



**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, November, 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, November 5, 6:30 PM,***

***Father Nacca Hall***

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

The 2025 Cristoforo Colombo Testimonial Dinner hosted by CIAO was once again a successful event. CIAO and other Italian American organizations across the United States continue to proudly celebrate their Italian heritage.

The CIAO dinner was well attended to honor Fr. Vasile Colopelnic and Angelo D'Angelo. The honorees were very appreciative of the evening set aside for them. The event was enjoyed by all, with compliments on the good food, presentation, and *buona compagnia*—good company. The honorees also received Keys to the City and a special plaque recognizing their contributions to the community. Mario Fortunato of Fortunato Bakery in Brooklyn also offered two "cheese cakes" to Angelo and Fr. Vasile. CIAO's appreciation goes to Bartolotta's Furniture for their cutting boards given to the lucky winners. *Al prossimo anno*, to next year! Kudos and *grazie* to Jo Anne Charles for handling the reservations and managing the tables, a very challenging task, while staying cool! The program book ads were managed by Jay Elice, who kept track of each ad and listing. The overall success benefited CIAO's scholarship project and increased community appreciation through donations and contributions, showing how involved and respected CIAO has become. *Bravi!*



### ***Buon Natale celebration planned***



The Christmas season is here again, offering a wonderful opportunity for *buona compagnia*—good companionship! We invite you to join the 2025 Buon Natale celebration on Saturday, December 6, 2025, at Osteria Salina in Auburn. This annual event is once again organized by mother and son chairpersons, Carolynn and Jay Elice, who are working hard to create an enjoyable evening for everyone, just as they have in past years. The festivities will start at 5:30 PM with a cash bar, followed by a family-style dinner at 6:00 PM. Please enter through the bakery entrance on State Street. Reservations, which must include a check for \$50 per person, are due by November 30. Note that participation is limited to 80 people, so don't delay your RSVP! For more details, see the attached flyer.

If you are interested in participating in a gift exchange that evening, please look around your home for something you no longer use that could be given as a gift. Wrap it up and bring it to dinner! We will hold a gift exchange where you can choose a wrapped gift to take home with you that night.

### **Member News**

CIAO member and local attorney Sam Giacona, along with his wife Lisa, are full of joy that their daughter Bianca has become an attorney after passing the NY State Bar. Congratulations!

CIAO member Norm Chirco will be joined by his daughter Elizabeth Chirco Anderson at his law office. *Benossimo! Buona fortuna.* Good luck!

CIAO is proud to have many members who have reached 90 years and older! Excellent! One of these distinguished seniors is Bruno Ruscio, who will celebrate his 99th birthday on November 7. Bruno enjoys his many years and is still able to get around, driving himself around town! *Bravo!* Reminder - members over 90 no longer pay dues. Bruno is a kind and generous man who recently donated a large contribution for two scholarships, which will be awarded in June. *Grazie mille!*

**Benvenuti**, welcome to CIAO - CIAO is welcoming another young lady into our organization as she, Krysha Pierce, will join her mom Cindy. Krysha is always busy with her mamma Cindy, staying involved in many activities like assisting at the Tyburn Academy dinner, where Cindy once again kept the students in good shape, helping out to serve the dinners under her watchful eye, keeping all in order. Well done, *sta bene!*

### **Tyburn Academy Sports dinner**

The annual sports dinner for 2025 was once again organized by the CIAO Cucina Crew, who for the past 25 years have helped the local Catholic school raise funds for their institution. The food menu was specially prepared for that evening. One hundred sixty-five guests were served, and many compliments were given to the Cucina Crew. As in previous years, words of appreciation were extended to CIAO. Homemade limoncello, by member Maria A. Lentini, was served and greatly enjoyed by the guests, who also complimented the homemade biscotti/cookies made each year by Donatina Casamassa and Maria A. Lentini. The menu included tortellini, along with homemade sausage and meatballs, which were specially made for CIAO by Dominick Battaglia of Dominick's Market on Gertrude Street in Syracuse. The store offers a good variety of meats, including the *coda di vacchea* oxtail, which Mario Fortunato, Paolo, and Dr. John Ryan enjoyed very much at Anna's *cucina*. In appreciation of CIAO's ongoing support, Dr. Paul Fallon, a great supporter of the school, once again made a significant donation to CIAO, which will be added to our scholarship fund for next June. *Grazie, dottore!*

### **CIAO Dues 2025**

As we approach the end of 2025, we would like to remind the 2025 membership that there are still dues remaining unpaid. Dues are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for couples. CIAO's treasury plays an important financial role in supporting various charitable groups, enabling us to make an impact in our community. If you have not yet paid your 2025 dues, please send your check payable to CIAO to the address listed at the top of this newsletter. Our dues help support charitable organizations, allowing us to continue making a meaningful difference in our community.

### **Festa del Ringraziamento Thanksgiving Day**

Wishing you all the joys of a Happy Thanksgiving. As we approach the day to remember the first pilgrims celebrating a day of gratitude for their harvest, may we all continue to give thanks for our beloved land and its bounty. May each day bring you contentment, joy, and good health.

*Nell arrive della festa del ringraziamento, quando I primi Pellegrini arriverone sulle sponde Americana, ricordiamoci del tanto bene che la terra ha dato nutrizione immense, che oggi ancora riceviamo. Che ogni Giorno sia sempre pieno di buona salute.*

### **Veterans Day November 11, 2025**

We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who proudly served and defended our nation against oppression by tyrants. These heroes courageously gave their lives to free other nations from danger and to help build a democratic culture where freedom and peace can flourish. May the Lord grant them eternal rest and valor as they continue to serve with pride under the Red, White, and Blue.