



**C.I.A.O.**

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

**Newsletter, March, 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, March 6, 7:00 PM***

***Join us for a meeting and a presentation by guest speaker,  
our Chaplain Father Paul Alciati***

***A new year and membership dues are payable***

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 meeting, or mail to CIAO, 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, NY 13021.

### ***Old Fashioned Pasta Dinner and Game Night***

About 50 people attended our meeting and game night in February. Food was served and well enjoyed by those attending, as were the games of LCR that were played after a brief meeting (what a surprise, as Paolo conducted a brief meeting!) CIAO also donated \$300 to St. Francis Church for the use of Father Nacca Hall.

### ***Anthony Saltarello on the way to South America – Colombia***

Anthony, 20 years old, grandson to Paolo and Anna Saltarello, son to Joseph in Oregon and a CIAO member, received a \$300 contribution from CIAO, including other personal donations offered by friends for his participation to build a church in Colombia. Anthony will be with other members of the South Salem Nazarene Church, the youngest to be in the high mountains of Colombia, to build a church for the Columbian people who have no churches to attend and practice their faith. Anthony will be there for two weeks as he volunteered to serve in this church project. Nonno and Nonna Saltarello are very proud of Anthony's deep interest in helping others. Anthony had solicited CIAO to help in his endeavor, and he is very much appreciative of the kindness and generosity he received, saying *Grazie a tutti!* The Saltarello families combined have also had pasta dinners as fundraisers for the South Salem Nazarene Church.

### ***Great Italians in History***

Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis was born into a very old Roman senatorial family in 95 B.C.E. At times he is referred to as Cato the Younger or simply Cato. Like Marcus Aurelius, who came centuries later, Cato practiced stoicism, living modestly although he had great wealth. As a politician, he did something truly remarkable: he built a reputation of incorruptibility. When Julius Caesar declared war on the Roman Senate, Cato stood against him to preserve the Roman Republic. When Caesar defeated the Senate's Army, Cato retreated to Utica, where he committed suicide. The town of Cato carries his name, among many other towns and cities with names tied to the Italian lineage—Sempronius, Cicero, Pompeii, Cincinnatus, Aurelius, and Scipio Center, to name a few.

## **Membership News**

### **A “sposalizio” wedding in our CIAO membership**

Our young member Amy Judson who specializes in the food industry, “cooked” up a wedding for herself in 2023. Amy found “amore” in Zac Bellerdine, became his spouse, *meraviglioso*, wonderful event, *bravi*! And as always at the Old Italian weddings, people would burst out with their typical Italian wishes, *alla salute, e figlie mascole*! Good health, long life together and plenty of *bambini*. May the lives of the young married couple be like a good wine – tasty, sharp and clear, and like a good wine, improve with every passing year.

### **Cucina Crew news**

CIAO Cucina Crew begins their cooking season for the YMCA Stingrays Swim Team as the group will host their annual “Swim Meet” in Auburn, with the various age competitions. The dinner will be prepared by the “Crew” at the K of C 207 home on Market Street in Auburn. It will be served for the families and their children attending the swim competition, as this is a fundraiser for the YMCA Stingrays. CIAO is very glad to assist in their event. Those wishing to help may call Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859.

### **Key Bank update**

Nothing new to report on the Key Bank issue – nothing more was resolved with the executive offices and their attorney. CIAO persists in following through the situation to recover the \$740 that was debited to our account. It was their mistake, but Key Bank continues to hold the rein. The next stop is presenting our case on March 19, 2024 at Small Claims Court in Auburn – March 19, St. Joseph’s Day!

### **San Giuseppe Festa**

CIAO will once again celebrate St. Joseph’s Day on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Our festivity to celebrate this event will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2024 at Nacca Hall, St. Francis Church. Plans are being made for the day with the traditional ritual food for this special day, when CIAO began its formation in Auburn. And the beat goes on! More information in future newsletters.

### **History of “Evviva la tavola di San Giuseppe”**

St. Joseph is the protector of the home and family. In Italy, this day, March 19, is to honor the men, for “Father’s Day.” It is the tradition in Sicily for the richer families and others to share the day with banquets laden with food (meatless) of: fish, pasta with *alice*, and fava beans. Historically, this custom came about in the Middle Ages (700-1450) when there was a terrible drought. The landowners in desperation with their prayers turned to St. Joseph, and promised that if the rain came they would prepare a big feast in his honor inviting all the people of the town. Accordingly, when the rain came enriching the fields with good harvest, the land owners set up huge banquets inviting all the poor, needy people to serve themselves. After that first banquet, the practice spread, and the tradition continues. At a special set up table, 12 would be the number of people to sit and enjoy the dinner. The parish priest was asked to come and bless the table/altar, and a statue of St. Joseph would enthrone the altar amid silk and candles. Spring flowers adorned the altar, along with oranges, lentils, finocchio, dried fava beans (bringing good luck), omelets of green vegetables. Desserts were of honey balls (*pignulate*) *sfinigi*, *zeppole*, cannoli, fresh fruit, also small bread shaped like a shepherd cane to symbolize San Giuseppe. After having the priest bless the food with prayers to St. Joseph, everyone would shout: “*Evviva San Giuseppe*,” praises to St. Joseph. This refrain was repeated numerous times during the banquet. This traditional feast and more have been brought to the places where the immigrants from southern Italy emigrated.

Our *Nonni*, our old Italian immigrants, have given the next generations such a richness of the traditions and customs, that we should preserve these “old country” traditions and customs to honor them.

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

#### **Words of Wisdom from our old people**

*Casa sporca, gente aspetta*

A messy house invites unexpected guests

Our deep appreciation to Lynda DeOrio, even away from home she gladly sets the time to compile/edit the newsletter.

*Grazie mille, Paolo*