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## C.I.A.O.

Cultural Italian American Organization

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**Newsletter, October, 2023**

## Monthly Newsletter

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

**Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 4, 7 pm, Father Nacca Hall.**

After the meeting, CIAO member Arlene Ryan  
will be briefly sharing a special story.

### ***Christopher Columbus Day Recognition Dinner***

***Monday, October 9, 2023 Springside Inn, Auburn***

Christopher Columbus Day celebration for CIAO since 2014

We continue to sail along, as Cristoforo Colombo did in 1492, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October. As in many parts of America, the day is still very much celebrated in the various Italian American communities. This year, CIAO will be honoring two fine gentlemen who have served many years of unwavering personal dedication in the medical fields, Doctors Rama Godishala and posthumously Patrick Buttarazzi. The 2023 Testimonial Dinner is in conjunction with the Christopher Columbus Day celebration. We hope to see many of you joining CIAO in this celebration for our Italian heritage.

***Grazie, Appreciation*** - Our sincere appreciation to Mario Daniele, ex-Vice Consul in Rochester, New York, for his kind donation to CIAO in connection with the Christopher Columbus Dinner, 2023. Mario has always been helpful to our organization since the beginning when he joined CIAO, and continues to attend our functions, too! *I nostri ringraziamenti!*

## ***Member News***

***Condolences*** - CIAO extends its deepest sympathies to Carolynn, John "Jay," and the entire Elice family on the loss of John. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult and sad time.

***Benvenuti*** – welcome - CIAO continues to welcome new members, adding to our roster. Welcome to Gloria Russell, sponsor Joanne Charles, and Gemma Morabito, sponsor Susan Gatto.

***Congratulations*** - to CIAO member Arlene Ryan, who just celebrated 59 years as a member of the Girl Scouts - 4 years as a youth, and 55 years as an adult.

# **Columbus Day New York History People Coming Together**

(Source: POSTED ON MON, OCTOBER 10, 2016 BY DANA SCHULZ on Website 6Sqft.com)

## **In 1892, NYC celebrated an entire Columbus Week**

Annually, the Columbus Day parade draws nearly a million viewers to Fifth Avenue, but that's nothing compared to the festivities of 1892, when New Yorkers celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Italian explorer's Caribbean landing for seven full days. Columbus Week was a completely decked out party with a Hudson River naval parade, Brooklyn Bridge fireworks, a music festival, and the first Columbus Day Parade, which consisted of 12,000 public school children, 5,500 Catholic school children, military drill squads, and 29 marching bands.

In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison issued a proclamation that established a day to honor the "400th anniversary of the discovery of America," known as Discovery Day (Columbus Day wouldn't become a federal holiday until 1937). Contrary to much of today's backlash against the holiday, it was originally intended to recognize the Native Americans who were here before Columbus, as well as the countless immigrant groups who came after. As evidence of this, the first Columbus Day parade in New York featured 350 Native American students alongside several private Italian schools, according to the American Scholar.

This was also the year that the Christopher Columbus monument was erected at present-day Columbus Circle. To mark the anniversary, an Italian-American newspaper funded its creation by Gaetano Russo, who sculpted a marble statue of the explorer atop a 70-foot granite column adorned with bronze depictions of his three ships.

## ***CIAO contributions in the community***

CIAO continues to extend their *caritas*, charity, to help others. The 2023 total events held in our community to benefit others to raise funds contributed a total of \$9,800.

At the September meeting, the Board members suggested a contribution be made to a woman in need as she is struggling through pancreatic cancer. The woman, Rishanna Wellington, a very hard working person with a great smile and personality, has been part of Angelo's Pizzeria for many years. She is dedicated to her children and has worked alongside CIAO on many events. She received a \$400 check, as a \$100 donation was made by Board member Anthony Tabone, DDS. *Grazie, dottore!* Appreciation also to Salvatore "Sam" and Linda Vitale, Saltarellos, and Bartolottas. A fundraiser was also held at the UNC for Rishanna on Saturday, September 26, with cooking done by Bob Bruno, Joe Villano and Matt Bartolotta. A community spirited event!

CIAO Cuccina Crew, with their cooking continues to assist at Tyburn Academy school. On Thursday, October 19, 2023, the crew will be preparing and serving another special dinner for the evening, assisting the school as retired S.U. Coach Jim Boeheim will be their honoree. In the past, Coach Boeheim has always attended the event, participating and assisting in the best way to help raise funds for Tyburn Academy.

CIAO Cucina Crew will be cooking a pasta dinner for the Willard Memorial Chapel in Auburn, to raise funds for the committee. The dinner will be taking place on Wednesday, November 19, 2023, at the K of C Council 207 on Market Street in Auburn. The public is invited – more info will follow in next month's newsletter. The "Crew" is glad to help out and assist CIAO members Maxine and Gino Alberici.