



C.I.A.O.

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

Newsletter, December, 2020

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Mike Vasco

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Father Louis Vasile

Monthly Newsletter

Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!

Our future meetings have been postponed for now; when we are able to set a date, we will contact members by email or phone, and post on Facebook and our website. Visit our website for updated pictures!

E Natale sia!

Gioia e felicità con tanta bontà nei vostri cuori. Il nuovo anno 2021 con tanta allegria, proseguendo con un buon miglioramento, proseguendo ad eliminare queste difficoltà che esistono. Buon Natale!

Natale con i tuoi, e pasqua dove vuoi.
Christmas to spend with your dear ones,
and Easter to spend with whom you wish to be with.

As Christmas is upon us, and as confined as we are, we hope that the joy, music and Christmas songs will bring a continuation of the Christmas spirit. We are the instruments to spread Christmas cheer everywhere, as it announces the birth of little Jesus. *Buona salute a tutti, Good Health to all!*



Benvenuti - Welcome! As we begin the MMXXI year of our Lord, CIAO is glad to have more additions to its membership with the following new members: Salvatore (Sam) and Sheila Giangreco, who have entertained for many years in the Auburn community with great music by the Blue Lights. Giangrecos are sponsored by Tony Gucciardi. Also, welcome to new members Dominic Petrosino and Nicole Veltri, who have also been members of Italian clubs while attending graduate school, participating with the NIAF organization, based in Washington DC. They are sponsored by Mike "Pompiere" Vasco.

Membership News and Dues

CIAO's membership remains loyal and strong with a total of 122 members, all fully paid for 2020. As we are entering the year 2021, experiencing the many obstacles and difficulties, CIAO's annual complimentary membership dinner will not be held at the January 2021 meeting. It will be held at a later date, as all will come to be with eased restrictions.

Membership dues are payable in January, and can be sent in to the Secretary, Tony Tesoro, c/o CIAO, 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, New York, 13021. Membership dues are \$25.00 for single, and \$40 for couples. Our organization began in 2014. We have been very involved in the community assisting people and non-profit organizations with their fundraisers. CIAO's existence is strong due to the membership and those members who continuously volunteer to work at the various events. Only through the support of the membership is CIAO able to assist others in our community. Our motto: *Cultura* and *Caritas*.

CIAO Year in Review

Although we had many cancellations this year (our monthly meetings, *San Giuseppe Festa*, bus trip, Christopher Columbus Dinner, *Buon Natale* party), we still had a successful year as an organization. CIAO is proud to support our community by offering to participate in fundraisers by selling our well known *pizza fritte*. Tomatofest was most appreciative for our commitment to help in their canned food drive, raising a total of \$2,900 for three events. In addition, a few of the other fundraising events CIAO participated in included a dinner fundraiser which raised \$3,300 for St. Francis Church, and a fundraiser for the Erie Canal Heritage Park which raised \$1,000 for the organization. Also, CIAO was proud to sponsor three scholarships this year, in the amount of \$500 each.

As CIAO had to cancel the Christopher Columbus commemorative dinner in October due to the pandemic, some of the CIAO members united at the Christopher Columbus monument, across from St Francis Church, to have a flag raising ceremony of the Italian *tricolore* and the Stars and Stripes colorful flag. Next year this will also be held at the City Hall flag court.

A great feeling for CIAO during the year was making contact with Dr. Anthony Fauci, and inviting Dr. Fauci to be honored by CIAO at the Testimonial Dinner on Columbus weekend. Dr. Fauci kindly declined due to the extreme situation of Covid-19. Perseverance for CIAO to forward the honor to Dr. Fauci in the future, as time and conditions will improve.

The Syracuse Christopher Columbus Committee, strongly working to keep the monument erected, received \$200 from CIAO to help support their cause.



Dicevano I Nostri Nonni

Words of Wisdom from our old people

L'amico si conosce quando si perde
Only when you lose your friend
do you really appreciate them

Dimmi con chi vai, e ti dirò chi sei
Tell me with whom you associate and
I'll tell you what you are
(Birds of a feather flock together)

Time for a Chuckle...

Baby: An angel whose wings decrease as his legs increase.

Romance: "You mean to say that you're engaged to five different boys at once?" "Yeah, I can hardly wait until Christmas to straighten things out."