



May 3, 2020

Ciao Tutti!

Although NO ONE knows yet when we will be able to gather, eat, drink wine, and tell “stories”, UCIAF will be prepared for that date. Here is some news to keep you informed and to mark your everchanging Calendar.

Italian Festival: Everyone is asking “What about the Festival”? Anna Brett, our chairperson, just had a Festival Steering Committee meeting. A decision on our Festival will be made in early July. The committee is planning the Festival and also exploring other options for that date, Sunday October 11th. We will be ready to act depending on what happens in the next two months.

Upcoming Events: As an organization, we will announce our upcoming events when we can legally gather. Save these **TWO BIG DATES** – Tuesday August 11th at 6pm for the Educational/Community Grants Awards dinner at Diamond Mills in Saugerties \$35/pp and also Sunday September 20th at 5pm for the movie “Il Signor Jackson” and discussion with guests Cav Edward Jackson, ABD and filmmaker Anton Evangelista with pizza, salad, pasta and dessert also at Diamond Mills \$25/pp.

Our Summer monthly movie series at Reginato’s will restart when we are permitted to meet. We also have a July event pending.

Community Care: From Mary Tuma, Coordinator: We are pleased to report that the first phase of our fund has been very successful (Over \$500). Because of your generosity, we have been able to give much needed immediate assistance to two local Ulster County Agencies. Each agency “vets” the person in need and administers the money through a UCIAF gift card. Bill Calderara, our Treasurer, provides the cards.

If you can help UCIAF continue this mission, please consider making a DONATION. Any amount is greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to UCIAF, note Community Care in the memo, and mail to P.O. Box 4427, Kingston, NY 12402. If you want to volunteer or know of a member in need, please contact Mary Tuma at mtuma@hvc.rr.com or 845-430-9624

Educational Awards: LAST CALL! The extended deadline is May 8, 2020. Applications are available at UCIAF.org. Email your application directly to Anna Brett at abrett1@verizon.net. These scholarship awards are available to all Ulster County High School seniors.

Community Grants: UCIAF will make five grants to local not-for-profits this year from our Community Grants program. The deadline for the inaugural \$500 grants is May 15, 2020 and the application is available at UCIAF.org.

Tutto Italiano: COVID19 has closed down the WKNY studios but our dedicated hosts call in every Sunday between 1 and 2pm to preserve our Italiano “Flavor” and give updates. A special thanks to Warren Lawrence for hosting and providing music. RADIO KINGSTON/WKNY 1490AM/107.9FM or RadioKingston.org

UCIAF Board: Our board continues to meet virtually and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 12, 2020 at 6pm. Please let me or any board member know if you have any concerns or suggestions.

These extraordinary times have brought out the creativity in all of us. Here are just some of the creative ideas we have discovered:

Support our local restaurants by hosting a virtual dinner with “take out” from the same restaurant. We have even extended this internationally!

Make masks and give them to family and friends for their protection.

Watch the second season of “My Brilliant Friend” now on demand on HBO. This is a combined Italian/American produced adaption of Elena Ferrante’s four popular novels about two girls growing up in Naples.

Enjoy a virtual gallery opening of New Paltz photographer Michael Gold’s, ItalySicilyFraDiavolo Exhibit on the Unison Arts Virtual Gallery, <https://www.unisonarts.org/>, dedicated to the beautiful people of Italy and Sicily. Michael notes that “you will be able to see my show exactly as I would’ve hung it in their beautiful gallery space. Each photo is organized to be shown next to related photos. Also, my artist’s statement and Résumé follow the exhibit. Someday, when this nightmare is over, we’ll all be able to have a real prosecco reception with real hugs. In the meantime, here’s a bit of the Italy and Sicily that was, immediately before the virus destroyed life as we knew it. Special thanks to Alex Baer, director of Unison, Ally Bell, their brilliant computer graphic artist who made the virtual gallery possible for all to see, and Rob Leitner, director of events”.

Enjoy a “digital dish” of Lasagna including the recipe and story by non-Italian Samin Nostrat <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/27/dining/samin-nosrat-lasagna.html>

As we share music, books, stories, videos, pictures, recipes, cartoons and jokes as a way to reach out and stay “in-touch”, let’s keep our Italian Traditions alive.

Also, keep in mind our former generations, for most of us Grandparents, that worked so hard to create better lives for their families here in America. Be proud to be Italian! It’s at the core of UCIAF.

Gratefully,



Les Lombardi, President, UCIAF

A SPECIAL thanks to our first two GOLD sponsors in 2020, Reis Insurance and Ulster Savings Bank

