

January/February 2017

L'Unione Italiana

Volume 19, Issue 1





1731 East 7th Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33605
(813) 248-3316
www.italian-club.org

Mission Statement

The mission of L'Unione Italiana is to preserve and honor the culture, traditions and heritage of the Italian Community and to maintain the historical facility as a functioning memorial to the working class immigrants. We will support this mission through the dues and contributions provided by the members, their families, friends, and government. In return we will add value to the membership by providing social activities, fellowship, Italian arts and culture; these activities will provide for growth and stability in the membership, creating a safe and comfortable environment for both members and employees. As the oldest historical leader and the voice of the Italian community, we will operate in an environment characterized by the highest ethical standards and provide open and honest communication with the members and the community.

Club Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Gift Shop Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm

Cemetery Hours

Open Daily 8:00am-3:00pm
(Located at 26th St. & 24th Ave)

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor, Barbara Denti Pool
Staff Writer(s), Gilda F. Capitano
Production, Mark Stanish, Jr.

UPCOMING Events

Don't miss out on these events taking place in and around the Italian Club! Many of these exciting events are hosted and organized by your own fellow members. ** - Indicates events taking place in Ybor City but not affiliated with the Italian Club

JANUARY

January 13th - Krewe Indoor Bocce Tournament
January 22nd: Holocaust Remembrance Event
January 29th - Vegas Extravaganza

FEBRUARY

February 11th - Knights Parade & After Party
February 25th - Fiesta Day**

MARCH

March 18th - St. Patrick's Parade & After Party

APRIL

April 6th - Festa Italiana: Wines Of Italy
April 7th - Festa Italiana: Krewe Bocce Tournament
April 8th - Festa Italiana: Bocce Invitational (Sponsor)

April 9th - Main Event

OUR COVER STORY

L'Unione Cantina (c. 1918), the destination of the time where "the men" met for conviviality, billiards, dominoes, cards, games, pipe smoking, cigars, cigarettes, and full bar. Here we see the concrete floors before the hand painted tiles were installed because the construction and decor were completed as funds became available. Note, the attire is quite formal by todays dress code and the photography "du jour" captured movement in ghostly images. Special Note: The young boy on the lap of the member in the bottom right corner, is current Italian Club Member Philip Caltagirone

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Ciao A Tutti Italian Club Members,

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone enjoyed their holiday, surrounded by family and friends. We had a wonderful 2016 and we are excited to gear up for what will be a very busy 2017 season.

As you flip through this newsletter, you will notice that we have many events in the coming months that members should take note of. Coming up in January, the Krewe Of Italia is hosting an Indoor Bocce Tournament at the Club on January 13th. On January 22nd, the Club will host the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Event, organized by the Consular Corps of Tampa. Following that event, the Cemetery Committee will be hosting it's Extravagana Showcase on the 29th.

Heading into February, we are already planning our Gasparilla Knight Parade After Party on February 11th. Members are reminded that the Club has bleacher seats for sale outside the building. Please contact the Club for more information.

And last, but certainly not least, the 20th Annual Festa Italiana will be held on Sunday, April 9th. This years main stage headliner is world renowned, award winning, international recording artist Zucchero! This will be a huge performance for us!

Cordialmente, Sal Guagliardo, President



Board President,
Sal Guagliardo

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sal Guagliardo (President),
Grace Ippolito (Vice-President),
Townsend Belt (Secretary),
Jay Anthony (Treasurer),

Art Killian, Kathy
Perez-Dutton, Don Bodie, Rick
Califano, Sharon Mangione,
Michelle Cardamone, Vince
Sinardi, Jamie Granell, Tom
LoCicero, Sam Manna, Doug
Dallio, and Louis Minardi

ADVISORY BOARD

Joseph Capitano, Jr.
Joe Capitano, Sr.
(Immediate Past President)

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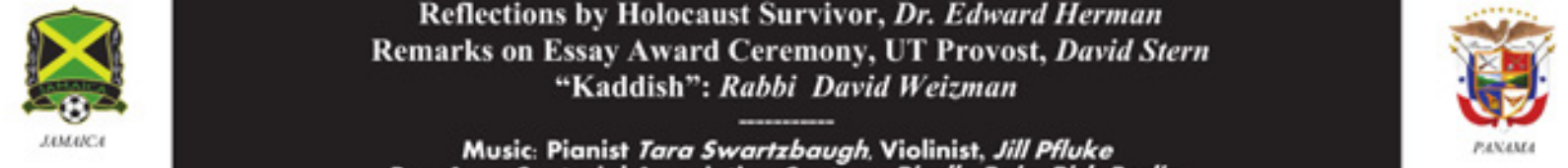
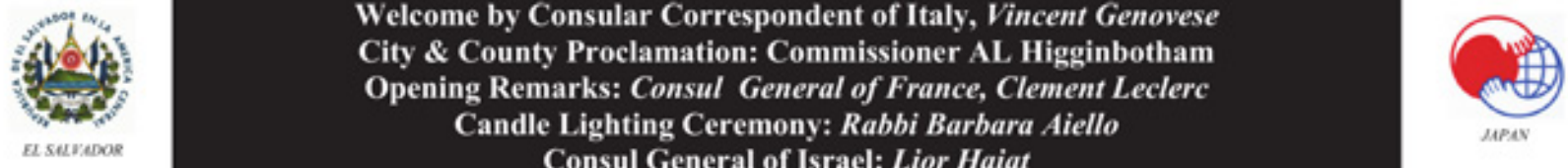
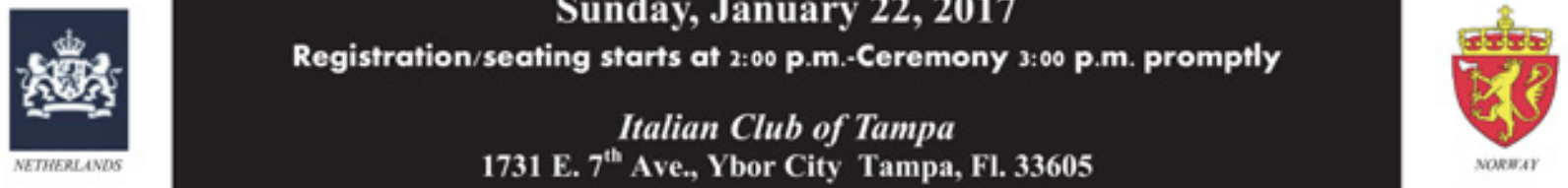
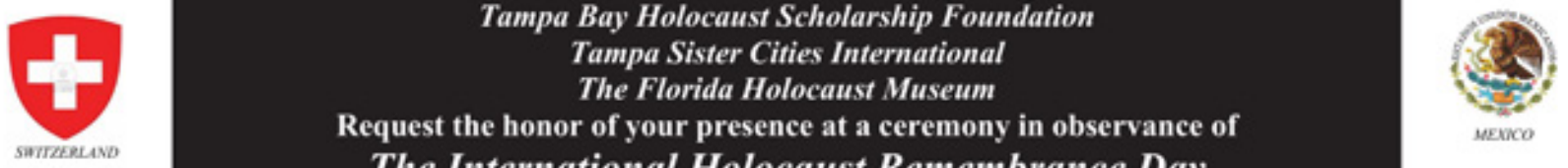
THANK YOU ITALIAN CLUB MEMBERS, FAMILY, & FRIENDS

With the holidays behind us, I wanted take a moment to express my since gratitude to the members, friends, and families who participated in the Italian Club's Toys For Tots drive. I am so happy to report that the Italian Club collected 6 full barrels worth of toys - which were donated to children in need throughout the Tampa Bay Area.



Thank You! Grazie!





THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Consular Corps of Tampa Bay
Tampa Bay Trade & Protocol Council
In cooperation with
The United Nations Association of Tampa
Tampa Bay Holocaust Scholarship Foundation
Tampa Sister Cities International
The Florida Holocaust Museum

Request the honor of your presence at a ceremony in observance of
The International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Sunday, January 22, 2017

Registration/seating starts at 2:00 p.m.-Ceremony 3:00 p.m. promptly

Italian Club of Tampa
1731 E. 7th Ave., Ybor City Tampa, Fl. 33605

Program

Welcome by Consular Correspondent of Italy, *Vincent Genovese*
City & County Proclamation: Commissioner AL Higginbotham
Opening Remarks: *Consul General of France, Clement Leclerc*
Candle Lighting Ceremony: *Rabbi Barbara Aiello*
Consul General of Israel: *Lior Haiat*
Florida Holocaust Museum Chair: *Amanda Saft*
Reflections by Holocaust Survivor, *Dr. Edward Herman*
Remarks on Essay Award Ceremony, UT Provost, *David Stern*
"Kaddish": *Rabbi David Weizman*

Music: Pianist *Tara Swartzbaugh*, Violinist, *Jill Pfluke*
Bay Area Cantorial Association Cantors: *Riselle Bain, Rick Berlin, Diane Becker-Krasnick, Joy Katzen-Guthrie, Jonathan Schultz*

LIMITED SEATING-FREE ADMISSION BY INVITATION ONLY
PARKING AVAILABLE IN BACK OF CLUB

RSVP: BY 1/16/2017 to:
vgenovese@italconstampa.com,
www.tampabayconsularcorps.org



FROM THE CLUB & AROUND TOWN

BENVENUTO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Frank & Sue Briigliadora	Family	Sponsor: Giovanni Fucarino
LaVerda Maria Priola	Individual	Sponsor: Barbara Pool
Salvatore & Lisa Sinardi Sr.	Family	Sponsor: Vincent Sinardi
Frank & Rita Mae Perella	Family	Sponsor: John Centinaro
David & Margaret Morone	Family	Sponsor: Barbara Pool
Louis & Kathleen Hoffman	Family	Sponsor: Maria Pardo – CRUSH
Roseann Favata	Individual	Sponsor: Vince Pardo
Nancy Rea deWart	Individual	Sponsor: Barbara Pool
Michael Connor	Student	Sponsor: Barbara Pool
Dennis & Ali Pitocco	Patron	Sponsor: Barbara Pool
Jerry & Dawn Viola	Family	Sponsor: Francine Susca

Welcome to the family!

OLLI  **USF**

Throughout November & December, the Italian Club hosted USF's OLLI Cooking & Italian Language Classes. Below are photos from some of the cooking classes held with our guest chefs! Mangia!

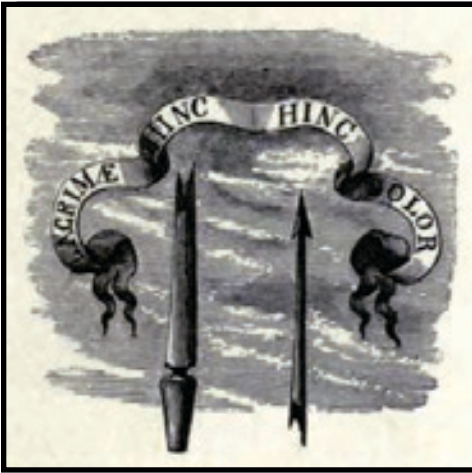


FROM THE CLUB & AROUND TOWN



Reminiscences

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This section of the Newsletter has published recollections of members and friends who wish to share experiences of their “earlier days” spent at L'Unione. These stories (some of which are handed down to us from past generations.) are unique to specific decades from when L'Unione was established in 1894. It bears credence to the importance we still place in our heritage...that our ancestor's stories still exist in our hearts and minds. If you wish to submit articles about your family or about a famous Italian (or persona unknown to most folks) that you admire such as that presented below (or have us write them for you). So if you have a favorite person or event from the past to share we would be pleased to publish it here under your name.



“lacrymae hinc, hinc dolor”
“from this come my tears and pain”

Catherine de' Medici
(1589–1519)

Graciously Submitted by: LIADO Cultural Committee
(The Italian American Women of Today)

Written by Barbara Denti Pool

Among the most intriguing names in our culture is that of the powerful de' Medici Family. The Renaissance (1400 A.D. – 1700 A.D.) was a period of time in Europe that was regarded as the cultural bridge between the Middle Ages and modern history. It started in Italy as a cultural movement in the Late Medieval period and later spread throughout Europe, marking the beginning of the Early Modern Age. There is a consensus that the Renaissance began in Florence in the 14th century. The theories focus on a variety of factors including the social and civic peculiarities of Florence at the time: its political structures; the patronage of its

dominant family, the Medici's, and other factors.

Catherine (“Caterina”) was born in Florence, Italy on April 13, 1519 when the Medici family at that time were the de facto rulers of Florence. The family were originally bankers, and came into great wealth and power by bankrolling the monarchies of Europe. Her father, Lorenzo II de' Medici, was made Duke of Urbino by his uncle, Pope Leo. Catherine's mother, Madeleine de Tour d'Auvergne, the Countess of Boulogne, was from one of the most prominent and ancient French noble families. This prestigious maternal heritage was of benefit to Catherine's future marriage to a French prince.

Both of Catherine's parents died at an early age. She was first cared for by her grandmother. After her grandmother's death in 1520, she was raised by her aunt for a short time and eventually entered several convents. The final convent was her home for three years and were described as “the happiest of her entire life.”

At age 14 Catherine married Prince Henry, second son of King Francis I and Queen Claude of France. The wedding was a grand affair, but unfortunately, the nineteen year old Prince Henry showed no interest in Catherine as a wife; instead, he openly took mistresses, one of whom he adored for the remainder of his rather short life. Her name was Diane de Poitiers, who was 38 years old. Even in the presence of royal guests, Henry would often sit on Diane's lap and play the guitar, chat about politics and unabashedly exhibit his affection and love for her.

FROM THE CLUB & AROUND TOWN

Henry's older brother, King Francis, contracted a fever and died in 1536, leaving Henry the heir who then became King Henri II; hence Catherine became the Queen of France. For the first ten years of their marriage, Catherine failed to have any children, however in 1537, one of Henry's mistresses gave birth to a daughter, whom he publicly acknowledged, thus proving that Henry was fertile and this added to the pressure on Catherine to produce a child. Catherine was now expected to provide a future heir to the throne. In desperation, Catherine tried every known trick at that time for getting pregnant and on January 19, 1544, she at last gave birth to a son, and the child was named after King Francis.



After becoming pregnant once, Catherine had no trouble doing so again and went on to bear Henry a total of ten children, six of whom survived infancy. Catherine's new-found ability to bear children, however, failed to improve her marriage. Henry allowed her almost no political influence as Queen. Although she sometimes acted as regent during his absences from France, her powers were strictly nominal. His mistress, Diane de Poitiers took her place at the center of power, dispensing patronage and accepting favors.

In 1559, King Henry's face was shattered in a jousting match, leaving wooden splinters sticking out of his eye and head. He had five of the splinters extracted from his head, however one had pierced his eye and brain. Catherine, the dutiful wife, stayed by his bedside and Diane kept away from the King, "for fear of being expelled by the Queen" in the words of a chronicler. For the next ten days, Henry's state of health fluctuated. At times he even felt well enough to dictate letters and listen to music. Gradually he lost his sight, speech, and reason and on July 10th he died. From that day onward, Catherine took a broken lance as her emblem. She wore black clothing until the end of her life and took on the persona of a grieving widow. Her emblem was inscribed with the following translation: "from this come my tears and my pain").

Catherine's life took many more twists and turns during her remaining years, especially while her young sons reined as King. Before she died on January 5, 1589, she had established herself as a patron of architecture, having many structures built, most of which unfortunately were destroyed in the Religious Wars. Few survived, among them, the monuments built for the Valois Chapel where the tomb of Catherine and Henry remain. Some of her projects survived, including several monuments built for the Valois Chapel where the tomb of Catherine and Henry are located, which was declared "the last and most brilliant of the royal tombs of the Renaissance" by art historian Henri Zerner. A plethora of information exists on the internet if you are so inclined to delve further into the life of this fascinating woman.

GETAWAY TRAVEL OF TAMPA

Sylvia G. Reina, CTC
Owner/Manager



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Tampa, FL 33607

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Fax (813) 874-6505

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www.getawaytraveloftampa.com

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Italian Club members, families and
guests are invited to participate in the



Indoor Bocce Tournament

January 13th, 2017

Time: 5:00pm-9:00pm

Event: 4 Person Teams @ \$150/team (includes food)

Sponsorships: 4 Court Sponsors (\$150/sponsor)

First Prize: Two Night Stay at Hampton Hotel

Second Prize: \$200 Gift Certificate to a Tampa Restaurant

Third Prize: Wine Basket for Four

Refer to Eventbrite in the Krewe website to sign up!

***all non-players will be required to have "paid" wristband to eat**

***RSVP For food wristband at special discount of \$10**

Knight Parade AFTER PARTY!



**Captain
Morgan**

The Krewe Of Italia invites you to join us for our Knight Parade After Party being held at the Italian Club on Saturday, February 11th from 6:00pm-12:00am. We will have entertainment on our first and second floor, and a full bar, proudly pouring Captain Morgan, all night long!

After Party Tickets

\$5.00 pp

Bleacher Seats Available!

The Italian Club Of Tampa will have limited seating on our Club Bleachers for anyone looking for the best seat for the Knight Parade! You may purchase bleacher seats from The Italian Club for \$30.00 per seat, which includes entry into the After Party at the Club. Call us at (813)248-3316 to purchase your seat now!



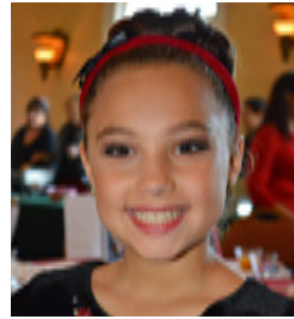
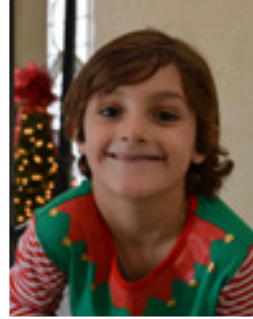
ITALIAN CLUB
L'UNIONE ITALIANA



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Well ho!, ho!, ho! With over 200 guests in attendance at this year's Breakfast With Santa, it goes without saying that this event was a smashing success! The meal from CRUSH Catering was delicious – the french toast was out of this world! We wanted to express our appreciation to those who volunteered, supported, and performed for this year's event. Without further ado, THANK YOU to:

The Krewe Of Italia
CRUSH Catering
Joe Photo Of Tampa
Kazam Photos
Jaime Granell
Don Bodie
Frank Rey Dance Studio
Entertainment Revue
Live Stage Entertainment
The Studio of South Tampa
Tampa Gymnastics and Dance
Ciara Perez –Morales
Bella Danza Collective



ITALIAN CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 8th, we welcomed over 50 new members to the Italian Club at our mixed Holiday Party & New Member Reception. Our new members had the opportunity to mingle with over 100 of our established membership, sharing stories and experiences about their Italian heritage and families. The Cantina was packed, with live music playing and everyone getting into the festive holiday spirit. A delicious meal was provided by CRUSH Catering.



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF
KELLY AT KAZAM PHOTO
(813) 770-7978;
KAZAM.KELLY@GMAIL.COM

ITALIAN CLUB LADIES AUXILIARY



Ladies Auxiliary Member, AnnMarie Hanecki, submitted these photos from a recent project the LAX was working on. The Ladies came together for to put together packages to be sent to the troops overseas. This is the second year in a row they have met to coordinate this project. Last year they sent 15 boxes....this year they sent 30!



SIX YEAR TENURE OF GILDA CAPITANO

It behooves me to believe that all this time has passed! I was very blessed with my officers and wish our new President, Sharon Mangione, the very best! I greatly appreciated sitting on the Italian Club Board of Directors. In retrospect, I must mention that I learned a lot at these meetings about the Italian Club and the Italian Club Cemetery. I thank our President, Sal Guagliardo, for always helping the Ladies Auxiliary. I thank Alice Mueller, our past Italian Club Manager. She and I went through a lot of events, including several New Years' Eve Galas.

During my tenure, I went through two Vice-Presidents; one being Rita Messina, who has passed (and whom I still miss dearly) and our now new President, Sharon. I went through three Treasurers: Joanna Bernaldo, Loli Martino and presently Francine Susca. Being Treasurer is not an easy job! I appreciate all they did and thank Francine for staying on again.

I would be remiss in not thanking my husband Joe and my children. They have always been there for support and attendance to our events. Joe, Sr. has always been there for me especially for our Themes n Tea; not an easy event to present. I also thank my daughter Celeste Lazzara, who is my out-going Recording Secretary.

I prophesize that the Themes n Tea will continue to be a leading ladies event in our community, with our Fashion Show a close second.

One of my recent greatest heartfelt feelings was to have our younger grandchildren participate in our beautiful 2016 Santa Lucia Event, (even though our older ones participated as well when they were younger) with especially that moment when I walked with Lucia (our 18 month old) leading the group. My wish is for the Ladies Auxiliary to flourish with our younger members' ideas along with our older members lending their acumen.

Ciao Sorelle! Sempre Avanti!

ITALIAN CLUB LADIES AUXILIARY

LOOKING AHEAD AT LAX FOR 2017

Care Sorelle,

It's a New Year and time to plan and open your horizons to new ideas and experiences. That is the mantra the Ladies Auxiliary adopted as we planned our new season. Something special happens when you step into the Italian Club, you are impressed by the ideals of Italian heritage, family, friends and community. As the new Ladies Auxiliary President it is my pleasure to preside over a Board of Officers who also embody these same principles. Please seek us out if you have any questions regarding joining the Ladies Auxiliary or regarding any of our upcoming events. All are welcome and



encouraged to attend as we support the Italian Club. Our new officers are: President: Sharon Mangione, Vice President: Jacqueline N. Kasperski, Treasurer: Francine Susca, Recording Secretary: AnnMarie S. Hanecki, Corresponding Secretary: Celeste C. Lazzara, Parliamentarian: Rosalie C. Perrone. Please mark your calendars for the following meetings/events:

- 1/7/17 – January Meeting – Organizational Planning
- 2/4/17 – February Meeting – “Bring a New Member – Showcase of Ladies Auxiliary Activities”
- 2/17/17 – Ladies Auxiliary “Divas & Dominoes” at CRUSH
- 3/4/17 – March Meeting
- 3/21/17 – 3/31/17 – Cookie Baking Brigade Begins (Led by Angela Genco)
 - FESTA Italian Cookie Baking (Tue., Wed., Thu. Mornings)
 - FESTA Cooking Bagging (Tue., Wed., Thu. Evenings)
- 3/31/17 – Ladies Auxiliary Movie Night with CRUSH
- 4/1/17 – April Meeting
- 4/5/17 – 4/9/17 – FESTA ITALIANA
 - Club’s Main Fundraiser – Ladies Assist with Gift Shop Booths and other Volunteering
- 5/13/17 – LADIES AUXILIARY MOTHER’S DAY TEA
- 6/3/17 – June Meeting
- 6/5/17 – 6/9/17 – CAMPO ITALIANO
- 7/29/17 & 7/30/17 – MERCATO DELLE DONNE at the Italian Club
 - Think a fancy flea market – Ladies Auxiliary members can clean out their closets. Professional Vendors too.
- 8/5/17 – August Meeting + Adult CAMPO immediately following meeting
- 9/9/17 – September Meeting
- Mid-September Hamburger Mary Bingo
- 10/7/17 – ITALIAN AMERICAN WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE & FASHION SHOW LUNCHEON
- 11/4/17 – November Meeting + Wreath Making Session immediately following meeting
- 12/2/17 – December Luncheon Meeting + Gift Exchange

Finally, I want to recognize Gilda Capitano our Immediate Past President who has guided and loved the Ladies Auxiliary for the last six years. She has been an inspiration to us all (and especially me)! I hope that I can begin to meet the high expectations she has set for us and continue to guide and grow the Italian Club Ladies Auxiliary.

My best, Sharon Mangione, Italian Club Ladies Auxiliary President

ITALIAN CLUB LADIES AUXILIARY

SANTA LUCIA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

On Sunday, December 11, the Ladies Auxiliary hosted the bi-annual Santa Lucia Festival of Lights Mass and Reception. It was chaired by Lynette Ciccarello-Stine following in the tradition of her mother Rose Lucille Castellano Ciccarello. Amanda Lazzara, daughter of Sam and Debbie Lazzara was selected based on her winning essay. This year 20 children participated in the Mass and Procession presided over by Father Chuck Dornquest of Saint Lawrence Church. One of the children, Stella Pardo, granddaughter of Joseph and Gilda Capitano, Sr., played violin during the Mass.

After the Procession, the children and guests were treated to a reception in the Cantina. Biscotti cookies were lovingly baked by: Loretta Campo, Gilda Capitano, Kim Ciccarello, Marie Cusmano, Angela Genco, AnnMarie Hanecki, Jackie Kasperski, Tammy LaBarbera, Celeste Lazzara, Sharon Mangione, Stephanie Perez, Rosalie Perrone, Donna Sardegna, Francine Susca and Lorraine Zambito. Keeping with tradition of Santa Lucia, Cuccia made by Nerina Ipolito Seleznik was served.

Many interesting customs surround St. Lucy. Some people believe MIRACLES occurred at midnight on St. Lucy's Eve. She is the patron saint of those with sight disorders, blindness and vision impairment. She is said to have ended a famine in Sicily in the 13th century and led ships, filled with wheat, into the harbor after Sicilians prayed for her intercession. It is said the Sicilians were so famished they ate the wheat without processing it and that is why we partake of the boiled wheat berries called "Cuccia," to honor St. Lucy on her Feast Day, December 13th.

Thank you to all who participated:

2016 Santa Lucia: Amanda Lazzara

Participants: Anthony Alessi, Elyah Glasser, Rosalie Alessi, Yzzy Glasser, Sofia Anthony, Vincent Gonzalez-Roel, Francesca Bush, Gretchen Morey, Nicolas Bush, Lucy Morey, Valentina Bush, Matteo Nassif, Dominca DeMayo, Sophia Nassif, Marco DeMayo, Stella Pardo, Vincenzo Pardo

Alter Servers: Ayden Lee & Landon Lee



ITALIAN CLUB LADIES AUXILIARY

LAX CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

"Bring on the holly...cause we need a little Christmas, right this very minute!"



Dear Friends, Our Italian Club Ladies Auxiliary Annual Christmas Luncheon and Meeting took place on December 3, 2016. We were 25 in attendance at the Tampa Yacht and Country Club in their mirrored private room. The Yacht Club treated us as royalty and we felt very special! New & old officers attended. At this meeting, conducted before our lunch was served, we emptied out our coffers & checks were made – out to the Italian Club, the Italian Club Cemetery, & to the Krewe of Italia. The food was scrumptious and the camaraderie superb!

Perhaps the most fun part was the exchange of gifts (cause we can steal gifts from

each other). The Christmas mannequin that you see in one of these pictures is wearing an embroidered sash that reads: President of the Ladies Auxiliary. She represented all of our past & new presidents. Her shirt lit – up as a Christmas tree and member Dottie Smay was very disappointed she could not take her home.

Perhaps we'll see the mannequin lite-up again next year. Most importantly we look forward to see all the faces of our attending members light-up in 2017 with Christmas joy as we share the season's spirit with one another. Thank you ladies for being there & making my last Christmas as President a special day!



SEND US YOUR RECIPES!

Un Assaggio Delle Nostre Cucine: "A Taste From Our Kitchens"

The Ladies Auxiliary is compiling recipes for the next edition of the Italian Club's Cookbook. We would love to include traditional family recipes that have been passed down, or shared among friends. For a copy of the recipe submission form, please contact Mark Stanish at mark@italian-club.org

Please mail your recipes to:

Sharon Mangione, Ladies Auxiliary President
4601 West Bay Court Avenue
Tampa, FL 33611



Our Cultural Chair, Gilda Capitano, has shared the latest Opera Tampa schedule, taking place at the Straz Center over the next several months. The Opera has deep roots in the Italian heritage, and two of these shows are actually performed in Italian, with the English translations above. Please note that **GROUP RATES ARE AVAILABLE** for Italian Club Members who wish to see these performances. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.strazcenter.org/OperaTampa>

**OPERA
TAMPA**



Charles Gounod's Romeo and Juliet -

January 20th, 2017 - January 22nd, 2017

Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers find themselves trapped in the deadly Montague-Capulet family feud. Defying family honor, they choose each other, taking their lives into their own hands. In this daring dance with fate, Romeo and Juliet seal their future in a secret marriage before everything takes a turn

for the worse. Verona may be fair, but life isn't. Gounod's dark, intense music meets a masterful libretto true to the Bard's first telling of this spellbinding tale of young love undone by foolish family pride. Romeo and Juliet is sung in French with English translations projected above the stage.

Cinderella (La Cenerentola)

February 10th, 2017 - February 12th, 2017

Forget the fairy godmother and glimmering glass slipper ... this comedic turn on the cinder-tending heroine of the classic folktale features Cenerentola ("chen-neh-REN-to-lah"), as Cinderella is known in Italian. Desperate for something more fulfilling than daily hearth duty for her privileged step-sisters, Rossini's Cenerentola finds herself in disguise at a palace ball after falling in love-at-first-sight with the Prince's valet. But the night has many twists in store for Cenerentola when she discovers she's not the

only one at the party in disguise – and not the only one madly in love. This sparkling, intricate score sweeps audiences off their feet in this heart-warming opera of happily-ever-after. Cinderella is sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage. Maestro Lipton will lead an international cast along with the Opera Tampa Orchestra and Chorus.



Tosca

April 7th, 2017 - Apr 9th, 2017

Sometimes rejection feels like a knife in the heart, and no one knows that better than Puccini's treacherous villain Scarpia when he sets his machinations on the beautiful singer Tosca and her lover Cavaradossi. A masterwork of soaring arias and exquisite duets, Tosca shines as one of the great jewels of the operatic form. Iconic, everlasting, Puccini's riveting melodrama of escape,

pursuit, torture and murder culminates in Tosca's gripping battle to try to save everything she believes in – art, love and life itself. Tosca is sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage. Maestro Lipton will lead an international cast along with the Opera Tampa Orchestra and Chorus.



Centennial Celebration

Featuring Maestro Anton Coppola

March 25th, 2017

This Centennial Celebration concert honors founding artistic director Maestro Anton Coppola's 100th birthday. This historic event pays homage to Maestro Coppola's illustrious career and his status as opera's oldest working conductor and composer. Maestro Coppola conducts a full orchestra, chorus and soloists in a concert of his compositions and favorite works. The Opera Tampa Gala, hosted by the Opera Tampa League, is scheduled for the same evening, and includes premium seating at this concert. All opera lovers are invited to this glittering, golden gala honoring Anton Coppola's birthday. Join fellow opera lovers for the highlight event of the Opera Tampa season. Hosted by the Opera Tampa League, this signature black-tie affair features a cocktail reception, an elegant dinner on Carol Morsani stage, live and silent auctions, and presentation of the Anton Coppola Excellence in the Arts award. Please note: Italian Club Members will receive a special discount to attend the Centennial Celebration Performance Only. Please contact the Straz Center directly for more information on special pricing.



THE ITALIAN CLUB PRESENTS



EVERYONE IS WELCOME
CRUSH
Happy Hour

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 5 TO 9 PM
2 FOR 1 MASI WINE **\$3 WELLS** \$3 DOMESTIC

LIVE MUSIC // APPETIZER & PASTA BAR

"SEEN" AT OUR CRUSH HAPPY HOUR!

CRUSH Happy Hour

Felice Anno Nuovo! We had a great 2016, and we couldn't have done it without you! CRUSH Happy Hour at the Italian Club has become a staple event for our membership, and for the Ybor Community at large. During 2016, we hosted so many member birthdays and anniversaries; it was so wonderful to see the members having so much in their Club again. We also had the opportunity to work with many local businesses and corporate groups, who hosted their after work events with us. We cannot wait to have everyone come see us in 2017! Here are some special CRUSH nights coming up that you won't want to miss:

- January 6th – CRUSH Celebrates The New Year! Happy 2017!
- January 28th – Arrrrrrgh Me Matey! CRUSH Celebrates Gasparilla! Walk the plank and wear your beads!
- February 10th – Love is in the air as CRUSH Celebrates Valentine's Day – More details coming soon!

We will be adding some new entertainment to CRUSH in the coming months, in effort to add variety to our Happy Hour Fridays. If you have an upcoming birthday or anniversary, or would like to host an event for your business, please come by CRUSH Happy Hour. For any questions regarding large groups or reservations, please contact Maria Pardo at CrushHappyHour@gmail.com or by phone at (813) 267-7551. We welcome everyone to stop by and see what we are made of – so make sure to join us on Friday evenings in the Italian Club Cantina from 5pm-9pm!

We look forward to
CRUSHing
it with you!



"SEEN" AT OUR CRUSH HAPPY HOUR!



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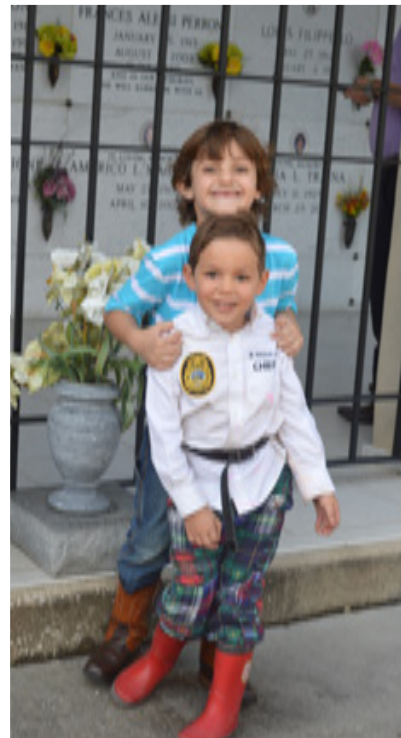
PICNIC WITH THE PAST: REVISITING

On Sunday, November 6th, Italian Club members and their families gathered at our beautiful cemetery, for our Annual Picnic With The Past Mass & Celebration. The event was well attended, with well over 150 attending both the mass and the picnic that followed. The event was wonderful, but the camaraderie of everyone coming together to honor their loved ones, and their past, was what it was all about.



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Tony Bennett Tribute
featuring **Ralph Marco**

Frankie Valli Tribute
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Johnny Mathis, Ray Charles, Tom Jones, Frank Sinatra, & More



Patsy Cline Tribute
featuring **Rondalee**



... & Chicago Heat Sings!
50's, 60's, 70's, & 80's Music!



And a very special dance and song routine by Joe Capitano Sr. and Sal Guagliardo.



Sunday, January 29th 2017

6:00pm-8:00pm

Cash Bar

Tickets: \$25.00



Italian Club 2nd Floor Theater: 1731 E. 7th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605. Phone: 813-248-3316. For more information please contact John Centinaro, at 813-933-1869 or by email centinarodj@gmail.com. Proceeds to benefit the Italian Club Cemetery

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



St. Patty's Parade

AFTER PARTY

Saturday, March 11th, 2017

8:00pm-12:00am

Come celebrate the luck of the Irish, as the Krewe Of Italia hosts its Annual St. Patty's Parade After Party at the Italian Club Of Tampa! This event will feature the best drink prices in town, along with live entertainment from 8:00pm-12am!

Tickets: \$5.00

(paid at the door)



FESTA ITALIANA COMMITTEE UPDATE



SCHOLARSHIP

We are excited to everyone of our 2017 Festa Italiana Tampa Scholarship sponsored in honor of Nelson Italiano. This is our sixteenth year offering this \$5,000.00 scholarship to area high school seniors. Here are the criteria:

1. Be a high school senior graduating in the Spring of 2017 at a Hillsborough County public or private high school.
2. Be admitted to a four-year college or university for the Fall of 2017.
3. Be of Italian descent. This is interpreted as having one or more parent, grandparent or great-grandparent who was born in Italy.
4. Have a grade-point average of at least 3.5 out of 4.0 (or the equivalent).
5. Be a United States citizen or a permanent resident alien.

This scholarship is limited to a Hillsborough County student, so students' chances are increased considerably. Please note that the applicant may reside in Pinellas or other counties. Applications will be blindly evaluated. This means, names, addresses, or distinguishing information that would reveal the applicant's identity on the application will not be made available to scholarship evaluators.

If you would like to have an application emailed to you, please contact Mark Stanish at mark@italian-club.org.

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Brio Tuscan Grille	Pipo's Cafe and Catering
Caffe Paradiso	StoneChef Events & Catering
Carmines Restaurant	Sunday's Delicatessen
Carne Chophouse	Tequilas
Catering by the Family	That's Amore Restaurante
Columbia Restaurant	The Ritz Ybor
Creperia Café	The Stone Soup Company
Cristino's Coal Oven Pizza Restaurant	Tony's Ybor Restaurant
Ducky's	Trattoria Pasquale

Festa ITALIANA

20th Anniversary
ITALIAN CULTURE & HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Thursday, April 6 to Sunday, April 9, 2017



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!

ZUCCHERO

Announcing our 2017
Main Stage Headliner

*World renowned & award winning,
international recording superstar Zucchero*

performing at the Main Event on Sunday, April 9



Festa Italiana Weekend is a multi-day celebration of all things Italian. Wines of Italy on April 6 is the official kick-off party for Festa Italiana Weekend which concludes with the Main Event on April 9, 2017. Event attendees will experience the finest in live entertainment, Tampa Bay's restaurants and cuisine, family activities, wine and much more.



www.FestaItalianaTampa.com

PRESENTED BY



MILESTONES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Donna Sardegna, Member of the Italian Club and the Italian Club Ladies Auxiliary, shared the above photo of her daughter, Gina's, recent wedding. Gina Sardegna was married to Daniel Klosicki on November 12th, 2017 at OLPH in Ybor City. Gina is the 3rd generation to be married at OLPH – Gina & Ryan, Gina's parents (Anthony and Donna Sardegna) and Gina's grandparents (Sam and Annie Sardegna). Other family members have also been married at OLPH making this very special on this special day.

Congratulations!

DO YOU HAVE A MILESTONE OR ANNOUNCEMENT YOU'D LIKE INCLUDED?


If you would like to announce a Milestone in our next newsletter, please send an email to mark@italian-club.org notifying us of what type of announcement it is, who it's for, etc. The more information you can provide the better (we may edit the content to fit). If you wish, you can also submit a photo.



Lynette Stine, Member Of The Italian Club and the Italian Club Ladies Auxiliary, shared this photo from Ybor's Unity in the Community, held on October 16th. Unity in the Community, organized by "A Positive Image Tampa Bay" is a group of concerned citizens from diverse backgrounds and cultures uniting together to instill an Image of Positivity and Unity.

Thank You

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We would like to extend a special thank you to the following supporters for their monetary donations to help offset the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter

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In Memory Of Frank Accurso

Want to become a "Friend Of L'Unione Italiana? For just \$30.00 a year, you can become a "Friend Of L'Unione." As a "Friend Of L'Unione," your name (either a single name, couple, or family name) will be listed in our newsletter as our way of saying "Thank You," If you would like to become a "Friend," please mail a \$30 check to the club, and make sure to write on the memo line "Friends Of L'Unione."

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ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS/SERVICE

Are you interested in promoting your business in this newsletter? The Italian Club Newsletter is sent to over 500 homes and businesses throughout the Tampa Bay area. If you are a business owner, or know of a business that would benefit from promotion within this publication, please contact us for more information. Below are the ad rates; however, if you would like more information on ads, please contact Mark Stanish at the Club - (813)248-3316 or via email at mark@italian-club.org

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