



C.I.A.O.

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

Newsletter, October, 2025

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Monthly Newsletter

Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!

Next meeting - Wednesday, October 1, 6:30 PM,

Father Nacca Hall

Christopher Columbus Dinner celebration

Sunday, October 12, 2025

CIAO will honor the Rev. Vasile Colopelnic of Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, and Angelo's Pizza founder Angelo D'Angelo at its annual Christopher Columbus Day Recognition Dinner on Sunday, October 12 at Springside Inn. The family style dinner will begin with cocktails at 5 pm at the inn, 6141 W. Lake Road, Fleming. Tickets are \$50, and RSVPs are requested by Oct 3 by calling Jo Anne Charles at 315-253-2981, or emailing lynda@cayugacountyciao.org. Payment can also be sent to CIAO, 144 Genesee Street, Suite 102-240, Auburn, NY 13021. For more information and reservation and program ad forms, visit www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org. We are honored to once again have Dan Cummings as our emcee for the event. Patron ads are also available at a cost of only \$10; this is helpful to cover the cost of CIAO's book.

CIAO participating in a Mud Run!

The "pizza fritte crew" was on the fields of Everest Park in Owasco Saturday, September 20, to bring out additional energy to the participants and attendees to this annual strenuous sport activity. Our appreciation to Iginio "Toto" and Maria Labaro, Mamma Maria's Pizzeria for their "dough" donation to CIAO, whose members were able to use to create the traditional pizza fritte. The success of the day added one more scholarship. Helping were Felix Mucedola, Tony Gucciardi, Sue Gatto, Maria A. Lentini, Annie Febles, Casamassas, John Murtari, Joe Palmiotto, and Saltarellos. CIAO was appreciated for being part of the food stands, as this was not the first time that CIAO was in assistance to Everest Park and Champions of Life. // *nostro piacere*, our pleasure.

Tyburn Academy Annual Fundraiser Dinner

Honoree: Fr. Frank Lioi

CIAO Cucina Crew is once again ready and prepared to cook and serve a traditional Italian menu for the guests attending the annual dinner sponsored by the K of C 207 of Auburn on Wednesday, October 22, whose members are dedicated to assist the religious related school in the city of Auburn. CIAO has also continuously assisted this institution since its beginning. This year's event will be held to honor a native Rochesterian priest who has set his roots in Auburn, to become a legend for his care and love for the parishes that he serves. CIAO wishes Fr. Frank Lio, the honoree, the very best of "Buona Salute" for many more years – *lunga vita!*

Benvenuti – Welcome to CIAO

CIAO was pleased to add to the roster: Richard White, sponsored by Paolo, and Annette Botindari, sponsored by Jo Anne Charles. As CIAO will soon begin the new year's membership roster, we would like to emphasize the importance of everyone's participation. Our events and the annual dues play an important role for CIAO, assisting the various other charitable groups and individuals needing help, within us or other forms. Even if a member is not able to attend the monthly meetings, or other events, your support or contribution strongly enable us to be fruitful and make a difference in our community, as CIAO is very much active and recognized. *Una mano lava l'altra, e tutte olue lavano il viso*. One hand washes the other!

Note: Our annual dinner meeting will be January, 2026, for our members to be the guests of CIAO, enjoy the dinner, and pay 2026 annual dues. Single membership is \$25, couple \$40. Dues have remained the same since 2014.

From Shadow Fortresses to Chicken Stranglers: Italy's Most Unusual Place Names

Italy is a country where history, language, and tradition intertwine in every corner—including on the signposts that welcome you into town. Beyond the famous names like Rome, Florence, or Venice, the Italian map is dotted with villages and hamlets whose names can surprise, amuse, or puzzle even native speakers. Many of these unusual names have roots that go back centuries, shaped by dialects, local legends, or simply the geography of the land. Exploring them offers not just a smile, but also a glimpse into Italy's rich linguistic heritage and the ways in which communities have left their mark on the landscape. From **Bastia Umbra** ("Shadow Fortress") to **Strangolagalli** ("Chicken Strangler"), these names remind us that every place has a story—sometimes serious, sometimes humorous, but always unique. Here are a few examples:

Camposanto - cemetery
Altola - hands up
Bevilacqua - drink water
Casa del Diavolo - Devil's house
Due Porte - two doors

Acqua Fredda - Cold Water
Belsedere - nice sector
Cappella - chapel
Coscia - leg
Mattarello - little crazy

Behind each curious name is a community, a tradition, and a story that still shapes the landscape today.

Christopher Columbus: An Italian Navigator Who Changed the World

Every October, Italians and Italian Americans alike reflect on the story of Christopher Columbus, the Genoese sailor whose voyages reshaped history. Born in 1451 in the bustling port city of Genoa, Columbus grew up surrounded by ships, trade, and tales of the sea. From a young age, he dreamed of finding new routes across the ocean. In 1492, backed by Spain's monarchs, Columbus set sail westward with the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. He was searching for a faster path to Asia, but instead reached islands in the Caribbean, opening the way for Europe's Age of Exploration. While he never stepped foot in North America, his journeys forever linked Europe and the Americas, changing the course of world history. For Italians, Columbus remains a symbol of courage, ambition, and discovery. His story reminds us of the spirit of exploration that has always been part of Italy's heritage.

Dicevano I Nostri Nonni **Words of Wisdom from our old people**

Il cavallo schifoso, muore magro.

The finicky horse dies skinny...
Fussiness gets you nowhere!