



THE PUNCH

Vol 69, No 3, 2026

General Meeting

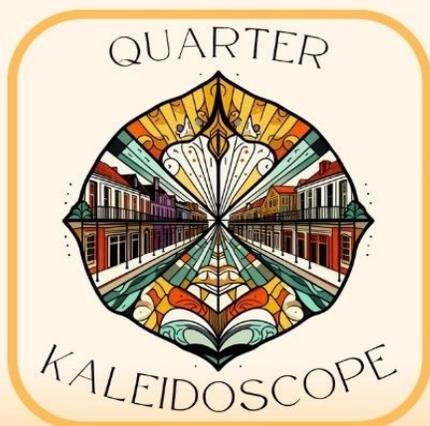
A St. Patrick's Day themed graphic featuring a green top hat with a black band and a gold buckle, and a small shamrock on the side. The background is light green with two large shamrocks in the corners. At the bottom, there is a decorative border of various shades of green shamrocks.

 **PATIO PLANTERS
MARCH GENERAL
MEETING**

March 4
6:30 PM
Mary's Ace Hardware

You don't want to miss this event. Our President, Joey DiFatta will be one of the storytellers. March 11- Space is limited so get your tickets today. BKHouse.org

Sponsored by VCPORA, BK HOUSE, and French Quarter Journal



A LIVE STORYTELLING EVENT

ITALIAN HERITAGE IN THE FRENCH QUARTER

Storytellers include Joey DiFatta, Fred Holley, Lea Siegel with Judge Camille Buras, and JoAnn Testa

**1113 CHARTRES STREET
MARCH 11 | 6PM**

FRENCH QUARTER
JOURNAL

HISTORIC
BK HOUSE & GARDENS



Patio Planters Board Members/Officers for 2026

Patio Planters Board 2025

Joey DiFatta – President
Kirk Guidry- Vice President
Mary Bartholomew- Secretary
Jared Frank – Treasurer
Stephen Swain – Past President
Sandra Dartus
Carol Gernon
Karen Milanese
Micah Loewenthal



PATIO PLANTERS
OF THE VIEUX CARRÉ

French Quarter Happenings



**Monday, March 17-
Downtown Irish Club Parade -
7:00pm**

**Saturday, March 28-
Italian-American St. Joseph's Parade - 6pm**

**Tennessee
Williams
Literary Festival-
March 25-29**



HISTORIC
BK HOUSE & GARDENS

BK
HOUSE-

WWW.BKHOUSE.ORG

**QUARTER KALEIDOSCOPE-
MARCH 11**

ST JOSEPH TABLE- MARCH 18-19

St. Joseph Altar



A St. Joseph Altar is a Sicilian custom as an offering of Love, Labor and Sacrifice in honor of the Patron Saint of the Sicilians and Universal Church.

According to legend, the St. Joseph Altar originated in Sicily many centuries ago during a period of drought and famine. In desperation, the people turned to St. Joseph asking his help and intercession. When the rains came and crops prospered, their prayers were answered. In thanksgiving, the community made offerings to St. Joseph of their most prized possession - FOOD!

In his honor, they erected a lovely altar with three levels to represent the Holy Trinity. They draped it simply and beautifully in white, adorned it with

flowers, the finest grain, fruits, vegetables, seafood and wine. The poor were invited to share in their prayer and festivity.

The custom and devotion continue to this day. Each year, altars laden with food (meatless) are prepared on March 19th to celebrate St. Joseph's Feast Day. Reasons for having the altars vary – to fulfill a promise, to give thanks for a favor granted, such as the safe return of a loved one from war, for healing the sick, for a happy family, for success in studies or business. It is also an opportunity for the prosperous to share with those less fortunate.

There are many traditions associated with a St. Joseph Altar. One is the traditional dried, roasted and blessed fava bean. It has been known as the very popular “lucky bean.” St. Joseph reportedly sent the rains, which nourished the fava beans, which in turn fed the famished Sicilians. Legend has it that you will never be broke as long as you carry a “lucky bean.” The custom is to carry a fava bean in your wallet or handbag for luck.

Another is the blessed St. Joseph's bread. Recipients keep the blessed bread in their houses for protection. If there is a storm, believers crumble the bread and scatter the crumbs to protect their homes from the storm.

The Feast of St. Joseph is March 19th.



St. Joseph's Altar returns to BK House

BK House will honor **St. Joseph's Day** with an Altar again this year!

Join us in marking this sacred Sicilian tradition, which has been celebrated in the French Quarter since Sicilian immigrants began arriving in the city in the late 19th century.

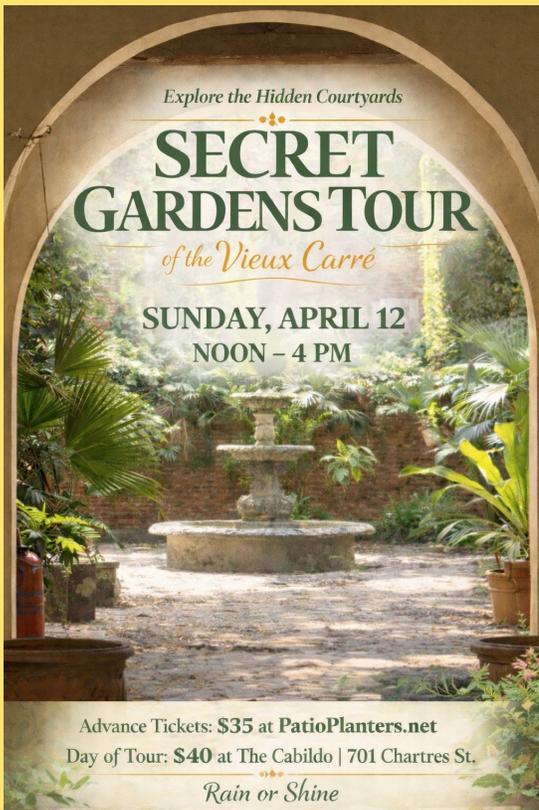
The Altar can be viewed on:

- Wednesday, March 18, and on Thursday, March 19, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Father Damian Zablocki will lead a special blessing of the Altar at 10 a.m. on March 18.

The blessing and viewing are open to the public.

Secret Garden Tour

April 12, 2026



Six French Quarter homeowners are graciously opening their courtyards for viewing during a **self-guided walking tour** for this **one day only** event

Sunday April 12th from 12:00PM-4:00PM.

The casual stroll offers a glimpse into how designers and residents take advantage of small spaces, adorned with greenery and flora to provide cool hideaways suited to the New Orleans climate.

Tickets may be purchased online for \$35 plus fees or purchased the day of the event for \$40.

Go to our web page PatioPlanters.net and click on Secret Garden Tour ticket sale .

Please pass this on to your friends and on your social media accounts.



HAPPY HOUR- MARCH 27

6-7PM

THE ROYAL BAR

OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS



PATIO
PLANTERS
OF THE VIEUX CARRÉ



King Cake Party



THANK YOU

To our members who attended

Special Thanks to :

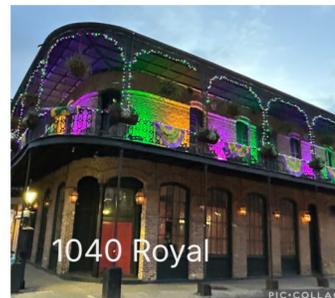
Courtney Perret– The Occasional Maximalist– Decorations

Frank and Anne Milanese–Decorations

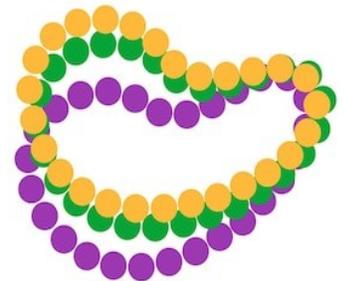
Carl Mack– Mardi Gras Museum of Costumes and Culture

Claus Sadler –Storyville Museum

MARDI GRAS BLUE RIBBON WINNERS



MARDI GRAS HONORABLE MENTIONS



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