



## C.I.A.O.

Cultural Italian American Organization  
144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240  
Auburn, New York 13021  
www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org

Newsletter, April , 2019

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Father Louis Vasile

### *Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!*

A reminder that our next membership meeting date is **Monday, April 1**  
7:00 pm Father Nacca Hall, Auburn.

### *Buona Pasqua - Happy Easter*

May our risen Lord bring into your homes His shining and radiant beams of love, sharing His love with one another.

*Che la risurrezione del nostro Signore porti nelle vostre case un raggio di luce d'amore, riscambiano il bene tra l'uno e l'altro.*

### *Pasqua Among Italians*

The Easter liturgy is joyful, spectacular and beautiful. The Easter breakfast is often an Easter omelet (*frogga*) made with herbs or vegetables. Also, in some parts of Italy, the Ricotta Omelet is traditional. The Easter dinner is the most festive of the whole year. A traditional *Pasqua* menu might include: *Agnellino* (baby Lamb) or suckling kid with manicotti, sautéed spinach, roasted artichokes, pickled vegetables, mixed salad *panzerotti alla teramana*, etc.

The traditions of colomba cakes can be traced to the Middle Ages when many Italian city states fought to protect the pope's right to rule against the imperial threats from Austria to take over power. In one of these battles, the pope-friendly Milanese army was losing to the formidable powers of Emperor Federico Barbarossa. Suddenly and without explanation, three majestic doves flew from the belfry of the neighborhood parish. Having witnessed this mystical herald of divinity, the soldiers from Milan thought the battle might soon go their way. The legend goes that Barbarossa was defeated and the Milanese went home victorious but hungry. A local baker whipped up a commemorative confection. As folklore tells it, the dove-shaped Columba was born, smelling of aromatic nuts and sugary citrus.

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**Scordati** - forgot to include in our March newsletter another winner/donation from Donatina Casamassa, who participated in the social night playing LCR. She also prepared a good *pastae patate* - pasta and potatoes.

**Reminder** - **membership dues** are \$25.00 for single, and \$40.00 for a family. Checks may be made payable to C.I.A.O. and sent to: C.I.A.O., 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, New York, 13021. If you have already paid, *grazie!*

## ***Cuccina Crew News***

CIAO will once again help the Genesee Street Elementary School in Auburn during their one day bazaar on Saturday, April 6, 2019. The event is held to raise funds for a scholarship given to a senior at Auburn High who attended Genesee Elementary. Our special meatball (*polpette*) subs will be served during lunch time on that day.

### ***“Celebration of Champions Dinner Dance” - May 3***

CIAO will be represented at the Champions for Life dinner on May 3 by attendees Paolo and Anna Saltarello, Tony and Patty Gucciardi, Dick and Marie Paulino, and Tony Tesoro. Champions for Life will be posthumously honoring John “Jack” Bisgrove, II. CIAO had the pleasure of honoring John at our first Christopher Columbus Testimonial Dinner. The event will generate more funds for this great organization founded by Jack Bisgrove as a non-profit charitable organization to help families experiencing illness with their loved ones at a retreat, and respite for those affected with severe medical conditions.

### ***History of Italians in Auburn***

Holy Family Church, the first Catholic parish in Auburn, shows Italian names as early as 1869. From 1869 to September 1907, about 49 marriages were performed on those whose names were Italian. The first pastor at St. Francis Parish, Fr. John Robotti in 1907, performed a marriage ceremony between John Pulcini and Joanne Derbino. Letters of incorporation to establish a new church for the Italian immigrants in Auburn were drawn on May 22, 1907. The laymen members selected were Alfonso DiCristoforo and Michael Giannini. All of this was recorded by the State of New York, County of Cayuga, City of Auburn, on September 9, 1907. The new church was met with great rejoicing by the Italian families who had for many years worshipped in the basement of St. Mary’s Church, Lyceum Hall. The first pastor to serve was Italian native Giovanni Robotti. In Auburn during that time, Italians numbered 353 and by 1908, a year later those residents increased to 544. Thereafter, in 1910 there were 768, which increased to 1125 by 1915.

### ***Memorial Day***

We will again be selling pizza fritte in front of K of C #207 on Market Street for Memorial Day. Our friends at the Knights are always courteous to invite us to be part of the day’s activities. The proceeds help CIAO to help others. Member Kathy DeJoy will once again chair the event. *Grazie!*

#### **Dicevano I Nostri Nonni**

*Natale con I tuoi, e Pasqua con chi ruoi*

Christmas is to spend with your family,  
and Easter with whomever you  
wish to spend it

### ***Italian Easter Chocolates***

Perugina chocolates began in 1907 as a labor of love between Giovanni Buitoni, the young heir to Perugina and Luisa Spagnoli, a confectioner in her own right, in the charming and ancient Umbrian hill town of Perugia in central Italy. A special treat for grownups and children alike are the *uova di Pasqua*, Italian hollow chocolate Easter eggs. Perugina or Kinder eggs are the most popular, but any hollow chocolate will do. These traditional eggs are displayed throughout Italy in pastry shops, markets and especially at chocolatiers.

Check our website for event information, photos and up to date C.I.A.O. news:

**[www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org](http://www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org)**