



Cultural Italian American Organization
P.O. Box 1005
Auburn, NY 13021
www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org

Newsletter, April, 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!

Next meeting - Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 PM,

April Meeting Guest Speaker

CIAO is honored to welcome the Very Reverend Vasile Colopelnic as the guest speaker for our April meeting. Fr. Vasile has served as pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church since 2012. During his time in Auburn, he has led with dignity, deep devotion to his parish, and a strong commitment to helping the community flourish. His dedication extends beyond the parish, as he has personally supported many Ukrainian refugee families who have settled in the area. At our meeting, Fr. Vasile will share reflections on his life in the priesthood, including his journey from Romania and his experiences in religious life. We look forward to an inspiring and meaningful presentation and encourage you to attend.

San Giuseppe Festa to be celebrated Sunday, May 3

4 pm cocktails, 5 pm dinner

Osteria Salina, 16 State Street, Auburn

"Feast of St. Joseph the Worker"

The Feast of St. Joseph in the Roman Catholic Church is celebrated on March 19 and May 1, on which day for the Italian population is Labor Day. This coincides with St. Joseph the Worker. CIAO has chosen to celebrate a Saint Joseph Day, which will take place on **Sunday, May 3, 2026, 4 pm cocktails (cash bar), 5:00 pm dinner, at Osteria Salina on State Street in Auburn.** Once again, Joe and Roberta Palmiotto have taken on the responsibility to chair the festivities. Reservations are required, no tickets will be given. To RSVP, email Joe Palmiotto at joe@cayugacountyciao.org, or call Joe at 315-406-2417. No admission without RSVP, sorry! **Deadline to RSVP is April 29, 2026, and seating is limited to 80 people.** Payment is required at time of reservation, and mail your check payable to CIAO to PO Box 1005, Auburn, NY 13021. The menu is as follows: caprese salad, garlic bread, *arancini*, mussels, eggplant rollatini, chicken francaise, tenderloin, side of potatoes. The pasta will be Osteria's specialty, orichette with sausage and rapini, and vodka sauce pasta. There will also be sardines, salad, CIAO's St. Joseph's zeppole bread, ceci beans roasted and lupinis, and tiramisu for dessert. Please keep in mind that CIAO does not make any profit on these events. Our interest is to promote our Italian heritage, continuing to keep those traditions alive.

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BUONA
Pasqua

May the joy and peace of the Risen
Lord fill your heart this Easter Day.



Member News and Updates

With sympathy - to Mary Ann and Felix Mucedola on the loss of Mary Ann's father, Mike Milillo, who passed away unexpectedly. *Con dispiacera*.

CIAO extends deep sympathy to member Bonnie Crosby, on the death of her beloved spouse, Chester, with whom she spent many enjoyable years. The bocce players also will remember Chet, as he spent much time on the courts with his teammates, and all the other bocce players. RIP Chet.

At the March meeting, it was unanimously approved that on the death of a CIAO member, a Mass card will be given in memory of the deceased member.

Congratulations - to CIAO member Ivana Pierce, daughter of Ralph and Cindy Pierce, on her recent marriage to Francis Fenzi, son of Edward and Eneke Fenzi. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to the newlyweds as they begin their life together, filled with love, joy, and many cherished memories. *Evviva*, long life and happiness to the happy couple! Ivana and Francis first met while attending St. Joseph's School of Nursing and, after five years of courtship, they surely know patience!

Thank you - *Grazie mille!* A sincere thank you to all members who have already responded and submitted their 2026 dues, as notices were sent with self-stamped, addressed envelopes. Each of us plays an important role in supporting CIAO's mission of *aiutare la gente*—helping those in need. Since 2014, CIAO has remained an active and caring presence in our community, and your continued support makes that possible. If you haven't yet sent in your 2026 membership dues, we encourage you to do so. CIAO prefers to keep things simple—no extra "fees" if we can help it. *Va bene?* OK! That's amore.

Pasta and Sauce Night - At our March meeting, members brought their favorite sauce—*ragu/gravy*—for a friendly tasting enjoyed by all. Pasta was served from a *ciotola grande* - a large bowl, unseasoned and ready for each guest to top with their sauce of choice—*che bello!* Our talented *cuochi/chefs* included Tina Casamassa (Shrimp Alfredo), Frank DeOrio (Pomodoro Ricotta), Beth Liberatore (Nonna's Sauce), Mike Vasco (Chicken Riggies sauce), Paolo Saltarello (Sweet Red Pepper), Felix Mucedola (Calamari), Carolyn Elice (Roasted Red Bell Pepper), and Annie Febles (Vegetarian). A secret ballot awarded Beth Liberatore's "Nonna's Sauce" the winner—*brava!* It was a delicious evening filled with *buona compagnia*. Who's ready to compete in 2027?



Father Bonsu update

As mentioned in our March newsletter, Father Joseph Osei Bonsu, a priest from the Diocese of Obussi in Ghana, who served in Auburn from 2010-2013, is currently in Auburn receiving treatment for pancreatic cancer and needs help with living expenses through July. At our last meeting, CIAO Board members suggested to donate \$500 to assist Father Joe's financial situation while he is here to complete his medical treatment. The members at the March meeting were all in agreement to the donation as we follow our CIAO motto – *cultura and caritas*.

Italia Soccer – USA Baseball

At the 2026 World Baseball Classic, held in Houston and Miami, national teams from around the world competed with pride and passion. Players qualified through their family heritage, representing their roots on an international stage. Team Italia made an impressive run, reaching the semifinals before falling to Venezuela, who went on to win the championship. While baseball may not be Italy's signature sport, the team showed heart and strong Italian pride throughout the tournament. Now, we look ahead with excitement to the World Cup!