

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!



gennaio 2024 Newsletter



Joanne Locke, Editor

Anthony Tampone, 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
Calendar-Suzanne Sottile
Cultural- Linda Saccoman & Gina Sottile
Membership- Tony Marmo
Social Media - Kevin Reginato & Nick Alba
Awards/Donations - Anna Brett
Sponsors - Tony Marmo
Fundraising - Nina Postupack
Bylaws - John Ioia

CURRENT EVENTS

1/6 - Little Christmas Dinner/Dance @ Diamond Mills. La Befana story by Karen Pillsworth, music by Michael Dell & Maria Hickey.

1/15 - Cultural Committee will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Reginato Restaurant in Lake Katrine. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Linda @ 845-339-5330. There will be no kitchen service.

1/24 - Information Members Meeting (no dinner). Please RSVP to: UCIAFinfo@gmail.com, location to be announced.

COMING IN FEBRUARY

2/22 - February Dinner Meeting @ Pointe of Praise

Visit our website UCIAF.org for more information.

ITALIAN EXPRESSION

“La Vigilia con i tuoi e Capodanno con chi vuoi.”

This well-known Italian saying refers to the tradition of celebrating Christmas Eve with your family but New Year's Eve with whoever you want.

Submitted by Celia Ecker



COMMUNITY CARE



On Dec. 18th Community Care assisted the Marine Corps League and sorted toys donated to Toys for Tots at the Best Western on Washington Ave. Thanks Deb, Anthony, Ann and Jason!



Community Care prepared 150 Turkey dinners at Salvation Army.



Thank you to everyone who donated crafts, mittens, hats, blankets, and stuffed animals last night at UCIAF's Holiday Mixer. You all went above and beyond. The photo on the left was earlier in the night, on the right they are home at People's Place.

VET2VET LUNCHEON



Thank you Congressman Patrick Ryan and Dan for joining us and for the UCIAF Congressional Recognition Certificate.



Thank you Deb Tampone for making the American Flag in your Kingston High School Class and having it signed by our military and students in memory of those who have served. Most of all, thank you for reminding our youth of the sacrifices made by our Veterans and our Military!!



Submitted by Mary Tuma
Community Care Chairperson



WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR WE HAD!!!

Our own Mary Tuma and John Ioia did a fine job in summarizing 2023 on their Tutto Italiano Radio show which is aired every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. on WKNY with rotating hosts. They reminded us of our traditional “Little Christmas” in January where Karen Pillsworth entertained us with the story of “La Befana”, the Christmas witch. Mary and John go on listing our many trips and workshops during the year. Easter bread making at St. Joseph's Church, Pasta and Pizza workshop at Ulster Savings Bank, homemade wine tasting at the Elks Lodge, ice skating at Skate for a Cause during the Winter Festival at Ole Savannah, the St. Joseph's table at St Mary's/St. Peter's Church, Joe and Nicole's guided trip to Staten Island where we toured the Casa Belvedere, the Garibaldi Meucci Museum and the Our Lady of Mt Carmel Grotto. Our trip to the American Italian Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in Albany.



In April, Al Scilla organized a Pro Wrestling Fundraiser at the Kingston Neighborhood Center. Another successful fundraiser was our double feature Cannoli/Umberto-E movie night at the Rosendale Theatre. We had many multi-cultural dinners this past year celebrating with the Greeks, the Polish featuring a presentation by the Krupa brothers, the Jewish and the Irish with a historic presentation by Taylor Bruck. We marched in the St Patrick's Day Parade and in the Disabilities Awareness Parade as well as the O+ Parade. Mary T., Kevin R. and Joe F. were Santa on the Rooftop in a July fundraiser for Peoples Place. Stephen Blauweiss did a presentation on The Story of Historic Kingston. Some musical performers at our dinners were Angela Bruno and Michael Dell. We had a wonderful Italian/Jewish Deli Night fundraiser for the Reher Center at the Childrens Home of Kingston. Jane Brown arranged an informative, insider tour of West Point. Our Artist Soap Box Derby entry of Pizza Amore created by Joe Famiglietti and Debbie Tampone won First Place. We were pleased to present our Educational Awards and Community Grants at our June dinner at Diamond Mills. Our ever-popular Bocce Day Family Picnic is always full of fun and food.





If you are reading Mary Tuma's posts about Community Cares each month, you can see that UCIAF stays involved with our community through food drives, serving at Veterans functions, assisting those in need, highway clean up, serving free hot chocolate at the Snowflake Festival and more. Our Summer Movie Series at Reginato's Ristorante with pre-fix dinners is always a big hit and remember, the movies are always free.



Our largest undertaking each year is our Italian Festival which is not possible without our generous sponsors and our committed volunteers. This year was another record breaker. Our Signore and Signora of the year were Joe Famiglietti and Nicole Francis- Famiglietti. Our Italian Pride Awards went to Suzanne Sottile, Gina Sottile, John Riccio and Graziano Techio. Our Community Service Awards went to Anthony Mignone and Dave Amato. Our Lifetime Achievement Award was accepted by Frank Guido. A heartfelt Thank you to all who did your part in making this Festival a huge success.



We had our elections this past November and elected some new officers. Anthony Tampone is now our President, Joe Famiglietti is our 1st Vice President, Joe LoSchiavo is our 2nd Vice President, Gina Sottile is our Secretary, Bill Calderara is our Treasurer, and John Ioia and Kevin Reginato are our Directors at Large. We also voted for and passed updated Bylaws. Congratulations to all!

A debt of gratitude goes out to our past President and Co-founder Tony Marmo. He and Les Lombardi along with their respective Boards were the visionaries that have brought our Foundation to where it is today at over 400 members strong. God Bless you for all you have done.



A LITTLE ABOUT WHAT IS TO COME

Of course, we don't want to upset a successful formula, but we will be adding to the recipe. Some of our goals for this administration are to get more of our members involved in the many events and committees that we have during the year. We will be soliciting your feedback with random phone calls asking for your thoughts and expectations. Also on the agenda is to get more of the younger generations involved. Our Traditions and Heritage only stay alive when we practice and learn about them and this needs to continue. We will be having non-dinner meetings in addition to our social dinners to share and exchange ideas about the Foundation and to offer updates on what is happening. Our first meeting will be January 24th. A member planet memo will be sent out shortly.

We have a program to video your story and preserve it in our archives to hold on to and cherish your precious memories and traditions. Contact Rosalie at: Rosaliefcs+uciaf@gmail.com

We have a responsibility to our next generation to preserve, promote and celebrate our culture. Let's live up to it.

Anthony Tampone, President

MEMBER NEWS



Congratulations to Christine Castellana, a dedicated member of the Ulster County Italian American Foundation! Christine's application to the Italian American Future Leaders Conference was successful, and she's been accepted to attend in Florida this January! We're thrilled for Christine and confident that she will represent us with grace, passion, and pride. As we celebrate this achievement, let's also share our commitment to fostering leadership within our community. The Ulster County Italian American Foundation aims to continue sending our younger members to this conference every year, empowering them to become future leaders. Let's support Christine and look forward to more successes ahead!



ITALIAN CULTURE HISTORY FUN FACTS

submitted by Debra Tampone

New Year's in Italy is a holiday filled with tradition... and more than a little bit of superstition. Want to bring yourself some luck this new year?

Here's how to celebrate New Year - or *capodanno* -

RING IN THE NEW YEAR....
2024!

Banish past bad luck—and old pans—Italian-style!!

Traditionally, here's how Italians, particularly in southern Italy, have launched their celebrations on New Year's Eve: by throwing old pots, pans, clothes, appliances, even furniture out the window. Really! It's meant to symbolize "letting go" of past unhappiness to prepare yourself for the future. Although most Italians have abandoned the tradition, do watch your head on the streets of Naples on New Year's Eve!

Fire up the ol' Yule Log one last time



Another tradition is to fire up the Christmas log on the last day of the year. Turns out, evil spirits don't like fire! It's also a gesture of invitation to the Virgin Mary, who can warm newborn Jesus next to the warm flames. Afterwards, according to tradition, families would use the ashes as charms to protect the house from damage.

Wear red undies to ring in luck Yep, that's right: Red underwear brings luck. This goes for men and women. So that explains why you see all the red underthings hanging in shop windows at this time of year!

Eat the right dishes for a wealthy New Year



Digging into cotechino with lentils and polenta is a popular Italian New Year tradition.

In Italy, a traditional New Year's Eve meal is all about symbolizing abundance. After all, that's what you're hoping the new year will be about! In Piedmont, rice represents coins—so traditional dinner is risotto in bianco (white risotto). Elsewhere in Italy, lots of dishes feature lentils (which symbolize wealth) and raisins (for good luck).. You might also see *zampone*, sausage that comes in a hollowed-out pig's trotter. When either one are sliced, the pieces look like coins... so this too, of course, is meant to give wealth in the new year.

Give treats to make the New Year sweet

To ensure a sweet new year, ancient Romans gave each other jars of dates and figs in honey, along with a bay branch for good fortune. Guess what? This hasn't changed much, at least in Naples, where people exchange figs wrapped in laurel leaves.

Watch out for fireworks....

Fireworks and lots of noise also "scare" the bad spirits away. So, of course, expect lots of fireworks on New Year's Eve! Practically every city, and many of Italy's towns, put on a dazzling display. On a riskier note, families and groups of friends will often host their own, or simply throw firecrackers. So be careful walking around!

BUON ANNO



Ulster County ITALIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION



Thank you to our Sponsors!

		<h2>2023 FESTIVAL SPONSORS</h2>			
<p>The Italian Festival is made possible, in part, with support from the federal American Rescue Plan Act funds awarded to the City of Kingston by the U.S. Dept. of the Treasury</p>					
<h3>FESTIVAL IN-KIND SPONSORS</h3>					



BUON ANNO!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Find the 7 differences!

