



Amici d'Italia

Lodge 2791 Jacksonville, Florida

Volume 3 - Issue 26

The Amici Newsletter May 2026

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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Cari amici ~

In April we had a successful General Meeting during which we presented this year's Lodge Scholarship Awards to Avery Spisak and Pamela Hernon, two deserving young women, who wrote eloquently of our shared Italian Culture versus the often unrealistic and prejudicial depictions of Italians in film and literature. Well done. We also welcomed and swore in a new member, Nicholas Kohlerman. Lastly, we celebrated with an outstanding Italian dinner courtesy of Annette, Cynthia, Jacqueline, and Moe. Thank you to all who volunteered in setting up, facilitating dinner, and cleaning up the church at the end of the evening

As we begin May we have much to look forward to throughout the month; please see "Save the Date" for the list of May activities. Most notable, we are honored to have our Lieutenant Governor, Jay Collins, a decorated veteran, at the General Meeting on May 15th, who will help us commemorate Memorial Day and to remember our deceased veterans.

Lastly, I would like to thank Carmen Roman for her service to the Lodge in chairing and leading the Scholarship Committee and for being our excellent Chaplain. I also thank Tim Wright, who has agreed to again be the Chair of the Scholarship Committee.

At this time we are in need of a Chaplain. Please contact me or one of the Lodge Council Members if you are interested. Note that perfection isn't required.

Grazie e ciao,
Dom.



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 Mary Wright in your thought and prayers as she continues her recovery in rehab.

Mass scheduled for Decease Members is **Saturday September 12, 2026 4pm** at Christ the King Catholic Church 742 Arlington Road North Jacksonville, FL 32211
dispel my darkness Psalm 138:28



May Birthdays



Maria Gregorio

Barbara Turley

Mary Wright



L/R: Avery Spisak, Yulee High School (Yulee), and Pamela Herson, Clay High School (Green Cove Springs).
Congratulations to both on receiving the \$2,000 scholarship.



The Amici Newsletter Lodge 2791 May 2026

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 May 15, at 6:30pm*
- Mail address: *Amici D'Italia Lodge 2791 PO Box 8985 Jacksonville, FL 32239-8985*
- President: *Dom Addeo email domaddeo@gmail.com phone 732-331-7196*
- 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 Giancarlo Zepeda email 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 May 7, at 6:30pm.**
Book Discussion: *Loyalty* by Lisa Scottoline.
Chair Leader Cheryl Callavini 904-744-1779
RSVP to attend as this is a gated community call or text Toni at 732-272-3910

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
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 about next year's scholarship program visit 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 if you are interested in volunteering.

Members Enjoyed Social Cucinella's Restaurant April 28



We had a good attendance at Cucinella's. The members enjoyed the food & fellowship.



Restaurant Social Daruma Japanese Steak House Thursday, May 21, 6pm



Join us for food and fellowship at Daruma's Japanese Steak House 13799 Beach Blvd on Thursday, May 21 at 6pm.
Phone (904) 821-9817 Website: darumasteakhouse.com

Save the Date

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- 5/3 Council Meeting 6:30pm
- 5/7 Book Club Meeting 6:30pm
- 5/15 General Meeting 6:30pm
- 5/21 Restaurant Social Daruma Japanese Steak House 6pm
- 5/30 Coffee Social at Happy Brew 10am



April 24, 2026 FRIDAY GENERAL MEETING Scholarship Awards



L-r: Dom Addeo, President, Scholarship Committee; Carmen Roman; \$2,000 Scholarship Award recipients Pamela Herson and Avery Spisak; Vice President Mark Guarino; and Robert Roggio, Scholarship Committee.



L-r: Welcome to our new member, Nicholas Kohlerman, with President Dom Addeo.



An excellent turnout for the Scholarship Program, with members enjoying time together and sharing a wonderful meal.



OSDIA Lodge 2791 – Special Announcement

OSDIA Lodge 2791 is pleased to announce that **Florida State Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins** will be our **Guest Speaker** at the **May 15th General Meeting**.



This meeting will include our **Memorial Day commemoration**, during which we honor and remember our **deceased veterans**.

We will also be hosting our **Traditional Dinner**, provided by the Lodge. The event is open to **members and guests**, who are warmly welcomed to join us for this special evening.

Jay Collins is a decorated U.S. Army Special Forces veteran who served more than 20 years as a Green Beret, deploying to Afghanistan, Iraq, and South America. After being wounded in combat and later undergoing amputation, he requalified and returned to full active-duty service — a testament to his resilience and leadership. Today, he serves as Florida's Lieutenant Governor, continuing his lifelong commitment to service, veterans, and the people of Florida.



Memorial Day Commemoration

Honoring and remembering our deceased veterans.



- ◆ **Date:** Friday, May 15th
- ◆ **Time:** 6:30pm
- ◆ **Location:** Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church
7860 Southside Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32256
- ◆ **Open to:** Members and Guests
- ◆ **Traditional Dinner:** Provided by the Lodge

Admission:

- ◆ Members: \$10
- ◆ Guests \$14

RSVP to: Annie Sheen, Treasurer Email: Anniesheen@comcast.net



Italy's May Flower Festivals (Infiorata)

Each May, several Italian towns transform their streets into breathtaking carpets of flower petals. These *Infiorata* festivals are among Italy's most colorful and beloved spring traditions. Here are the key locations and dates you can highlight — perfect for pairing with beautiful photos.

Spello, Umbria

Infiorata di Spello Date: Usually the last Sunday in May (varies slightly each year) **Why it's special:** Spello is considered the most famous Infiorata in Italy. Volunteers work overnight to create long, intricate floral carpets through the medieval streets.



Infiorata di Spello — Streets become vivid paintings made entirely from flower petals, marking one of Italy's most celebrated floral traditions.



Noto, Sicily

Infiorata di Noto — Third Weekend of May Noto's baroque architecture provides a dramatic backdrop for massive floral murals along Via Nicolaci. One of Italy's most photographed spring events.

Genzano di Roma, Lazio

Infiorata di Genzano — Late May One of Italy's oldest Infiorata festivals, dating back over 200 years. The entire Via Italo Belardi becomes a vibrant floral tapestry.



Cannara, Umbria

Infiorata di Cannara — Late May Known for creative designs using petals, seeds, herbs, and natural materials, giving the artwork unique texture and depth.

Bolsena, Lazio

Infiorata di Bolsena — Late May A lakeside town where floral carpets wind through the historic center, blending natural beauty with tradition.



"Infiorata di Bolsena — A colorful floral carpet lining the streets during the Corpus Domini celebration."



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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK ON THE LINK

<https://tinyurl.com/bdh9s4b5>



Gelato Museum in Bologna, Italy



May/June
2026



Lamborghini Car Museum
In Bologna, Italy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Council Meeting 6:30pm	6	7 Book Club Meeting 6:30pm	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15 General Meeting 6:30pm	16
17	18	19	20	21 Daruma Japanese Steak House 6pm	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30 Coffee Social 10am Happy Brew
31	1	2 Council Meeting 6:30pm	3	4	5	6



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

Deadline for June - May 25 — please send submissions early to allow editing and layout. **Send submissions to:**

Giancarlo Zepeda — support@pendabrytemetal.com

