



Amici d'Italia

Lodge 2791

Jacksonville, Florida

The Amici Newsletter

October 2026

Volume 3 - Issue 31

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

October 2026 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page

- 1 - President's Message
- 2 - About Us - October Birthdays
- 2 - Prayer List - Raffle
- 3 - Contacts - Shirts/Name Tags/Cook Book
- 3 - Committees - Restaurant Social
- 4 - General Meeting September 18, 2026
- 5 - Met Operas at Cinemark
- 6 - Christmas Party
- 7 - Italy in October
- 8 - Trieste, Italy
- 9 - Lodge #2780 St Augustine—Festa
- 9 One Moew Child/October Meeting
- 10 Festa Italian at IAC October 24, 2026
- 11 - Calendar / Website

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Cari amici ~

Thank you to everyone for making the September Amici d'Italia General Meeting a success; we appreciate your enthusiastic participation and your assistance. This meeting was particularly noteworthy as we hosted two representatives of the organization **Rethreaded**, which employs and provides support to victims of human trafficking (Florida ranks third in the USA in human trafficking). Thank you to all who supported the organization through purchases of their products.

In October, we celebrate and commemorate our Italian American Heritage and Italian history and culture. Jacksonville City Councilmember, Chris Miller, will once again be a guest of the Lodge, presenting the City's proclamation in recognition of the month and its special meaning at the October General Meeting.

October was chosen to coincide with Columbus Day (the second Monday in October), aligning with the historical arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas; it was established by Congress and signed into law on October 25, 1989.

The designation recognizes achievements across various fields, including art, science, military service, and politics. Notable contributions highlighted during the month include the Italian inspiration behind the name "America" (from Amerigo Vespucci) and the influence of Filippo Mazzei on the Declaration of Independence.

President George H.W. Bush issued the first proclamation, naming figures such as Fiorello La Guardia, Enrico Fermi, Paolo Soleri, and Joe DiMaggio as exemplars. Every president has since issued an annual proclamation, and Congress has repeatedly reaffirmed the designation.

In addition to celebrating our General Meeting, there are two local Italian Festas you can attend: one at the OSDIA Lodge in Saint Augustine, and the other at the Jacksonville Italian American Club in Mandarin. Both will be held on October 24th.

Just a reminder to refer to the Lodge Calendar in the newsletter for upcoming Lodge events. While evites are sent to members for most events, some activities entail a simple email, e.g., Operas at the Movie Theater and the visit /tour of the Humane Society facility. So the Lodge Calendar is your go-to for all Lodge events and activities. Lastly, if you have not been receiving evites or emails from the Lodge for any events, please notify Cathy DiTrapani at cditrapani228@gmail.com

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.



October Birthdays

Cheryl D'Angelo	Lisa Bisirri Levin
John D'Angelo	Christine Marano
Julie Franciskato	

OSDIA Scholarship Raffle

OSDIA Amici Di'Italia Lodge 2791
RAFFLE - DONATION
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
\$1500 IN CASH PRIZES
1st PRIZE \$1,000
2nd PRIZE \$350 - 3rd PRIZE \$150
 \$3 ea. 1 FREE W/5 - Book of 12 (\$36 Value) for \$30
 Date: Sunday December 13, 2026 - Raffle 4pm
 Hidden Hills Golf Club 3901 Monument Rd, Jax. FL 32225
 Winners need not be present. - All winners will be notified promptly.
 Must be 18 years or older to participate.
 Payment not Required to Win.
 Thank You For Your Support

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 Sold by _____

No. 1625

Our annual Scholarship Raffle is up and running. 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 **Turn In:** Please return raffle funds and completed books at our general meetings. We have 43 households that still haven't responded. Returns so far are: \$1668 -28.2%

Thank you for your support.

Goal: \$5,800

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

Received: \$1668 - 28.2%



The Amici Newsletter Lodge 2791 October 2026

Information, Activities and Updates

Meetings Mailing Address Contact Information



- Council meets 1st Tuesday of the month • **October 6, 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 October 16, 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



Join us for some good food and fellowship at
House Italian Cuisine
5230 Baymeadows Road - 904-717-9579
Jacksonville, FL 32217
<http://houseitaliancuisine.org>

Restaurant Social
Ciao Trattoria
Thursday
October 22, 6pm



Join us for another new Restaurant
Ciao Trattoria 4076 Belford Road
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904-575-9917
Ciaojaxfl.com



Salvar
La
data

10/3 Met Opera Cosi fan tutte at Tinseltown times for performances 1pm and 6pm
10/6 Council Meeting 6:30pm
10/16 General Meeting 6:30pm
10/17 Met Opera Macbeth at Tinseltown times for performances 1pm and 6pm
10/22 Restaurant Social 6pm Ciao Trattoria 6pm
10/24 Italian American Club Festa 11am—6pm
10/24 St Augustine OSDIA Lodge Festa 11am—6pm



September 18 General Meeting Highlights

Rethreaded—Restoring Hope Through Opportunity

Our September General Meeting welcomed more than fifty members for an evening that combined purpose, community, and outstanding lodge hospitality. The featured presentation was delivered by **Lisa Kiral**, who gave an exceptional overview of **Rethreaded** and its mission to support women rebuilding their lives after surviving human trafficking. Lisa explained how participants commit to a three to five year journey of healing, skill building, and employment before transitioning to independence — a message that deeply resonated with our members.

The meeting also included a **pop up display** supporting Rethreaded's work, where members purchased handcrafted items made by survivors. The display added a meaningful hands-on connection to the organization's mission.

In the kitchen, **Moe Cooper** prepared and cooked the lodge's signature meatball subs, creating a warm and welcoming meal for everyone in attendance.

Beyond the presentation, members expressed genuine appreciation for learning how Rethreaded transforms lives through stability, training, and long term support. Lisa's message highlighted the courage of the women who commit to the program and the impact of community partners like our lodge. The evening served as a reminder that even small acts — attending, listening, purchasing items, and spreading awareness — contribute to a mission that changes futures.



President Dom Addeo presenting check to Lisa Kiral



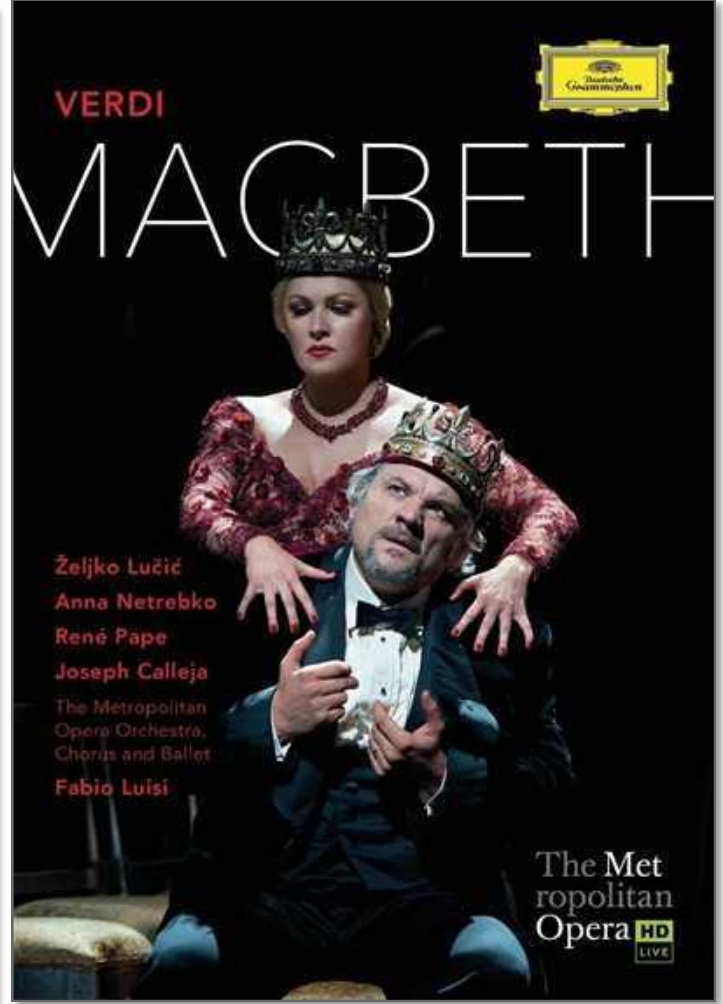
Lisa Kiral at display featuring items Members purchase in support



Members gathered for dinner while supporting the evening program



Moe Cooper prepares meatballs subs for the evening meal



SAVE THE DATES! Join us at **Cinemark Tinseltown** for the **Metropolitan Opera: *Così fan tutte* on Saturday, October 3**, and ***Macbeth* Saturday, October 17**, 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 Country 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



Italy in October 2026

Autumn Festivals, Food Traditions & Cultural Events

October is one of Italy's most vibrant months, filled with harvest celebrations, food festivals, cultural events, and seasonal traditions. From truffles and chestnuts to wine and chocolate, nearly every region hosts events that highlight the best of Italian autumn.

Alba White Truffle Fair — Piedmont

Weekends, October–November 2026 Italy's most famous truffle festival returns every weekend through October and November with markets, tastings, and chef demonstrations.

Sagra dell'Uva — Cupramontana (Marche)

October 1–4, 2026 One of Italy's oldest grape festivals featuring Verdicchio wine, parades, tastings, and live music.

Sagra dell'Uva — Marino (Rome)

October 2–4, 2026 Known for its "wine fountain," Marino's grape festival includes tastings, concerts, and traditional celebrations.

EuroChocolate — Perugia (Umbria)

October 17–26, 2026 (third week) Italy's largest chocolate festival with chocolate sculptures, tasting stands, workshops, and street entertainment.

Chestnut Festivals — Tuscany & Umbria

Marradi Chestnut Festival — Sundays in October 2026 Roasted chestnuts, chestnut cakes, music, and artisan markets.

Rome Film Fest — Rome

October 14–25, 2026 Major premieres, red carpet events, and international screenings across Rome.

Lucca Comics & Games — Lucca

October 28–31, 2026 Europe's largest comics and gaming convention in the medieval city of Lucca.

Feast of Saint Francis, Italy's Patron Saint & Music Festivals

October 4: Feast of St Francis in Assisi, Umbria. Music: Arezzo Wave Arezzo, Tuscany Oct.2-3.
Robot Festival Bologna, Emilia - Romagna. Oct. 9. Club to Club Festival Turin, Piedmont Oct.28-31.



Alba White Truffle Fair
Piedmont's festival season



Chocolate Perugia
Umbria's chocolate capital



Lucca Games
Tuscany's gaming festival



Trieste: The Crossroads of Italy and Central Europe

A city shaped by history and horizons



Trieste (*tree-EST*) is a city and seaport in northeastern Italy. It is the capital city, and largest city, of the autonomous region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, one of two autonomous regions which are not subdivided into provinces and covers an area of 4,883 miles and is the fifth smallest region of the country.

Trieste is located at the head of the Gulf of Trieste, on a narrow strip of Italian territory lying between the Adriatic Sea and Slovenia; Settlement in the area can be traced back to the 3rd millennium BCE. By the second century it was part of the Roman Republic. The name Tergeste, was recorded by Julius Caesar.



Due to its position and its port, it benefited from an influx of wealthy, international merchants and entrepreneurs. In the early 19th century, Trieste was a popular place for artists and writers. The collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and Trieste's annexation to Italy after World War I, led to a decline in its economic and cultural importance. The city lost its strategic and commercial influence.

The cosmopolitan city, which in the Habsburg period remained Italian-speaking and rose to become a leading Italian and European cultural center, was incorporated into the Kingdom of Italy in 1922 following the First World War. After the Second World War it was the capital of the Free Territory of Trieste, staying for nine years under Allied Military administration. Following the 1954 London Memorandum, Trieste was annexed by Italy. Since 1963 it has been the capital of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

A combination of geographic and historical factors has made Trieste a city unique in its time and a fascinating place to visit. It is not the typical Italian city you may expect to visit. It has maintained its cultural diversity because of its heterogeneous history and the different ethnic groups that live here side by side. A unique atmosphere can be felt in Trieste, as a border town, a melting pot of diverse cultures: Italian, Austrian-German, Croatian and Greek. Trieste is about a 2-hour ride by train from Venice.



Piazza Unità d'Italia (Unity of Italy Square) is the main square of Trieste. The rectangular *piazza*, located at the foot of the San Giusto Hill, opens on one side onto the Gulf of Trieste. It is considered the largest seafront square in Europe. Several prestigious and important buildings line the square including the Town Hall, the Palazzo del Lloyd Triestino, the Palazzo del Governo and the Palazzo Pitteri— Each of which features a stunning design and beautiful architecture. It is an absolute must to stop and sit in one of the old cafés lining the square.

The port and harbor of Trieste is hugely impressive as it serves as the cities principal form of economy. The entire coastline next to Trieste is occupied by either the public harbor or the commercial shipping operations. These two parts of the city offer some fantastic and interesting sights.

Located in the heart of the historic old town, near to the Piazza Unita, the **Grand Canal** is a small waterway that has stood since the 1700's to allow boats direct access into the city to unload their cargo. This pleasant waterway is crossed by three bridges and has numerous boats moored at each side. Stop by one of the fine restaurants and cafes with outdoor seating.



Cathedral of Saint Giusto is dedicated to Saint Justus and serves as the main church of the city. Originally constructed in 1320, the church features a Romanesque and Gothic design, and the front façade has a huge circular window with a beautiful lattice design. Inside the church features a plethora of decoration and the archways in the main aisle are covered with colored patterns and ornate sculptures. The dome of the main altar is covered with a stunning fresco that is bursting with a myriad of bright colors. There are several mosaics and works of art depicting the Our Lady of the Assumption.

There are so many other wonderful things to do and see in Trieste and walking the streets one can easily have the feeling of being in a different country.

Trieste's most famous dishes is called **Ljubljanska**. Which is a huge meat dish with breaded pork cutlet filled with ham and cheese. The term *buffet* in Trieste describes restaurants that offer traditional food that mostly consist of meat. Boiled meat in various cuts, sausages, goulash and the famous cooked ham from Trieste. Do expect to find flavors such as horseradish and sauerkraut, because once again this culinary tradition has a lot to share with that of Austria and Hungary.

For more information go to: What to do in Trieste, our favorite city in Italy | Travel Breathe Repeat



ITALIAN FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY OSDIA LODGE ST. AUGUSTINE, FL #2780

Saturday, October 24th | 11am - 6pm

Rain date: November 7th, 2026

VFW: Veterans of Foreign War Post 2391,
6184 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32086



One More Child – October Meeting Visit

(Italian Heritage Month)



One More Child will join us at the October meeting to share how their programs support vulnerable children and families across Florida. Their outreach provides food, shelter, mentoring, and essential care to kids in crisis.

The Lodge will present One More Child with a **\$300 donation** to support their mission. In addition, they are seeking **diapers** (all sizes) and **canned goods** to help stock their family resource centers. Members who wish to contribute may bring items to the meeting.

In addition to One More Child's visit, we will also welcome **Jacksonville City Council Member Chris Miller**, who will present the City's official **Proclamation recognizing Italian American Heritage and Culture Month**. This special presentation complements our October celebration and highlights the contributions of Italian Americans in our community.



The Italian American Club of Jacksonville
75th Anniversary Celebration

31st Annual

Festa
ITALIANA

Saturday, October 24, 11 am – 6 pm

That's Amore!

PLEASE JOIN US!

**ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB
75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
ITALIAN HERITAGE & COMMUNITY!**

**Saturday, October 24, 2026
11 AM to 6 PM
2838 Westberry Rd., Jax, FL 32223**

Enjoy a Taste of Italy:

- ♥ **Nonna's Authentic Italian Food & Subs**
- ♥ **Cookies, Cannoli, and Desserts**
- ♥ **Refreshing Italian Ice**

Music, Games, Crafts & More!

♥ ***Be Italian for a Day and Enjoy La Vita Bella!***





October/November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Twenty Years of the Met in Cinemas at Tinseltown 1pm & 6pm
4	5	6 Council Meeting 6:30pm	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16 General Meeting 6:30pm	17 Macbeth in Cinemas at Tinseltown 1pm & 6pm
18	19	20	21	22 Ciao Trattoria Restaurant Social 6pm	23	24 IAC Festa 11am-6pm St Augustine OSDIA Festa 11am-6pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 November	2	3 Council Meeting 6:30pm	4	5	6	7

Have You Visited Our Website Lately?

There's a lot happening at **Amici d'Italia Lodge #2791**, and our website is growing right along with us!

Visit **ItalianInJax.org** to keep up with Lodge activities, view upcoming events and our calendar, read the latest newsletter, learn about our scholarship program, and find information about Amici d'Italia and our Italian-American community.

We're also working on several **new website features and member resources**. Some are already available, while others are still in development. These additions are designed to make the website more useful to our members and provide new ways to stay informed, connected, and involved with the Lodge.

One area we're continuing to develop is our **Member Center**, with plans for convenient access to Lodge information and resources, along with opportunities to highlight our members, their businesses, and the many talents within our Amici family.

Our website also gives Amici d'Italia a permanent home online. While Facebook is great for sharing photos, conversations, and timely updates, **ItalianInJax.org** is where members and the community can learn more about who we are, what we do, and how to become involved.

Visit ItalianInJax.org and check back often — there's more to come!

Celebrating Italian heritage, friendship, family, and community in Northeast Florida.