



March 31, 2020

Ciao Tutti,

As I open this letter with Tony Marmo's favorite salutation, I want to give you an UPDATE on UCIAF in these challenging times. Please take a few minutes to read our news.

#### La Famiglia

Even before these recent events, "La Famiglia" has been the unifying idea behind our growing organization. It's the theme of our 2020 Calendar, a major part of our successful Italian Festival and demonstrated at each of our monthly dinner meetings. We enjoy being together and sharing our lives. Through UCIAF, many of us have extended our families through new friendships, working on committees and helping our local community.

#### Italy

Recently, a lot of us have turned our thoughts and prayers to our mother country, Italy. Some of you have relatives and friends there surrounded by pain and suffering. Many have strong attachments through visits and studies. It is the foundation of our culture and the home of so many of our traditions. We need to continue our prayerful thoughts and promise to keep our Italian culture and traditions alive here in the U.S.

#### UCIAF Board

We met as a Board on March 10<sup>th</sup> and revisited our agenda, projects and future plans with an update last week. The Board continues to follow through on projects like our Educational Awards, Community Grants, Cultural and Social Events, New Membership, Annual Sponsorships and Social media/web updates. Rosalie Sleight volunteered and was appointed UCIAF historian. She has set up an email, [UCIAFhistorian@gmail.com](mailto:UCIAFhistorian@gmail.com), to start to collect information. We are constantly revising our 2020 Calendar to allow us to return to our scheduled activities as quickly as possible. We're working to keep you informed.

Anna Brett, our VP who wears many hats, has volunteered to send out "Get Well and Sympathy" cards to our membership. Please email Anna or Les if you know of someone who needs our attention. [ABrett1@verizon.net](mailto:ABrett1@verizon.net) or [lombardiles@gmail.com](mailto:lombardiles@gmail.com). Our wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Marjorie Fucilo who recently had an unscheduled visit to Vassar Brothers Hospital for a heart "episode". She is now home recuperating.

### Tutto Italiano

Although WKNY Radio Kingston has suspended regular programming, our dedicated "Tutto" hosts call in to Warren Lawrence live during our Sunday 1pm timeslot to keep our Italian Flavor alive. We appreciate their special efforts until "Tutto Italiano" can return to our live programming.

### Upcoming Events

We have cancelled our Special Sunday Membership dinner April 19<sup>th</sup> and discussing the Botanical Garden/Arthur Ave Bus trip May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to reschedule and update our 2020 Calendar. Stay up to date on the changes by visiting our website, [www.UCIAF.org](http://www.UCIAF.org), our Facebook pages and look for email notes as well.

### Other Ideas to Keep You Busy

Schedule a virtual dinner with another couple or a small group – you can order take out from a local restaurant and then eat and drink together via the internet. This was MaryAnn's idea and the we tried it last Friday night – It was Fun! Our local businesses need our support in unconventional ways to keep employees, pay rent and stay in business.

Reach out in any way that makes you comfortable (phone call, text, email, or web... just not in person) to relatives and friends near and far to let them know you are thinking about them.

Read an interesting article, start a book, dust of that Italian language book or "tapes", start a small online book club – be creative. Don't forget to exercise, keeping your social distance outdoors and establish a new routine for indoors.

Stay healthy and eat healthy now that you have time to cook. Maybe try out that traditional family recipe.

Thanks for reading today's "Epistle to the Italians". Please be assured that together we will get through this! Feel free to contact me at any time to share ideas or information or to volunteer. Hopefully we will be back to "normal" soon, share dinners and hugs, and enjoy everything UCIAF has to offer.

Sincerely,

Les

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