



## C.I.A.O.

Cultural Italian American Organization  
144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240  
Auburn, New York 13021  
[www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org](http://www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org)

**Newsletter, August, 2023**

### **Officers**

#### **Chairman**

Paolo Saltarello

#### **Co-Chairman**

Tony Gucciardi

#### **Secretary**

Joseph Palmiotto

#### **Recording Secretary**

John "Jay" Elice, Jr.

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Joanne Charles

#### **Treasurer**

Sam Vitale

#### **Financial Secretary**

Dick Paulino

#### **Trustees**

Matteo Bartolotta  
Arlene Ryan  
Dr. Anthony Tabone  
Mike Vasco  
Dr. Frank Vassallo

#### **Sentinels**

Giuseppe Casamassa  
Vito Charella

#### **Public Relations**

Mike Vasco

#### **Chaplain**

Father Paul Alciati

#### **Chaplain Emeritus**

Father Louis Vasile

#### **Member-at-Large**

Tony Tesoro

### **Monthly Newsletter**

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

**NO AUGUST MEETING DUE TO BOCCE SCHEDULE**

**Our next meeting will be on  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 at 7:00 PM at Father Nacca Hall.**

### ***CIAO Christopher Columbus Testimonial Dinner***

CIAO is making preparations for the annual Testimonial Dinner, that also recognizes Christopher Columbus Day. CIAO was formed in 2014 to promote and enhance the Italian American heritage and culture. Annually, CIAO recognizes people in our community who have given of themselves by assisting those in need. The members of CIAO's Board recently met and chose two fine men who have served the community with their medical professionalism, assisting many patients in their time of need. Receiving the honor at the CIAO testimonial dinner will be Dr. Rama M. Godishala, and Dr. Patrick Buttarazzi, posthumously. Their personal medical dedication and caring have marked their years of serving many patients in our community. More information will be included in the September newsletter.

The annual dinner will be held **Monday, October 9, 2023**, Columbus Day, at the Springside Inn, beginning with a cocktail hour at 5 pm, followed by a family style dinner. Tickets are \$45 per person, and reservations will be accepted and confirmed with payment. Reservations may be made by contacting Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859, or Lynda DeOrio, [lynda@cayugacountyciao.org](mailto:lynda@cayugacountyciao.org). Reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of payment, which should be made in the form of a check and mailed to CIAO, 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, New York.

A program book will also be printed for the honorees, with congratulations by those who wish to be included; a form will be included in the September newsletter with pricing information for ads in the program book.

### ***Bocce season***

All players have been meeting on the Owasco courts on Wednesday evenings, enjoying this ancient sport from the Romans. *Grazie* to "Salvatore" Sam Vitale and Joe DiVietro who are dedicated co-chairs and work very hard to keep the scores updated in order to be able to schedule the teams for the final playoff, which will be held on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Owasco town courts are available to any one who would like to play there, although bocce balls are not provided. CIAO sends its appreciation to the town board for their courtesies, and a special thank you to Tony Gucciardi for his help. Scores are posted after the Wednesday evening games on our website and Facebook. Come by and check out the play, every Wednesday from 6-9 pm.

### ***Membership News***

Welcome to new member Gennero "Jerry" Vasile, sponsored by Father Lou Vasile.

### ***NEWSLETTER MAILING COST***

The cost of sending the newsletter via regular mail is rising as the postal service is once again raising the cost of postage stamps. At the moment, there are about 40 members who receive the newsletter by mail. Some do not have a computer, but we kindly ask those who do have an email and are receiving the newsletter by regular mail to please contact Lynda DeOrio at [lynda@cayugacountyciao.org](mailto:lynda@cayugacountyciao.org) so that we can send you our mailings via email to help keep our mailing costs down. *Grazie!*

## ***CIAO Scholarship Picnic***

Once again, CIAO gave recognition to seven local high school students who received an honor from CIAO on **Monday, June 19**. Appreciation is given to the committee for their fine work: Tony Gucciardi, Mary Ann Mucedola, Arlene Ryan, and Antonia “Toni” Colella. The students and their families were very appreciative from the warm hospitality as they all attended the annual picnic hosted by CIAO. The membership cooking was set aside for this year, as the food truck from Osteria Salina treated the guests attending with an excellent picnic menu, very much enjoyed by all. The total amount of the scholarships shared by the students, \$2,500, was raised from the Pizza Fritte events. This year’s winners are Michael Clark, Abigail Carr, Colin Musso, Sophie Pettigrass, Patrick Crawford, Mia D’Angelo, and Schae Fitzgerald. Congratulations!

## ***Pizza Fritte News***

### ***CIAO’s pizza fritte stand has been busy helping in the community!***

**St. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church Festival – Sunday, July 2**, CIAO joined the parishioners of Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Church for their annual picnic, which hasn’t taken place for the past three years. CIAO was recognized by the members and parishioners who were very appreciative of our activity as the Pizza Fritte stand was there to help them raise funds for their church and for the Ukrainian people who have been here, under the church’s sponsorship. From the Pizza Fritte sales, a total of \$1,100 will be donated to help out the Ukrainian families. Many thanks to those who worked the event: Mucedolas, Paulinos, Casamassas, Dr. John Ryan, Joe Palmiotto, Maria A. Lentini, Carolyn and Jay Elice, “*Pompiere*” Mike Vasco, Sue Gatto, Gina Mironti, Arlene Ryan, Dr. Anthony Tabone, Antonia “Toni” Colella, and students Mia D’Angelo and Mia Holmes. Grazie, grazie!

**The Wall that Heals** - Summer is passing by, as CIAO continues to be active in *caritas* and *cultura*. The Vietnam Veteran group, headed by Nick Valenti, Commander, asked CIAO to assist them in their project to bring to Auburn in September “The Wall That Heals,” the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica Wall. On **Saturday, July 22**, the Pizza Fritte crew set up at the front of Bass Pro to sell their specialties. Once again CIAO was there to assist others, and glad to do so. *Grazie* to those who worked: “*Pompiere*” Mike Vasco, Dick Paulino, Arlene Ryan, mother/son team Carolyn and Jay Elice, Joe Palmiotto, Maria A. Lentini, Annie Febles, Joanne Charles, Saltarellos and Mucedolas.

**Auburn Founders Day** - Our CIAO Pizza Fritte stand will once again stand to help out our community. For this downtown Auburn event on **Saturday, August 12**, the Pizza Fritte crew will be preparing and carefully creating this food item that our *nonni*/grandparents and *papa/mamma* used to simply make on any occasion for anyone who visited. The Willard Memorial Chapel committee has asked CIAO to assist them and be part of their celebration during the Founders Day event. Those who would like to join in making the pizza fritte are asked to call Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859. Felix will be glad to set you up for the amount of time that you are able to give. We are glad to assist Maxine and Gino Alberici for this endeavor, as they are both CIAO members and busy with their schedules.

**Booker T. Washington** - CIAO’s food assistance to the center for their annual summer camp students, of various ages, was once again appreciated by the staff and students who enjoyed CIAO’s annual treat on their final day of camp during July and August.

Appreciation to the following pizzerias who provide the pasta dough so we can make the other “dough:” Mamma Maria New York Pizzeria; Angelo’s Pizza, Mark’s Pizzeria, and Nino’s Pizzeria. *Bravi!*

## ***From Feriae Augusti to Ferragosto***

The ancient Romans loved celebrations and half of the Roman year was spent in holiday festivities. One of these feasts that originated in antiquity during Roman times was celebrated on the first of August, whose term derives from Feriae Augustii (Latin for “feast of Augustus”). When the Christian calendar took over in 1582, August 15th became a religious day celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, a seasonal significance as much as its celebration coincided with the gathering of harvest. With a firm hold on this religious holiday Christians continue to celebrate it to this day. Their belief in hard work in the agricultural sector and respect for workers began a custom for the workers to wish their employees “*buon ferragosto*” and receive a monetary bonus in return. The resurgence of Ferragosto as it is celebrated today in Italy happened during the Fascist Era. Mussolini declared Ferragosto be a secular celebration in contrast to the church religious holiday by promoting outings and vacations from the 14th of August to the 16th. With extremely low-cost tickets subsidized by the government, this was the only time that most Italian families could afford to travel. Today most companies close for around two weeks, allowing their workers to take a mandated vacation. Ferragosto is a very traditional Italian feast along with Easter and Christmas, centered around August 15th. Ferragosto in New York, as in the rest of the United States, is not celebrated, although some Italian communities celebrate on their own.