Amici d'Italia

Lodge 2791
Jacksonville, Florida

The Amici Newsletter

November 2026

Volume 3 - Issue 32

OFFICERS

President : *Dom Addeo*
Vice President: *Mark Gregorio*
Communications: *Sal Santapola*
Recording Secretary: *Donna Auger*
Orator: *Moe Cooper*
Financial Secretary: *Dominick Sorrentino*
Treasurer: *Annie Sheen*
Immediate Past President: *Annette Guarino*
Trustees: *Jennifer Burroughs*
Jack Cosentino
Joe Pecorella
De Santapola
Mary Wright
Mistress of Ceremonies: *Margie Rimmer*
Guard/Sentinel: *Donna Addeo*
Founder: *Alba Rapisarda Renninger*
Chaplain: *Marie Meltzer*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT…

Cari amici -

November marks the deepening of autumn and the celebration of Thanksgiving. In North America, Thanksgiving "is rooted in English traditions dating from the Protestant Reformation. It also has aspects of a harvest festival, even though the harvest in New England occurs well before the late-November date on which the modern Thanksgiving holiday is celebrated in the United States."

But it is also said to be the one truly nondenominational holiday that can be celebrated by all Americans of all backgrounds, which is focused on giving thanks for the abundance with which we are blessed.

As we plan and prepare for Thanksgiving this year, I thank all of our members who have enriched our Lodge throughout the years, and those who continue to provide support and to contribute in any way. And I particularly thank the Council and the Committee members whose commitment and participation is vital to the Lodge's future.

Thank you , and may you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Grazie e ciao,

Dom

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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 Dominick Sorrentino in your prayers as he receives care for his health concerns.

November Birthdays

Robert Guiliano	Lynda Tabone
Gregg Heffelfiner	Cheri Terrill
Nancy Horton	

OSDIA Scholarship Raffle



Thank you to everyone who has turned in their books so far. The raffle runs until **December 13**, and your participation helps grow our scholarship funds throughout the year. **Prizes:** $1,000 • $350 • $150 **Tickets:** $3 each • Buy 5, get 1 free.Please return raffle funds and completed books at our general meetings or mail if you can't attend. Mail to:Amici D'ltalia Lodge 2791 PO Box 8985 Jacksonville, FL 32239-8985.

We have about 6 weeks to reach our goals. **We encourage these members that have not returned raffle books**. Your participation is greatly appreciated to support the scholarship program.

Goal:$5,800

Received:$2211– 38%

Thank you or your support.

Raffle Fund Raising Team
Sal Sanapola • Vito DiTrapani • Moe Cooper

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Information, Activities and Updates

Meetings Mailing Address Contact Information





- **Council meets 1st Tuesday of the month • November 3, 6:30pm.**
- **Lodge meets the 3rd Friday of the month at 6:30pm** at Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church 7860 Southside Blvd, Jax Fl. **Next meeting: Friday November 20, 2026 at 6:30pm**
- **Mail address:** Amici D'Italia Lodge 2791 PO Box 8985 Jacksonville, FL 32239-8985
- **President:** Dom Addeo • domaddeo@gmail.com • 732-331-7196
- **Newsletter:** Sal Santapola • saldesanta@gmail.com • 904-887-8758
- **Compassion:** Georgianne Pionessa • ajp19@comcast.net • 904-727-7112.
- ***Webmaster:*** www.italiainjax.org • Giancarlo Zepeda • 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, November 12, at 6:30pm.**
Book Discussion: Mother's Day Book Club by Susan & James Patterson
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 $28 - 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



Lodge Committees

Fundraising • Communications & Publicity • General Meeting • Outside Programs • Scholarship • Charity • Cultural • Membership • Hospitality. **Committees needing volunteers:** General Meeting (set-up & take-down) • Cultural • Membership • Hospitality. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Sal Santapola at Saldesanta@gmail.com and he will direct you to the committee chair person.

Restaurant Social House Italian Cuisine Thursday September 24, 6pm



Members enjoying Dinner at House Italian





Restaurant Social Tratttoria Italiana Thursday October 22, 6pm



Thank you to all the members who joined us at Trattoria Italiana. The 10 members enjoyed the social, food and the music. This was our first time at this location.





11/3 Council Meeting 6:30pm
11/11 Veterans Day
11/12 Book Club Meeting 6:30pm
11/14 Happy Brew 10am -- Carmen Opera at 1pm & 6pm
11/20 General Meeting 6:30pm
11/26 Thanksgiving

October 16 General Meeting Highlights

Italian Heritage Month

At our general meeting we celebrated **Italian Heritage Month** with 43 members in attendance and a dinner of stuffed shells, salads and bread contributed by our team and members.

During the meeting, **Jacksonville City Council Member Chris Miller** presented **Resolution 2026-735-A,** recognizing the extraordinary contributions of Italian Americans to our nations history. culture, business and public service. The resolution honored our Lodge for preserving Italian traditions and heritage in Jacksonville.

We are deeply honored by this recognition and grateful to City Council Member Chris Miller for celebrating our Italian American community.Our heritage is more than out history - it's a legacy we proudly preserve and pass on to future generations!

We also welcomed **Shari Hoover** who delivered an excellent presentation on behalf of **One More Child**, sharing how the organization supports children and families in crisis throughout Florida. During the presentation the Lodge contributed a **$300 gift** along with diapers donated by members to help strengthen their outreach programs.



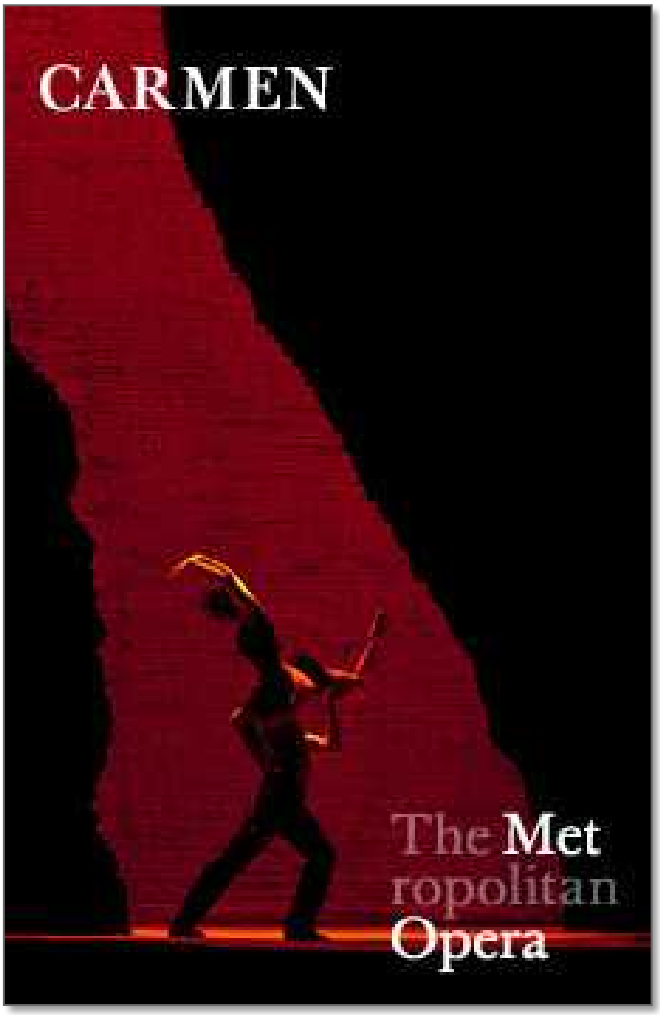
L/r Mark Gregorio Vice President, Annette Guarino past President, and City Council Member Chris Miller presenting the Resolution

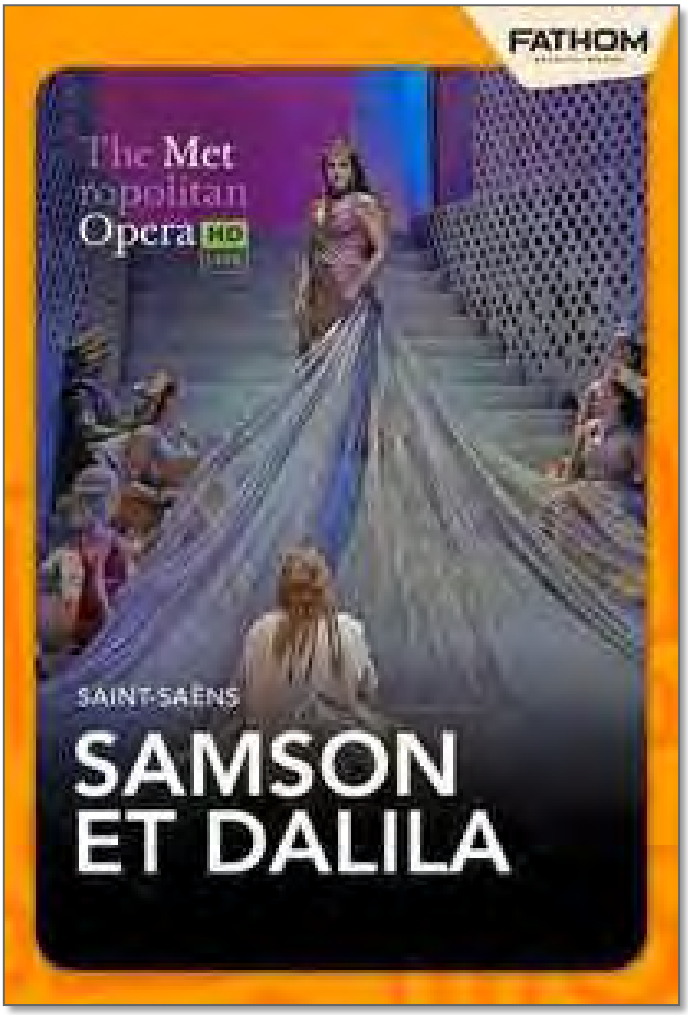


Founder Alba Renninger holding the Resolution



Shari Hoover speaks to the Lodge about One More Child





SAVE THE DATES! Join us at **Cinemark Tinseltown** for the **Metropolitan Opera**: *Carmen* **on Saturday, November 14**, and *Samson & Delila* **Saturday, December 5**, followed by enjoying food at **Jason's Deli** located near the theatre at **4375 Southside Blvd**. Many of you enjoyed last year's operas, and this year brings **three different productions**. Show times for all Operas are: 1pm and 6pm. If you are interested, contact **Annette Guarino** at 914-548-7821 or annette57@aol.com.







Annual Christmas Party

Hidden Hills County Club

3901 Monument Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

Sunday, December 13 • 1 pm - 5 pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Party at the beautiful Hidden Hills Country Club. Enjoy holiday fellowship, a festive meal, and the exciting Scholarship Raffle drawing later in the afternoon. We will also have 10 themed baskets available, with tickets sold during the event and winning tickets drawn at the party.

Holiday Buffet Menu

Entrées

- Meat Lasagna
- Chicken Piccata: Boneless Breast of Chicken with Lemon Butter Sauce with capers

Accompaniments

- Baby Garden Salad of Mixed Greens, Tomatoes, Onions, Cucumbers and Croutons with Ranch or Italian Dressing
- Garlic Mashed Potatoes
- Mixed Grilled Vegetables
- **Dessert** Cookies & Brownies, Cake by Host

Cheesy Garlic Bread & Butter, Coffee and Tea

Donation: $50 per member & $55 non-member

Pay by Check to OSDIA Contact Annie Sheen Email: Anniesheen@comcast.net

Checks can be mailed to: Annie Sheen, 1965 Lordun Ter. West Jax, FL 32207

Scholarship Raffle Drawing - 4pm

1st Prize:$1,000 • **2nd** $350 • **3rd** $150

Selling incentives: Top seller: $100 • Second Seller: $50



Calabria: Italy's Scenic Toe and Cultural Treasure





Calabria [Ca·la·bri·a) is the toe of Italy's boot and is a region in Southern Italy with incredible scenic beauty along the rugged Ionian, and Tyrrhenian seas, pristine beaches, and a substantial number of historical and archaeological sites. With almost two million residents across a total area of approximately 5,877 sq miles. Calabria has twelve cities and six provinces. It is one of the oldest regions of Italy with the first evidence of human presence in the region dating as far back as 700,000 years B.C. Over the centuries, various cultures, including Spanish, Arabic, and Normahave influenced the region's culture, language, and architecture.



It is the up-and-coming holiday destination in Italy. Calabria has been unaffected by mass tourism and remains developed. It has mountains, three national parks (Aspromonte, Pollino, and Sila), 500 miles of coastline, turquoise waters, and rolling, green hills lined with olive, orange, and lemon trees. Calabria is agriculturally rich, with Italy's second highest number of organic farmers after Sicily. Despite its small size and low population, Calabria is responsible for producing a third of all the olive oil products.

The clear blue waters of the Tyrrhenian and Ionian seas are among the cleanest in Europe and the sunsets are spectacular. The beaches rival those of the Caribbean.

For a livelier experience, look to the cities Reggio Calabria, Cosenza, and the regional capital, Catanzaro, which is centrally located and therefore ideal as a base for traveling around. Soverato on the east coast or Tropea on the west coast.





The town of **Tropea** is among the highlights of Calabria with a lovely cathedral and many shops selling traditional Calabrian pottery and agricultural products, bars, and scenic trattorias. There are stunning views across the Tyrrhenian to the **Stromboli volcano** and perched upon a rock at the foot of the town is the convent church of "Santa Maria dell' Isola" also known as the "Coast of the Gods" a fourth century monastery that is accessible only by climbing up a winding flight of steps carved directly into the cliffside. Nearby **Pizzo** and **Capo Vaticano** offer a wide choice of excellent beaches.



The food of Calabria is simple: pastas and vegetables, complemented by olive oil and sausages. It combines the various shapes of dried pasta like spaghetti or penne topped with colorful sauces made with tomatoes, eggplant, and peppers. Additionally include spicy dried salami or other sausages such as pork *sopressata* or smoked *capocollo* and*n'duija* (hot pepper and pork spread of Spilinga) and you sum up the cuisine of Calabria. All these ingredients frequently make their way into hearty soups. Unique to Calabria is the frequent use of pepperoncino (hot, hot pepper) in many dishes on the Calabrian table.

For more information got to: [The Highlights of Calabria (travelbroads.com](https://www.travelbroads.com)



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November/December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Council Meeting 6:30pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12 Book Club Meeting 6:30pm	13	14 Happy Brew 10am Carmen in Cinemas at Tinseltown 1pm & 6pm
15	16	17	18	19	20 General Meeting 6:30pm	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	1December Council Meeting 6:30pm	2	3	4	5 Samson & Delila in Cinemas at Tinseltown 1pm & 6pm



