notable story)
- **Short bio:** 50–75 words (career highlights or personal story)
- **Photo:** optional
- **Contact email**
- **Preferred month:** optional



## Tuscan & Umbrian Countryside

with Optional 2-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

with Optional 2-Night Famous Food and Ferrari: Emilia Region Post Tour Extension

**April 3 – 13, 2027**



Book with  
Airfare Now  
& Save  
**\$350**  
Per Person

Upgrade to Elite Airfare! See inside for details.



For more information contact  
Suzanne Fisher  
Cruise Center World Travel  
**(904) 260-3401 Ext 251**  
[suzanne@cruisecenterjax.com](mailto:suzanne@cruisecenterjax.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK ON THE LINK**

<https://tinyurl.com/bdh9s4b5>



**April/May**  
**2026**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Holy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4 Easter Vigil
5 Easter Sunday	6	7 Council Meeting 6:30pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 General Meeting 6:30pm	25
26	27	28	29	30 Cucinella's Pizza 6pm	1	2
3	4	5 Council Meeting 6:30pm	6	7	8	9

*Happy Easter.....*

*Buona Pasqua*

*....may Love, peace, and Happiness be your constant companion all the days of your life....*

*....for all my friends and family, ...den*



*...den*