



Cultural Italian American Organization

P.O. Box 1005

Auburn, NY 13021

www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org

Newsletter, June, 2026

Monthly Newsletter

Ciao a tutti! Hello everyone!

Next meeting - Wednesday, June 3, 6:30 pm

Father Nacca Hall, 303 Clark Street, Auburn

Scholarship/Membership Picnic

Monday, June 22, 5 pm, Owasco Town Pavilion

CIAO is once again very happy and privileged to present nine scholarships to local students who have distinguished themselves through their essays, hard work, and dedication in earning these awards. This year's winners are from Auburn High School, Tyburn Academy, Port Byron, and Weedsport. The scholarship picnic will be held on Monday, June 22, promptly at 5:00 p.m. at the Owasco Town Pavilion on Owasco Road. Immediate family members of the recipients are invited to attend, and all CIAO members are warmly encouraged to join us for this special occasion. A heartfelt thank you to the individuals and members of CIAO who continue to take such a deep interest in supporting these outstanding students. Special *grazie* to Dr. Paul Fallon, Anna Saltarello and brother Sandro Mironti, Nick Musso, and 99-year-old CIAO member Bruno Ruscio for their generosity and support. The scholarship award ceremony will take place following the picnic. Please RSVP if you plan to attend by calling Jo Anne Charles, 315-729-6360, or Sue Gatto, 315-664-2929. Thank you once again, *bravi*, on a job well done to our scholarship committee!

Bocce League 2026

Frank DeOrio and John Murtari are prepared to welcome all the bocce players to the "courts" in the town of Owasco, on Owasco Road. The season will begin Thursday, June 2 at 6 pm. Players must be present on the court, balls provided! Your attendance is most important. *Ci vediamo!* Teams must pay their team fee the same night. *Grazie!* Visitors are always welcome to come watch and support the teams! The schedule and other information can be found on our website at www.CayugaCountyCIAO.org/bocce.

Happy Father's Day to all the papàs - Buona Festa al papà

Sunday, June 21, 2026

A special tribute to the many men in the role of father, dad, *papà, toto, ojciec, padre, père*, and many more. It all began in 1909 when Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington proposed a day to honor fathers, inspired by her Civil War veteran father, who raised six children on his own. The nationwide celebration was officially established as a federal holiday by President Richard Nixon in 1972.

Benvenuti, Welcome to CIAO!

We would like to welcome to our CIAO membership Diane DeRosa-Stout. Diane heralds from the large *famiglia* of Sam and Yolanda DeRosa.

Officers

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San Giuseppe Festa – Sunday, May 3, 2026

The celebration of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1, recognized as Labor Day in Italia, was beautifully celebrated by CIAO at Osteria Salina. The food and service were *eccellent*, and the delicious meal was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone — especially Bishop Salvatore Matano, who commented on both the quality and generous quantity of the *mangiare*. Bishop Matano was CIAO's honored guest, along with Fathers Lioi, White, and Father Felicjan, who has faithfully served our organization during the San Giuseppe Festa by leading the traditional prayers at St. Joseph's Table. The bread and zeppole of St. Joseph were blessed and shared with all in attendance. This was truly a *buona figura* — a wonderful showing for CIAO. Included among the desserts were the cannoli, personally prepared and served by Mario Fortunato of Fortunato Brothers, assisted by “*pompiere*” Vasco, who proudly carried the tray of freshly filled cannoli. Both were dressed as traditional Italian confectioners, adding even more charm and authenticity to the evening. To end the celebration, *ci voleva* — what was needed — was the homemade limoncello. *Tutto completo!* Everything complete and perfect! *Grazie* to the staff of Osteria Salina, and special thanks to co-chairs Joe and Roberta Palmiotto for a beautiful evening.

Pizza Fritte

Memorial Day - The day's event was truly a collaborative one, shared along the frontage of the Knights of Columbus Council 207 on Market Street, where for the past 10 years CIAO has happily enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship of the K of C members. This special event helps CIAO raise proceeds that support many community events and donations, as well as student scholarships. It was a sold-out day, and the CIAO members who participated were outstanding — especially while working beneath the colorful tricolor tent proudly displaying the CIAO logo. *Bravi!* A heartfelt *grazie* to Dr. John Ryan, the Gucciardis, the Casamassas, Jo Anne Charles, Sue Gatto, Felix Mucedola, John Murtari, Nancy Mancini, Gloria Alano, Annie Febles, Toni Colella, Lisa Casamassa, Michele Phelps from M&T Bank, and John Elice, a fine young member whose dedication was greatly appreciated. *Grazie tanto* — many thanks as well to Matt Bartolotta for his continued support from Angelo's Pizza, and to Tom Harvard of Mark's Pizzeria for their generosity and support.

St. Francis Church - Another *caritas* event by CIAO took place at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Saturday, May 16, 2026, with a drive-through sale of pizza fritte to benefit the parish on Clark Street. The net proceeds from the event were donated by CIAO to Father Daniel White, pastor of the church. The event was both fruitful and greatly appreciated. Father White and Bishop Salvatore Matano stopped by during the day, and the Bishop happily joined in forming the dough, just as his *mamma* once did. Everything was beautifully prepared by the dedicated pizza fritte team — the Gucciardis, Casamassas, Elices, Saltarellos, Sue Gatto, Jo Anne Charles, Patty Balk-Motell, Annette Botindari, Ida Slaski, Sue Dwyer, Dr. John Ryan, Toni Colella, and Joe Palmiotto. *Molte grazie* to John Kosta's Bar & Grill for the generous donation of the pasta dough, along with the gift of pizza sent to the hardworking volunteers.

Erie Canal Museum — CIAO The Erie Canal Heritage Park at Port Byron on Rochester Street (Route 38) in Port Byron will once again receive the support of CIAO, continuing a partnership that has lasted for the past 18 years. Over the years, CIAO members have prepared dinners and made pizza fritte to assist with the museum's fundraising efforts. CIAO will again be helping the museum committee with a drive-through pizza fritte sale on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., or until sold out. The Erie Canal Museum continues to express its appreciation for CIAO's strong support and dedication to its fundraising events. Anyone wishing to volunteer may contact Felix Mucedola at 315-406-4859. Those looking to enjoy and take home the traditional pizza fritte are encouraged to stop by and visit. This specialty traces its roots back to Naples in the 1600s. As the *nonna* or *mamma* prepared dough for bread, macaroni, or pizza, the small leftover pieces were fried — a *grande creazione* that became a beloved tradition lasting more than 400 years.

Words of Wisdom - Non lamentarti della vecchiaia: è un privilegio che non tutti hanno.

Don't complain about old age: it is a privilege not everyone has.