



C.I.A.O.

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

Newsletter, February, 2024

Officers

Chairman

Paolo Saltarello

Co-Chairman

Tony Gucciardi

Secretary

Joseph Palmiotto

Recording Secretary

John "Jay" Elice, Jr.

Corresponding Secretary

Joanne Charles

Treasurer

Anna Saltarello

Financial Secretary

Dick Paulino

Trustees

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

Sentinels

Giuseppe Casamassa
Sue Gatto

Public Relations

Mike Vasco

Chaplain

Father Louis Vasile

Member-at-Large

Tony Tesoro

Monthly Newsletter

Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!

Next meeting Wednesday, February 7, 6:00 PM

Meeting, dinner and the fun dice game LCR!

Another special social night is planned in February, following a brief CIAO meeting at 6 pm, February 7. Many members who have attended and participated in this always fun evening and played LCR, a fun and easy dice game, have enjoyed it! An old fashioned pasta dinner and more, with refreshments too, will be served after the meeting, prepared by the Cucina Crew, and served to the about 50 who normally attend this evening of *buona compagnia*. No reservations needed; if you have not attended at all in the past, you can call Lynda DeOrio at 315-277-0367, or email lynda@cayugacountyciao.org. *Va bene ci vediamo* - see you there! Dinner compliments of CIAO - be sure to bring \$1 bills to play and win...someone will! Each game is \$3 to play.

A New Year and membership dues are payable

Auguri - Buon principio d'anno! Best wishes for a Happy New Year! We have become a very active organization in our community. We are very excited and will continue to flourish with activities and traditional celebrations. A reminder that annual dues are payable in January; if you have not already paid for 2024, you can either bring your dues of \$25/person, \$40 couple to the February meeting, or mail to CIAO, 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, NY 13021. A self-addressed envelope will be included with a reminder to those who have not paid their 2024 dues.

Welcome onboard new CIAO officers Anna Saltarello, Treasurer, and Sue Gatto, Sentinel. Thank you to past officers Sam Vitale and Vito Charella for their many years of devoted service to our organization!

Membership News

Benvenuti - welcome! Once again CIAO is pleased to welcome new members into our organization - Larry and Beth Liberatore - *che piacere!*

Nonno "Grandpapa" Sam Vitale was very honored by his *nipoti*, grandchildren, Monica, Jacob, Katie, Sam and Ben as they united to make a gift donation to CIAO in honor of Grandpa Sam Vitale. *Bravi!*

There is a new arrival to CIAO's membership as a first born came to join Mike and Elysha Mignelli Iannelli in the final days of 2023. A happy closing to the year for the Iannellis as Aurora May came into this world, joining *nonni* and *mama* and *papa*. *Zii, cugini tutti*, everyone in the family is joyful! *Splendido*, as CIAO has for the very first time announced a birth - *una nuova nascita* - to one of our members. *Che la piccolo Aurora May, avra una gioiosa vita*. Many blessings to Baby Aurora May sent from the heavens above. *Auguri!*

Key Bank update

On October 6, 2023, CIAO's treasurer went to the local Key Bank to make a deposit. Our treasurer counted and recounted the deposit before going to the bank. At the bank, the teller counted the deposit, came up with the same total, and issued a receipt. Ten days later, CIAO received a notice from Key Bank stating that they had debited our account \$740 because three checks had been scanned twice. CIAO officers met with the local Key Bank manager to dispute the charge. Despite presenting the bank receipt, the manager essentially brushed us off. We pursued the matter up the corporate ladder, and appealed to bank executives in Cleveland, Ohio. CIAO's co-chairs and treasurer have been contacting and talking to many of the executive officers' secretaries, and each one would shift the issue to other personnel. We received the runaround each time. It was very aggravating staying on the phone, on hold, for up to 30 minutes. Promises were made, stating they would return the call within 24/48 hours, all with no follow up call. As of Monday, January 29, after being on the phone for 3 hours - still no results - someone will contact CIAO - *niente!* We are not giving up - it was wrong on the part of the bank and they will not admit it. This is very unprofessional of the Key Bank executive offices.

Social Committee planning year ahead

The Social Committee has begun brainstorming for the year ahead, and we welcome your ideas of what you would like to see at our monthly meetings! Last year, CIAO members enjoyed LCR, pasta making, Father Paul's presentation, wine and cheese pairing with Peppers Liquor Store, a presentation on Italian dialects by member Jackie Sorci, and a presentation and tasting of tomatoes from Jay Elice. What activities or events would you like to see at our monthly meetings? Let committee members Lynda DeOrio, Carolyn Elice and Janet Vasallo know your ideas and we will try to make them happen!

Valentine's Day Celebration in Italy

In Italy, Land of Love and Lovers, Valentine's Day is a holiday imported from the US, just like Halloween and Mother's Day. The day is dedicated to the celebration of love and is called *il giorno della festa degli innamorati*. Typically, as lovers exclusively celebrate this day, family members and friends do not exchange gifts. Couples usually go out for dinner at a *pizzeria* or *ristorante*. Since the main color on Valentine's Day is red, many restaurants decorate tables with red candles, red dishes and red flowers as a sign of love and passion. Traditional presents are roses, perfume, chocolates and diamonds, depending on age and taste. A very popular Valentine's Day gift in Italy is a box of *Baci Perugina*, small chocolate covered hazelnuts containing a romantic quote in four languages.

The Festivities of Carnival Time

Easter falls on Sunday March 31, 2024, as the culmination of the period of Lent and Holy Week. From Ash Wednesday (February 14 in 2024) until Easter Saturday, Christians traditionally enter the 40 day period of fasting known as Lent which is meant to reflect Christ's 40 days in the wilderness and is held straight after the festivities of Carnival.

Many, many years ago most of the people of Italy's cities, towns and villages spent weeks celebrating Carnival time. Today it remains a very colorful festival, especially in Venice and other major cities, but it is for shorter periods of time than in the past. For seven days and nights prior to Lent the air is alive with music and laughter. The word carnival is derived from two Latin words - *carni* (meat) and *vale* (good bye) which is easily translated into "good-bye to meat." In Venice the Carnival tradition began in 1420 to celebrate the victory of the Venetian troops over Aquileia. Carnival peaked in the 1700s and its magical elegance was documented by the painters in their masterpieces.

Thank you!

..to CIAO member and former board member
Paul Vitale of Hume Lane for his kind donation to
CIAO. *Grazie!*

Happy Valentine's Day!



Il bacio chiede amore, il bacio concede amore

The kiss demands love, the kiss grants love

Il bacio è un duetto a bocca chiusa

The kiss is a duet without words

