



## **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, September, 2025**

### **Officers**

#### **Chairman**

Paolo Saltarello

#### **Co-Chairman**

Tony Gucciardi

#### **Secretary**

Joseph Palmiotto

#### **Recording Secretary**

John "Jay" Elice, Jr.

#### **Corresponding Secretary**

Jo Anne Charles

#### **Treasurer**

Anna Saltarello

#### **Financial Secretary**

Dick Paulino

#### **Trustees**

Matteo Bartolotta

John Murtari

Arlene Ryan

Mike Vasco

Dr. Frank Vassallo

#### **Sentinels**

Giuseppe Casamassa

Sue Gatto

#### **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!***

***Next meeting - Wednesday, September 10 6:30 PM,***

***Father Nacca Hall***

PLEASE NOTE that the September meeting will be held a week later than normal due to Labor Day activities

### ***Christopher Columbus Dinner celebration***

***Sunday, October 12, 2025***

Please note the included letter and program form with this newsletter, with information regarding CIAO's annual testimonial dinner. Anyone wishing to attend or place a congratulatory message for our selected 2025 honorees, are kindly asked to submit your request at your earliest convenience. The deadline dates are set to help finalizing all the arrangements necessary. *Grazie!*

### ***Bocce League 2025***

Despite the hot and humid summer nights, our bocce players pushed through and completed another enjoyable season. Special thanks go to Frank DeOrio and John Murtari for handling setup, standings, scores, and all the behind-the-scenes details that kept the games running smoothly.

This year's top team was the Wrist Flickers — Dr. Frank and Janet Vasallo, John Murtari, and their "ghost player." The season concluded with a celebratory dinner at Lascas in Auburn, where players gathered to share good food and camaraderie. Looking ahead, we're excited for the 2026 bocce season at the Owasco Town Bocce Courts on Owasco Road in Auburn. CIAO extends sincere appreciation to the Owasco Town Board for their continued support and for allowing us the use of their excellent sports facilities.

### ***Lourdes Prayer Petitions***

During the September meeting, anyone interested can submit a prayer petition to be hand-delivered to the Grotto of Lourdes by member Toni Colella. Mass was offered for members of CIAO and their intentions at the Holy Grotto on June 20, 2025.

## ***Pizza Fritte Crew on the go***

CIAO's pizza fritte continue to be a crowd favorite! Wherever CIAO sets up at local events, people line up to enjoy this traditional Italian treat — a delicious reminder of the cooking passed down from our *nonni*.

On August 27, 2025, the CIAO crew was once again at the Owasco Farmers Market, serving fresh pizza fritte and showcasing our organization's commitment to supporting the community. *Mille grazie* to Nino's Pizzeria in Auburn and Rosalie's Cucina in Skaneateles for generously donating the dough. Special thanks also go to our hardworking volunteers: the Casamassas, Gucciardis, Felix Mucedola, Carolyn and Jay Elice, Jo Anne Charles, Maria Lentini, Dr. John Ryan (who did excellent "surgical work" on the pizza fritte!), John Murtari, and the Saltarellos.

Looking ahead, CIAO will host another fundraiser on Saturday, September 20, 2025, as part of the Food Truck lineup at the annual Mud Run at Everest Park, held in memory of Brian Bisgrove. This will be CIAO's first time participating in this exciting and challenging athletic event. The fundraiser will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are greatly needed, as this event will require lots of hands-on work. If you would like to help, please contact Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859.

## ***Donation to young heart patient***

CIAO was pleased to assist 32-year-old Nick Caruso of Homer with a donation to help defray his growing medical expenses. Nick has faced serious health challenges in recent years due to his failing heart. He is the nephew of Giuseppe and Tina Casamassa, both active members of our CIAO organization.

After learning of Nick's condition and his placement on the transplant list, CIAO members attending the August meeting were glad to make contributions to support his family. On July 18, 2025, Nick received the life-changing gift of a new heart at New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. The surgery was completely successful, and Nick has since returned home to enjoy renewed health with his wife and children.

As Nick struggled with his heart condition, a friend of CIAO, Jeff Trofibio, helped connect him with the transplant team at New York-Presbyterian. Jeff himself had received a heart transplant there just months earlier, on November 5, 2024, and is now enjoying good health.

If any member wishes to personally assist Nick Caruso's family, contributions may be made out to CIAO and mailed to the post office box listed at the top of this newsletter. *Grazie a tutti* — many thanks to all!

## ***Vino, Vino, Vino***

September marks the month for grape harvesting, particularly in Italia. It is still very common for the families and friends to gather together for picking grapes, by the bushels from the vineyards, bring it to where the grapes will be squashed, under the feet's weight and later placed under the wine press. Many will still have memories when on the west end of Auburn the aroma of grape juice traveled through the neighborhood, tasting the fresh grape juice, to become vino for the *famiglia* and *amici*. Everyone joined in to help in the enjoyable process which always ended a *mangia*, pasta and much more.

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

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

*La lingua non ha ossa me rompe il dorso*

The tongue has no bones, but it can break a man's back