

# Patchogue Italian Feast of

## ST. LIBERATA

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 12 - 6 p.m.

Rain date: Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

Please join the Greater Patchogue Foundation, Inc. Cultural Heritage Committee at our annual Italian feast in Patchogue Village!

*Celebrating 56 years*  
& 2023 Italian-American of the Year... *Rob Calarco!*

Your Name/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2023 Journal Ads (Indicate your ad size):

**Dimensions:** Full page: 8.5x 11    Half page: 8.5 x5.5    Quarter page: 4x5.5    Business card/Eighth of page: 4x3

Back page	\$1600	_____	Half page	\$300	_____
Inside back	\$1300	_____	Quarter page	\$150	_____
Inside front	\$1300	_____	Eighth page	\$75	_____
Full page (color)	\$700	_____	Business card	\$75	_____
Full page (black & white)	\$500	_____			

### Ads must be camera-ready.

Email finished ads to: [lin\\_loc@msn.com](mailto:lin_loc@msn.com)

Questions? Contact the Greater Patchogue Foundation at 631-207-1000

### 2023 Sponsorship Opportunities:

Main Stage	\$1800	_____
Italian Marching Band	\$1700	_____
Italian Singers (4 available)	\$700	_____
Children's DJ	\$500	_____
Zeppole Eating Contest	\$400	_____
Bocce Ball Tournament	\$300	_____
Proud Italian-American	\$250	_____
Logo on re-usable bags (15 available)	\$100	_____

All sponsors will be displayed on the Sponsor Billboard located on the Four Corners the day of the Feast.

Main stage sponsor will have a banner on the stage.

If you sponsor a band, Italian singers, DJ, Zeppole eating contest or the Bocce Ball Tournament, a sign will be placed next to the location on the day of the event.

Sponsors will also be credited on the Greater Patchogue Foundation website, the Patchogue Italian Feast of Saint Liberata social media pages, sponsor page in the event journal, and a thank you in the Long Island Advance.

For a special sponsorship package, please call the Greater Patchogue Foundation at 631-207-1000.

**Deadline for Ads and/or Sponsorships:** August 18, 2023

Make checks payable to **Greater Patchogue Foundation, Inc.**



### Greater Patchogue Foundation, Inc.

15 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue, NY 11772

Patchogue.com | [info@Patchogue.com](mailto:info@Patchogue.com) | 631-207-1000

Social Media: Patchogue Italian Feast of Saint Liberata

# Patchogue Italian Feast of

## ST. LIBERATA

### 2023 Italian-American of the Year... *Rob Calarco!*

Robert (Rob) Calarco is humbled to be named the 2023 Italian American of the Year for this year's St. Liberata Festival. The honor has great significance to him as it is a celebration of Italian Americans; our traditions, our culture, and our faith. But it means even more given the distinguished individuals who have contributed so much to the Patchogue Community whose company he now joins.

Rob, has long considered himself a true Italian American, born to Frank Calarco, from whom he draws his Italian roots and Deborah Sanders, whose ancestors date to the Mayflower. Rob's father Frank was the son of Italian immigrants, Michele Calarco and Rosa Buttaro.

Michele was the only son born to Francesco Calarco and Antonia Battaglia in 1895 in Laganadi, Calabria, they also had three daughters, Antonia, Michelina and Maria. After emigrating through Ellis Island, the Calarco's settled on Orchard Street in the small city of Auburn in upstate New York. Michele served in the US Army in World War I, afterwards working for American Locomotive as a coremaker.

Rosa Buttaro was born in Spadofora, Sicily in 1903 to Antoinette Amato and Mariano Buttaro. Rosa had five siblings: Mario, Anthony, Mary, Antionette, Agatha, and Concetta. When only 5 years old Rosa hid under the family's boat for safety during the earthquake of 1908. At the age of 9, Rosa and her family emigrated to the United States. Like the Calarco's, the Buttaro family entered through Ellis Island and settled on Orchard Street in Auburn.

Rosa and Michele married in 1923 and had three children (Antoinette, Theresa) and the youngest and only son, Francis, born in 1934. Frank served a stint in the United States Navy before being hired by the Auburn Fire Department. Frank would rise through the ranks to become Chief.

Frank and Debbie met at the Grant's Department Store lunch counter where Debbie worked. They married in 1975 and moved into the second-floor apartment above Rosa in the Orchard Street house. They had five children, Michael, Christina, Rob, Francis (CJ) and Victoria. Rob has fond memories of growing up in the house on Orchard Street, where Rosa and then Frank tended a large vegetable garden that encompassed the entire back yard.

Sundays in the Calarco house always meant pasta and meatballs. Rosa, then Frank, would have a pot of tomato sauce going very early on the stove and by the time the kids woke there were fresh homemade fried meatballs and warm bread from the bakery. Debbie learned and continued the Italian family traditions, taking the time to write down Rosa's recipes.

Frank was very active in his community volunteering for many organizations including as a member of the Sons of Italy. The Lodge owned a club house where they hosted Christmas parties and bocce tournaments. Every year they would organize an Italian Festival with rides, games and all kinds of Italian food. Rob's favorite as a child was pizza frita, fried pizza dough, covered in cinnamon and sugar.

Rob first ventured to Long Island to attend college at Dowling College, where he majored in Political Science. To help pay for college, he went to



work at Oakdale Pizza, where he learned how to make pizza; something he still likes to do at home with his children.

Following his father's example and advice, Rob wanted to find a way to give back and make a difference in his community. As a college student, he began his career working for Legislator Ginny Fields. He then started his work in Patchogue when he became Chief of Staff for his predecessor, Legislator Jack Eddington. At this time, he re-located to Patchogue, a community he is proud to call his home.

In 2011, Rob had the honor of being elected to represent the 7th District. Rob was re-elected 4 times and served as Majority Leader, Deputy Presiding Officer, and Presiding Officer. Rob dedicated significant efforts to empower our local communities to achieve their respective visions. He counts among his achievements finding a home for the

Carnegie Library, creating a new waterfront access to Patchogue Lake, pushing to sewer south Patchogue and the restoration of Canaan Lake. Rob always supported the redevelopment and growth of Main Street, both in the Village and on East Main Street, and helped secure millions of dollars over the years for development projects with workforce housing. His advocacy secured funding and resources for the many wonderful historic, arts and cultural organizations of Patchogue that help bring vibrancy to our community.

As a Legislator, Rob also passed many reforms to Suffolk County government and implemented campaign finance reform. He sponsored the legislation that led to Suffolk being one of the first municipalities in the nation to sue the pharmaceutical companies for their role in the opioid crisis; helping bring significant resources to curb the epidemic. He has supported the preservation of thousands of acres of open space and farmland, and Suffolk's efforts to improve water quality by curbing nitrogen pollution.

Rob currently works as the Assistant Regional Director for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, where he continues his career in public service.

Rob met the love of his life, Laura, while living in Patchogue, and they married in 2011. She is also partially of Italian descent and brings traditions from the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy to their family. They have three children, Alma Rosa Brigida (named for Rob's and Laura's Italian grandmothers), Patrick Robert and Francis Bodhi. Francis is named for several of their Italian ancestors, including Rob's father. Together, they continue family traditions. Rob enjoys planting and tending a large vegetable garden and cooking. Rob is a member of the Sgt. Basilone Lodge of the Sons of Italy, the St. Sylvester Chapter of the Knights of Columbus and is an Advisory Board Member of the Johnny Mac Foundation. Rob volunteers to coach his son's baseball team in the Patchogue Youth Athletic Association, and frequently supports the Greater Patchogue Historical Society, the Patchogue Garden Club, and the Patchogue Arts Council. The Calarco's are parishioners at Our Lady of Snow in Blue Point, but also are a part of the Faith Formation program at St. Francis de Sales, where Patrick recently received his First Holy Communion.

**THE GREATER  
PATCHOGUE  
FOUNDATION**

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