



## novembre 2023 Newsletter



Joanne Locke, Editor

Tony Marmo, President

*"Prometto di celebrare e promuovere la mia cultura Italiana"*

### COMMITTEES

Committees and volunteers are the backbones of our foundation.

If you are interested in being a part of any committee, contact the chairperson

Dinner- Marjorie Fucilo  
Community Care- Mary Tuma  
Festival- Anthony Tampone  
Bylaws - Anthony Tampone  
Calendar-Suzanne Sottile  
Cultural- Linda Saccoman & Gina Sottile  
Membership- Suzanne Sottile  
Social- Al Scilla  
Awards/Donations - Anna Brett  
Sponsors - Tony Marmo & Nina Postupack

### CURRENT EVENTS

11/4 - Deli Night @ Childrens Home, Reher Center  
11/5-11/12 - Ravello, Italy trip  
11/10 - Membership dinner @ Best Western 6pm.  
UCIAF Elections will take place at this dinner.  
11/18 - Pizza/pasta-making workshop @ Ulster Savings

### COMING IN DECEMBER

12/12 UCIAF Holiday Mixer @ Little Italy

Visit our website [UCIAF.org](http://UCIAF.org) for more information.

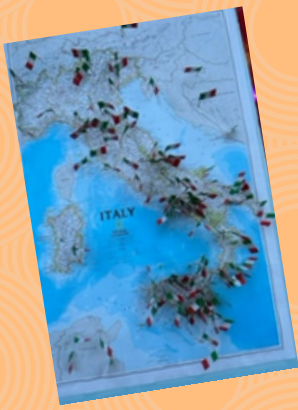


### ITALIAN EXPRESSION

**Allora** {so, well, then) is a filler word when you're trying to think of what to say in Italian. It can be used to start a question or to make a clarification.

Submitted by Celia Ecker





## 2023 Ulster Italian Festival

There was so much to do, so much to eat, so much musical entertainment, such great stories and pasta demos. Street performers, craft vendors, information booths, many photo ops such as Leaning Tower of Pisa, David, a Gondola with a live gondolier, Mona Lisa, wandering Empresses and gladiators. we are getting better every year in what we present to our guests at the Ulster County Italian Festival. It was difficult to maneuver through the lines at the food vendors even though there were plenty of them. The atmosphere was full of everything you would hope for, music playing, families laughing, children enjoying the crafts at the children's tent as well as the face painting. Many people just sitting and listening to the main stage entertainment and the O+ entertainment on the second stage by the Cultural Center. Of course, a major factor was that we were Blessed once again with wonderful weather. Our loving and caring volunteers made this Festival a huge success. We also owe thanks to the City of Kingston, Dept of Public Works, Dept of Parks, Kingston Police Dept, Ulster County UCAT and especially the long list of sponsors who make it financially possible to put on such a grand event. They are listed below:



I hope to see you next year at your Italian Festival. If you haven't volunteered in the past, try it, you'll like it.

Pace e amore, Anthony Tampone  
V.P. – Festival Chair







# November Dinner / Dance Meeting

Friday November 10, 2023 6:00 pm at

**The Venue Uptown**

503 Washington Ave. Kingston N.Y.



With Special Guest Singer  
**Angela Bruno**

\$45 Per Person / Cash Bar / Wine Bottle Special  
Limited Seating Reserve Early on Member Planet @

**<https://mp.gg/x3tgihuh>** or

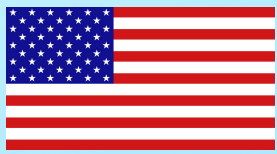
Send Checks Payable to

UCIAF DINNER Meeting

P.O. Box 4427 Kingston, N.Y. 12402

**We will also have elections for new officers and  
a vote on the revised bylaws for UCIAF**

Visit [www.UCIAF.org](http://www.UCIAF.org)



## **ELECTIONS ARE COMING TO UCIAF NOVEMBER 10TH**

### **Introduction to Candidates**

#### **President - Anthony Tampone**

It is an honor being nominated to be President of the Ulster County Italian American Foundation. When my wife Debra and I first heard of this organization in 2015, we knew we had to be a part of it. Both of us have been actively involved in almost every aspect of it since its inception. Presently I serve as 1st Vice President, Chair of the Festival, Chair of the Bylaws Committee and am actively involved in multiple other committees. The friendships and common interests that I have experienced give me the drive to continue on the path of our previous Presidents who have catapulted this Foundation into what it is today over four hundred members strong and growing. As Debra recites with us at every meeting “Prometto di celebrare e promuovere la mia cultura italiana” I promise to celebrate and promote my Italian culture.

Pace e amore,  
Anthony

#### **1st Vice President - Joseph Famiglietti**

Ciao Paisani,  
Il Mio nome e Joe Famiglietti. My wife Nicolina and some friends call me Giuseppe, as I was named after both my “Giuseppe” grandfathers. I have been told my surname Famiglietti means Little Family (Famiglia + lietti) although I just did a google translate and “lietti” means happy. So suddenly that makes more sense as my family isn’t that small, and we’re quite loud, boisterous, and very happy. Nicole and I joined UCIAF back in 2016 and we both have become quite involved in many UCIAF events from food drives, veteran's lunches, pasta making, highway clean-up, chief decorator of our Italian Festival - you name it we’re there. A lot of you probably know Nicole and I from our monthly hosting of Tutto Italiano and for the last two years building the UCIAF soapbox entries along with the Tampones and Joe LoSchiavo. I have big shoes to fill acting as UCIAF Vice President but hopefully I’m up to the task assisting our new Capo del Gruppo.

Grazie, Joe :-)

#### **2nd Vice President - Al Scilla**

For those who I’ve not met or may not have kept track of, what I’ve been involved with during my years with the Foundation (joined in 2019, became an active participant towards the end of 2020), I have been the co-chair of the Social Media Committee for the last few years and your 2nd Vice President since the last election. What I’ve focused on in the last two years: social media - The Committee’s work has included updating and expanding our website, growing the Facebook Page and Group, and increasing our activeness on Instagram. Grants – Exploring grants as an additional funding source to grow the Foundation. Grants are still not a top three source of funding, but we’ve gotten a few this year, and there is a lot of room to build upon that. Wrestling – I proposed the creation of this event as a new addition to our annual events calendar. We held our first pro-wrestling show as a fundraiser this past April, with close to 300 attendees. We will be doing it again in April 2024. What my priorities for the next two years would be: In addition to continuing to develop the projects and events I’ve already touched upon, I would like to focus on events/projects that emphasize reconnecting the Italian-American with the Italian, in its (Italy’s) modern context, which has certainly shifted in the decades, and in cases, centuries since many of our progenitors arrived. I feel that we need to look at the contemporary at least as much as we work to preserve our past. To reinvigorate our Italian roots and reconnect with the culture as it is, not only as it was.





## **ELECTIONS ARE COMING TO UCIAF NOVEMBER 10TH**

### **Introduction to Candidates - continued**

#### **2nd Vice President - Joe LoSchiavo**

Hello, my name is Joe LoSchiavo (AKA "Cugino Peppe"), and I am honored to have been nominated to run for the 2nd Vice President position with the UCIAF. I've been with this organization since its inception and feel that I have a lot to contribute to its future growth. I have served on many of the committees including Bylaws, running the hospitality tent at our past festivals, fundraising and helping to build one of our Soap Box Derby cars. I am second generation Italian with both sides of my family coming from Sicily. I'm proud to say I was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York with very strong ties to my family and the Italian neighborhood I grew up in. I served my country from 1963 to 1965 in the US Army. I have a college degree in Construction Technology from NYCC and have worked on multiple high-rise buildings as Project Manager. I have been living in Ulster County since 1977 and married to my beautiful wife Jorja for 58 years. We have three children and blessed with three grandchildren.

I would love to help preserve the pride and heritage of our Italian community. No matter who you vote for, please vote.

#### **2nd Vice President - Celia Ecker**

My parents were born in the same small town in Molise. My mom came here when she was five and my dad came years later when he was twenty. I share this with you because as Italian Americans that's what we do when we meet each other. We have an uncompromising pride in the resourcefulness, sacrifices and accomplishments of our descendants accompanied by an unwavering desire to hold onto our roots, our culture, our rituals, and our traditions. For this reason, so many of us come together in Italian American organizations to preserve our heritage and to share our stories. I joined UCIAF two years ago. I was new to the area and recently retired from a thirty-two-year career in education. My first meeting was with the Cultural Committee at Reginato's, on the patio. I'll never forget it. The surprisingly large group was very welcoming and as expected curious about my story and eager to share their stories. My first membership in an Italian American organization (Italian Civic Association, Mt. Vernon, NY) was immediately after college (University of Colorado) where I had served as President of the Italian Club for three years. Since that time, I have participated in several local and national groups focused on the Italian American experience and the promotion of Italian American culture (Knights of Columbus, Westchester Italian American Club, Siamo, NIAF...). As 2nd Vice President, I would continue to support the work of UCIAF "to express their ethnic pride" and "to help others in the community." I am most excited about the possibility of working directly with the robust and flourishing Special Committees. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and share our stories as we work together to continue to build the UCIAF and promote its purpose. I humbly ask for your vote to elect me as 2nd Vice President of UCIAF. I welcome the opportunity to serve the organization and support the membership.

Respectfully,  
Celia Ecker





## **ELECTIONS ARE COMING TO UCIAF NOVEMBER 10TH**

### **Introduction to Candidates - continued**

#### **Secretary - Gina Sottile**

My name is Gina Sottile and I have been nominated for the role of Secretary. I have been a member of UCIAF for many years. In addition to being the current secretary, I am co-chair of the cultural committee, volunteer coordinator for the festival and a member of the calendar, community grants and membership committees. I also help with the community cares committee when I can. I have also served on the Board for the YWCA and currently am a Board member of the Mental Health Association in Ulster County, Inc. and serve on the finance committee. I am employed by Rondout Savings Bank as a commercial credit manager and take minutes for a committee that I am a member of. I am proud to be a part of UCIAF and glad to have the opportunity to contribute to this great organization.

#### **Treasurer - Bill Calderara**

William "Bill" Calderara is an accomplished bank executive with over 30 years of experience in leadership, strategic planning, business development, operations, risk management, finance, and lending. He is the current President and CEO of Ulster Savings Bank, a \$1.3 billion award-winning Mutual Bank serving the Hudson Valley for over 172 years. Very active in community, Bill is a board member of the New York State Bankers Association, Bardavon/UPAC, Ulster Community College Foundation, The Center for Financial Training, Rip Van Winkle Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Ulster Strong and the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation. He serves as board member and Treasurer for Pattern for Progress of the Hudson Valley, and of the Ulster County Italian American Foundation. He is also a member of the Kingston Rotary Club, a multiple Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, a United Way Leadership Giving Society Member, a Lifetime Member of the National Eagle Scout Association—having earned the Eagle Scout Rank in 1978-- and teaches at the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Colorado Boulder. He previously served on the New York State Department of Banking Advisory Board and Fannie Mae's Advisory Council. Mr. Calderara has received numerous awards and recognitions. He was inducted into the SUNY New Paltz School of Business Hall of Fame as the 2019 Business Person of the Year and received the National Eagle Scout Association's Outstanding Eagle Scout Award in 2021. Bill's Italian heritage is very important to him, his father's family is originally from Milan and his mother's family from Naples. He and his wife Patti, live in Red Hook, NY and have three adult children.

#### **Member at Large - Kevin Reginato**

Buongiorno fellow members of the Ulster County Italian American Foundation. I am Kevin Reginato, and I am excited to introduce myself as a candidate for the position of Member at Large. As the owner of Reginato's Ristorante, I have spent my life immersed in Italian culture, and I am deeply passionate about preserving and promoting our rich heritage here in Ulster County.

My commitment to the Italian American community extends beyond my business. I have always found joy in giving back, and I actively engage in charity work that aligns with our shared values. I believe in the power of community and cultural preservation, and I am eager to contribute my skills, experience, and enthusiasm to help our foundation continue its important work.

I look forward to the opportunity to connect with each of you, learn from your experiences, and collaborate on projects that strengthen our Italian American identity in Ulster County.

Grazie mille for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin Reginato

UCIAF member since 2016





## **ELECTIONS ARE COMING TO UCIAF NOVEMBER 10TH**

### **Introduction to Candidates - continued**

#### **Member at Large - Christine Castellana**

Ciao! My name is Christine Castellana. I'm 33 years old and from Shokan, NY. I work as a Senior Career Coordinator at the Resource Center for Accessible Living, where I support individuals with disabilities in achieving their employment goals. When I'm not working, you can find me traveling, exploring new places, and conducting genealogy research. I'm also a lifelong learner, always on the lookout for new opportunities to grow and develop. I love being a part of UCIAF. I've been a proud member since October 2021, and have enjoyed getting to know you all and being a part of this community. Early this year, I came to Tony with an idea for a film screening. UCIAF's "Due Corti Italiani" event at the Rosendale Theater was a huge success and I am really proud of what we accomplished! This sold-out show featured the work of local filmmakers and had an audience of people of all ages. Planting a seed, collaborating with the Foundation, and seeing it grow and become a reality was amazing! The sense of Italian pride was palpable in the theater and made for a night that I will never forget! (I hope you all enjoyed it, too!) Looking ahead, I would love to collaborate on more community events to celebrate our heritage in fun and engaging ways, while also attracting and retaining millennial members. I want UCIAF to thrive for generations to come! Thank you so much for the "Member at Large," nomination. I would be happy to serve the foundation.

#### **John Ioia - Member at Large**

Hello, my name is John Ioia. I was a practicing Orthopedic Surgeon in Kingston for about 40 years. I have been Italian since birth. I never realized that being FBI was so special because I grew up in Bensonhurst Brooklyn where almost all Italians were FBI. I am a Charter Member of UCIAF, have served on many committees and truly love it. Every candidate for this position is deserving of your vote but I ask you to just me with your vote.

Grazie, Pace é Amore.  
John

#### **Jo Ann Campise - Member at Large**

Ciao!  
My name is Jo Ann Campise and I am an Italian American with family lineage going back on both sides from various parts of Italy. I have been a part of the Ulster County Italian American Foundation for almost one year. I knew from the very first dinner meeting that I attended that this was a very special group. Since then, it has grown into a family. I am currently a part of the Social Media Committee, and I do a lot of the monthly updates on the website. I also took part in the 2023 Italian Festival Committee. I am excited to be nominated as Member at Large and look forward to continuing to serve this wonderful group.







## **COMMUNITY CARE/CULTURAL COMMITTEE**



### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are looking for volunteers for serving and even more to supply desserts. Please help if you are able. The Foundation has been assisting the Reher center in many ways with their fundraising. They provide information and programs to the public of the immigrant experience which includes our own family experiences. It is a privilege to assist them when possible. Please contact Patricia Brakman if you are able to assist with Deli Night at [pat.brakman@gmail.com](mailto:pat.brakman@gmail.com) by October 23rd

"To go" pick-ups will be from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



With the help of our Community Care volunteers, we assisted the Ulster County Sheriff's Wellness Unit by setting up, providing salads and desserts, serving and clean up at their Luncheon on Oct. 30th



Thank you to Community Care volunteers who helped and donated baked goods. Thank you Safeshoot!!

## **HIGHWAY CLEANUP**

On Saturday, October 14th UCIAF's highway cleanup committee put on our hardhats and vests and removed trash from the Delaware Ave. Cloverleaf. A big Thank You to Deb and Anthony Tampone, our Adopt a Highway Chairpersons. Until we meet again in the Spring, please help keep our city clean!



### **PLEASE DONATE**

We will be collecting stocking stuffers for People's Place Project Santa at our December Holiday Mixer. Items needed are hats, mittens, soft fleece blankets, stuffed animals and crafts.

## **COMMUNITY CARE SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**



Community Care Program will purchase Christmas gifts (\$400) for five children provided to us by the Salvation Army in Kingston.

Community Care has donated \$500 to Ulster County Community Action Outreach program. The money will be used to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for those seniors in need who are living in our local senior residences.

We will be assisting the Hudson Valley National Center for Veteran Reintegration, (Vet2Vet) at their November luncheon. We will set up, serve, clean up and provide salads and dessert.

We will be assisting the Salvation Army in preparing and distributing Thanksgiving Dinners on Wed. Nov. 23rd.



### **HONOR FLIGHT**

Dear Mary Tuma,

I would like to personally thank the Ulster County Italian American Foundation and yourself for sponsoring my role as a Guardian on Hudson Valley Honor Flight, Mission 31. The event was an amazing experience, getting to spend it with SPC Mary Mendola made it something I will carry with me for the rest of my days. I love and respect our Veteran community dearly. However, there are times when the business of my work interferes with the personal interactions I crave with my brothers and sisters. Your organization and Hudson Valley Honor Flight gave me that time. It was a reminder of how much of an honor it is to work in our community, and how important it is to remember their sacrifices. Seeing Mary and the other Veterans being welcomed home in a manner that is fitting to their commitment and sacrifices made for this country was truly humbling. It will never be forgotten.

Most Respectfully,

Kevin Keaveny  
Founder & Executive  
Director



Submitted by Mary Tuma  
Community Care Chairperson





## **PIZZA & PASTA WORKSHOP**

**SATURDAY 11/18TH AT ULSTER SAVINGS  
BANK, KINGSTON  
CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP 10 AM - 1PM**

**Make your own pizza with story time and activity from 10-1. Need helpers to assist children in making their own pizza dough. While dough is setting up they can design their own apron and then listen to a story with a short activity. Volunteers then will help the children put the toppings on their pizza. When done the volunteers will distribute the pizza to the children for them to enjoy.**

**EVENING ADULT WORKSHOP 4PM - 7PM.**

**Participants will be making their own dough to make pasta. While their dough is setting up, we will learn how to play SCOPA (Italian cards).. When dough is set up the participants will visit 4 stations to learn how to make 4 different types of pasta by hand. Next they will have the opportunity to cook and eat the pasta choosing 1 of 4 different sauces.**

**1. traditional red sauce, 2. pesto sauce, 3. Alla Vodka Sauce and 4. Browned Butter Sage Sauce. I need volunteers to make the 4 sauces, I need one volunteer per station to demo the pasta making. I can provide instructions**





**Kids**  
**Pizza Workshop**  
with story time  
**10 AM ~ 1 PM**  
**\$10 each**

**Adult**  
**Pasta Workshop**  
**4 PM ~ 7 PM**  
with free glass of wine  
**\$25**

for more info and to register go to [uciaf.org](http://uciaf.org)







## LA BELLA LINGUA

By Celia Ecker

Italian is the most beautiful language in the world! Who can disagree with this statement about the language of music and art? Italian is melodic as it flows off the tongue, free from nasal and guttural sounds. Its fluid melodiousness is created by lots of vowels and precision in spelling and meaning,

In Italian there are seven vowel sounds compared to at least twenty in English. Italian vowels are pure and almost always pronounced exactly the same way, no matter where they appear in a word. Aside from foreign loans, Italian words end in vowels. Vowels are always articulated and never slurred or pronounced weakly. They are produced by air being pushed up from the lungs to create the melody of the language.

Italian is an inflected language; the endings of the words change. Verb endings change to indicate subject, tense and mood. Noun endings change to indicate gender and number. This alone significantly contributes to the lengthy lexicon of 260,000 Italian words. Spelling, in general, is very regular with almost a one-to-one correlation with pronunciation. This phonemic orthography is absent in English where words such as dough, rough and through thrive.

There are very, very long words that precisely convey meaning through the joining of the distinct components. There are numerous multisyllabic words in the Italian language in addition to the those of the medical world. *Precipitevolissimevolmente* (very hastily) and *particolareggiatissima* (in an extremely detailed way) are but two. Consonants with their secondary status to vowels highlight their importance by frequently appearing doubled. There is even a double “q” in words such as *soqquadro* (disarray, shambles.)

In his lengthy poem, *Beppo*, Lord Byron declares that Italian the “soft, bastard Latin” should be written on satin. “La bella lingua”, you can hear the music and see the words flow from the satin page.







## MEMBER NEWS

A message from Linda Saccoman...

My paintings will be in Woodstock this weekend. I will be attending and hope to see you. Linda

The gallery at  
Woodstock Playhouse  
presents  
**Gardens and  
Landscapes**

featuring the work of 11 local  
artists

Tyler Borchert  
Linda Stewart Champanier  
Carolyn B. Cirnitski  
Angela Gaffney-Smith  
Mira Fink  
Lynne Friedman  
Diane Jones Godfrey  
Janette Kahil  
Elaine Ralston  
Linda Saccoman  
Marlene Wiedenbaum

Please join us  
Art Opening Celebration  
& selected Crafts

**Saturday, November 4  
3-6pm**

103 Mill Hill Road, Woodstock, NY  
[www.woodstockplayhouse.org](http://www.woodstockplayhouse.org)

All proceeds from sales will go to  
the Playhouse Garden Fund  
to help develop the grounds  
for our community







# ITALIAN CULTURE HISTORY FUN FACTS

submitted by Debra Tampone

## Italian Etiquette

Every culture in the world has their own customs and etiquette regarding the most important aspects of social life: from dining to celebrations, from greetings to traveling, and so on. Adhering to your table manners would help you during your Italy trip! Don't just pick your pizza slice and start biting into it if you wish to avoid the angry stares of the locals passing by. Instead, use a knife and fork to enjoy this Italian delicacy to the fullest! Holidaying in Venice? In Venice you are not supposed to share your pizza with anyone, no matter how close that person is to you!

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Italians never go out with wet hair. It's considered both unkempt and risky, since you might catch a cold standing outside with a whole head of barely-towelled-off hair. So if you walk around with wet hair, even in the scorching summer heat, you'll gather more than a few shocked looks.

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una scuola  
studiare



Spot the 6 differences!

