



Amici d'Italia

Lodge 2791

Jacksonville, Florida

The Amici Newsletter

September 2026

Volume 3 - Issue 30

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

September 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page

- 1 - President's Message
- 2 - About Us - September Birthdays
- 2 - Prayer List - Raffle
- 3 - Contacts - Shirts/Name Tags/Cook Book
- 3 - Committees - Restaurant Social
- 4 - General Meeting August 21, 2026
- 5 - Met Operas at Cinemark
- 6 - September Events in Italy
- 7 - Turin, Italy
- 8 - Festa Italian at IAC October 24, 2026
- 9 - Calendar / Dates of Activities

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Cari amici ~

As Autumn rapidly approaches, now less than a month away, we will hopefully get a little relief from this exceptionally hot and steamy summer. Yet I am also mindful not to wish away or discount current seasons and the beauty of each. We after all live in beautifully verdant Florida knowing full well how the weather can be in summer.

It is not unlike belonging to an organization like the OSDIA and volunteering in any capacity to its functioning – either organizationally or incrementally at specific events and in specific contexts. Most of the time it is perfectly rewarding, appreciated by members and guests, and actually very enjoyable. Yet, it isn't always easy and without some friction – in fact, you can count on it.

But this friction isn't out of maliciousness, but is more likely because we are different human beings and we are bound to have differing ideas, views on methods or approach, which activities to pursue, how to run a meeting, whose sauce is the best... just kidding; everyone knows my mother's is the best, followed by my wife's. Or is it vice versa?

I remind myself during the few frustrating moments that we Italians are largely a strong-willed people, diverse in talent and disposition – yet survivors by our very nature, even if not always easily adapting to our surroundings. We are after all from the stock of explorers, inventors, and immigrants willing to risk all for a better life and a better way.

What is important is the risk taking involved in volunteering, the offering of oneself, one's time and talent, and the camaraderie engendered in doing so. This is fundamental to all of the OSDIA pillars, particularly to Fraternity. So, thank you to all the volunteers who have made our Lodge stronger, from Lodge membership to scholarships, charities, coordinating social events, including the General Meetings... We appreciate all of you.

And if you have not yet volunteered, please consider it. You don't know what you're missing.

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.



**Mass for Deceased Members Saturday,
September 12, 2026 – 4:00 PM Christ the
King Catholic Church 742 Arlington Road
North Jacksonville, FL 32211**



September Birthdays

Donna Addeo	Michael Caira	Rosemary Mintchwarner	Clara Zepeda
Phyllis Bosner	Tracy Evans	Alba Renninger	
Josephine Burgio	Michael Heffelfinger	Maryann Wetzel	

OSDIA Scholarship Raffle Continues Through Summer!

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.

No. 1625

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Sold by _____

Our annual Scholarship Raffle is underway, and early returns have already begun coming in. 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 got a great response at our meeting on August 21.

Thank you for your support.

Raffle Fund Raising Team

Sal Sanapola • Vito DiTrapani • Moe Cooper

Goal: \$5,800

Received: \$1474– 25.4%



The Amici Newsletter Lodge 2791 September 2026

Information, Activities and Updates

Meetings Mailing Address Contact Information



- Council meets 1st Tuesday of the month • September 1, 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 September 18, 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 September 3, at 6:30pm.**
Book Discussion: *Still Life* by Sarah Winman
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.

European Street Thursday, August 27 6pm



There was a nice turnout as Members were enjoying a evening at European Street Café. For some members it was their first visit to the restaurant. The accommodations were excellent with a nice variety of food from their menu. This could be considered a return visit in the near future.



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



Salvar
La
data

9/1 Council Meeting 6:30pm
9/3 Book Club Meeting 6:30pm
9/10 Movie Uncle Nino at Southeast regional library 5:30pm
9/12 Mass at Christ the King 4pm for deceased members
9/18 General Meeting 6:30pm
9/19 Met Opera at Tinseltown times for performances 1pm and 6pm
9/22 Jax Humane Society visit 11:30am
9/24 House Italian Cuisine 6pm



August 21 General Meeting Highlights

Members gathered for a well attended August meeting, enjoying pizza and an evening of fellowship. We welcomed **Courtney Partin** from the **Jacksonville Humane Society**, who delivered an excellent presentation on the work of their **Pet Help Center** and the ways our Lodge can support families and pets in need.

President Dom Addeo presented the Lodge's donation check to Courtney, and members responded with outstanding generosity. A large amount of **dog and cat food, pet toys, and clean towels** were collected and donated to the Humane Society. The strong turnout and enthusiastic support demonstrated our Lodge's commitment to community service.

New Members Sworn In

We were proud to swear in **Cheryl and John D'Angelo** as new members of OSDIA Lodge 2791. Their enthusiasm and support were warmly welcomed by all.

Scholarship Raffle Update

Many members turned in their **Scholarship Raffle books**, bringing us to **24% of our fundraising goal**. This early momentum is a great sign for the success of our scholarship program. Thank you to all who have already contributed — your support is greatly appreciated.



President Dom Addeo presenting check to Courtney Partin



President Dom Addeo welcomes new Members Cheryl & John



Members gathering at the meeting



Dog & cat food donations



SAVE THE DATES! Join us at **Cinemark Tinseltown** for the **Metropolitan Opera**: *Twenty years of the Met in Cinemas* on **Saturday, September 19**, *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.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS & FESTIVALS IN ITALY

Key Highlights from Italy's cultural celebrations this month

September in Italy is one of the most vibrant months of the year, filled with historic festivals, cultural traditions, and world class events. From medieval jousting tournaments to lantern parades and international film premieres, towns and cities across Italy celebrate the arrival of autumn with color, music, and centuries old customs. Here are several notable events happening throughout Italy in September 2026.

Venice International Film Festival (Aug 26 – Sep 5)

One of the world's most prestigious film festivals, featuring red carpet premieres, international directors, and global media attention.

Regata Storica – Venice (September 6)

A historic gondola race on the Grand Canal, complete with 13th century costumes and ceremonial boat parades.

Festa di Santa Rosa – Viterbo (September 3)

A dramatic nighttime procession where 100 “facchini” carry a 90 foot illuminated tower through the medieval streets.

Festa della Rificolona – Florence (September 7)

A beloved lantern festival where children and families parade through Florence with colorful paper lanterns.

Festa del Cacio – Pienza (September 6)

A lively pecorino cheese festival featuring tastings and the traditional “Cacio al Fuso” cheese rolling competition.

Giostra del Saracino – Arezzo (September 6)

A medieval jousting tournament with knights, drummers, and flag throwers — one of Tuscany's most historic events.



Regata Storica – Venice
Gondolas, costumes, Grand Canal



Festa di Santa Rose – Vietrbo
illuminated tower carried by facchini



Festa della Rificolona – Florence
Lanterns, nighttime parade



Turin: Gateway to Piedmont's Heritage

Northern Italy's Hidden Gem of Culture and Charm



Northern Italy and Italy's fourth-largest city **Turin** (TEWR-IN) the capital of the Piedmont region. From 1861 to 1865 Turin was the country's premier capital. The city is mainly on the western bank of the Po River, below its Susa Valley, and is surrounded by the western Alpine arch and Superga Hill. The region's northernmost tip stretches up to border Switzerland and Lake Maggiore, while its western edge touches France. The population of Turin the city proper is 847,033. Turin is an important business and cultural center and ranked third in Italy, after Milan and Rome, for economic strength and the home of the Italian automotive industry with the headquarters of Fiat, Lancia, and Alfa Romeo.



Turin has a rich culture and history, known for its art galleries, restaurants, churches, palaces, opera houses, piazzas, parks, gardens, theatres, libraries, museums, and other venues. In 2008 Turin was the tenth most visited city in Italy. The city hosts Italy's best universities.

Take a stroll in the Piazza San Carlo and Via Roma where there are historic cafes, and elegant boutiques. Visit the **Egyptian Museum** with its precious relics left behind by the ancient people of the Nile; the **Automobile Museum**, a symbol of modernity; and the **National Museum of Cinema**, housed inside the 18th-Century **Mole Antonelliana**, the emblem of Turin. Unique examples of religious architecture abound, such as the Renaissance **Duomo**, dating back to the Renaissance; and the **Sindone Chapel**, one of the most important creations of the Baroque and a highly revered religious site.



Do not pass up the opportunity to visit the magnificent public buildings include **Palazzo Carignano**, **Palazzo Madama** and **Palazzo Reale**, constructed in the 15th and 16th centuries. Two of them designed by Baroque architects. Then there is the Savoy residences, 22 buildings of great historical, artistic and environmental value. These structures, today listed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, were in part used as official residences, and as hunting facilities, the favorite activity of the royal family. The most important building is undoubtedly the **Royal Palace**, official residence of the Savoy; restored several times and today houses the homonymous museum, where centuries-old objects and furnishings belonging to the sovereigns are on display. In the hills surrounding Turin, we find the **Basilica di Superga**, an important shrine to the Virgin Mary that also bears the tombs of

the House of Savoy.

The Shroud of Turin is a centuries old linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man. A man that millions believe to be Jesus of Nazareth. From April 19, 2015, through June 24, 2015, more than two million visitors came to Turin from around the world to view the Shroud while it was on public display. It has been preserved since 1578 in the royal chapel of the cathedral of **San Giovanni Battista in Turin, Italy**. It is not actually possible to see the real Shroud of Turin, though replicas and displays at the [Most Holy Shroud Museum](#) do an excellent job of explaining the shroud and its mysteries. The museum is currently open daily from 9 am to 12 pm and from 3 pm to 7 pm (last entry one hour before closing). Current admission is €8 for adults and €3 for children 6-12. Kids five and under are free.



The spectacular Val di Susa should not be missed; a snow-covered stretch in the Alps boasting the enchanting hubs of **Avigliana** and **Susa**.

The entire Province of Turin is characterized by strong culinary traditions that govern each course, from starters to desserts. Turin is the home of **grissini** (bread sticks), **vermouth** and gianduja chocolates. Typical dishes are **agnolotti del plin**, small squares of pasta filled with meat and vegetables and topped with gravy and sage; soups like the **tofeja**; the rabbit dish **coniglio alla canavesana**; **gigot**, meat cooked in a bronze pot; and, of course, **bagna caoda**, a warm dip served with fresh vegetables. Other local favorites include cheeses, pinerolese mushrooms, and chestnuts from the Val di Susa. Finally, this area boasts excellent wines strong reds: **Barbera**, **Barolo**, **Nebbiolo** and **Freisa di Chieri**.

For more information click on: [Turin - Piedmont - Discover Italy \(italia.it\)](#)



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!***





Piemonte, Italy



Tropea Calabria, Italy

September/October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Council Meeting 6:30pm	2	3 Book Club Meeting 6:30pm	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Movie South-east regional library 5:30pm	11	12 Mass at Christ the King 4pm for deceased
13	14	15	16	17	18 General Meeting 6:30pm	19 Twenty Years of the Met in Cinemas at Tinseltown 1pm & 6pm
20	21	22 Jax HS Tour 11:30am	23	24 House Italian Cuisine Social 6pm	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 Met Opera Cosi Fan Tutti at Tinseltown 1pm & 6pm
4	5	6 Council Meeting 6:30pm	7	8	9	10



Movie - Uncle Nino

Movie begins at 6pm doors open at 5:30pm, September, 10th at the southeast regional library. 10599 Deerwood park Blvd. Snacks are provided with a donation bucket at the snack table.



Mass for Deceased Members Saturday, September 12, 2026 – 4:00 PM
Christ the King Catholic Church 742 Arlington Road North Jacksonville, FL 32211

We Can Be Heroes Foundation will be hosting an America's 250th Anniversary Gala at the Lamborghini Museum and Deerwood Castle Grand Hall on **Saturday evening, September 19**, as follows: **5:00 PM - VIP Reception:** Lamborghini Museum featuring hors d'oeuvres. **6:00 PM - Dinner & Gala:** Deerwood Castle Grand Hall. Contact Annette Guarino at annette57@aol.com or go to the "We Can Be Heroes" website for more information.

A Visit to the Jacksonville Humane Society

Our lodge will visit the **Jacksonville Humane Society**, located at **8464 Beach Blvd**, on **September 22 at 11:30 AM**. The 30 minute tour will give members an inside look at how the Humane Society operates. **Lunch will follow at Celeno's Bistro**, 3820 Southside Blvd, about six minutes away. Members who would like to attend should contact Donna **by September 15** at dladdeo@gmail.com

