

The Voice of **UNICO NATIONAL**
Com **UNICO**

JANUARY 2012 • VOLUME 67 • ISSUE 02



UNICO *Welcomes 2012*



**The largest Italian American service
organization in the United States**



**"Service
above *Self*"**



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CHRISTMAS PARTY**
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CONVENTION NEWS**
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ESPOSITO**
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2011-2012 CALENDAR

Mid Year Meeting	March 23-25, 2012	Marriott Resort & Spa-Myrtle Beach, SC
UNICO Day of Service	April 21, 2012	Every Chapter Across the Country
National Convention	August 8-12, 2012	Marriott Resort & Spa-Marco Island, FL

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Just Like Family

Glenn Pettinato

As I travel across the country from Chapter to Chapter, I am pleased to say that certain traits are common. There is an extreme respect for the National Office of the President and an intense involvement in their local community. Further, they show a support for our national goals. Our mission statement is very detailed, and across the country, local Chapters are carrying it out. And as a result, there is a great deal of good going on out there among our Chapters. UNICO National cannot stand on its own without the local Chapters and the local Chapters cannot stand on their own without National. We are part of a symbiotic relationship that we all have to encourage and nurture. Our success cannot be achieved without this rapport. As Harry Truman said, "You can't believe what can be accomplished if you don't care who gets the credit".

On one of my trips to St. Louis, I was fortunate that one of my twins, Matthew, accompanied me. Without any prompting, he immediately made friends once he arrived. He truly believes that UNICO is the greatest organization in the country – "Out of the mouth of babes". Do all of us think this way? I believe so or we would not have the continued success that we have witnessed these last 89 years of UNICO. In all of the Chapter visits, there were certain personalities who lit up the room and made the Chapter visit dynamic. On their own, they could make any organization shine but they chose UNICO as their organization – a telling sign. What draws members to our rolls? It must not only be the deep commitment to our Italian American heritage but also a commitment to our goals and ideals as a national organization. That's where we succeed. My teenage son witnessed this and we must open our eyes to our own success.

But there is still much to do. In January, Chapters that do not have women members will receive a challenge from their National President urging them to have women members by the Board of Directors Meeting in March. In addition, a challenge will also be sent out to Chapters that have

only one or two female members to increase their membership before the Board Meeting.

Let us renew our efforts to make UNICO successful this coming year. I hope to see all the District Governors, National Chairpersons, Chapter Presidents, Foundation Trustees, National Officers and Chapter Members attend the Board of Directors Meeting this year. It will be held March 23-25 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the Marriott Resort and Spa at Grand Dunes. I remind all members that they are members of the Foundation which meets only at the Board of Directors Meeting and the Convention. Please make every effort to attend and perhaps make a vacation of the week.

I hope that every member had a blessed holiday season. Felice Anno Nuovo!

FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE



Holiday Traditions!

Terri Pettinato

I hope everyone had a memorable holiday! Speaking of memories, I would like to thank those UNICO members who sent in their family story. I would hope this would continue in our remaining issues of our ComUNICO. Since this is the holiday season, it would be a perfect opportunity to share your holiday traditions with us, and this would include any holiday recipes.

Before the holidays, Glenn and I continued our travels. On October 15, we were guests at the Plainfields Chapter's 41st Anniversary. Many bottles of homemade wine were shared along with good food and I was presented with a beautiful bouquet of red roses. Then we went onto Sayre, Pennsylvania for Frank Castalano's first meeting as District Governor of Pennsylvania II. The following weekend, we were invited to the Kearny Chapter Woman of the Year Awards Dinner, honoring Judy Hyde.

On October 26, we were honored at the New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania "Meet the President" Dinner in Garfield, New Jersey. It was a heartwarming event that will be a lasting

memory. Glenn was overwhelmed with the many gifts received. October 28th, we were off to the beach to Point Pleasant, New Jersey for Heritage Night. There were many inspiring speeches. Everyone was warm and gracious, and they sent me back with lovely gifts and a pretty sea shell ornament for our Christmas tree.

November 3rd to 5th we kicked off our Eastern Regional 2011 meeting, held in Stamford, Connecticut. UNICO members were greeted with decorative soaps and bottles of water. A beautiful cocktail reception was held for Glenn and me coordinated by Frank Cannata. The event was truly a splendid evening. Our Eastern Regional meeting was successful and much was accomplished. I provided snack bags to keep UNICO members satisfied. To conclude the Eastern Regional, we enjoyed a dinner dance and I presented homemade biscotti to all guests for dessert. I also handed out gifts to the first two couples that registered for the Eastern Regional. I awarded them because good attendance at our National meetings assures the success of UNICO.

The following week, we attended the Greater Binghamton, New York Chapter meeting that was so well organized by Chapter President Rob Salamida. They provided a beautiful cake and delicious fried dough. I was presented with a gorgeous carousel that Binghamton is known for. Glenn was presented with a basket of their famous spiedie sauces and spices. During the end of November, Glenn and I attended the Hazleton Chapter meeting, honoring Frank Ciampi for fifty plus years as a UNICO member.

In December, we started the month off by attending the New Jersey District IV Christmas party. During the event, many gifts were passed out to special need adults. In attendance was Perry Russo, New Jersey District IV Governor who also presented me with flowers. In the holiday spirit we attended the Greater Binghamton Chapter's Christmas party, which was a beautiful affair. Glenn and I had our picture taken with Santa and I presented festive red convention bags to all the ladies. Finally, the National Office hosted a Christmas Open House where good food, wine, and presents were flowing. After all the parties, it was finally time to head home to celebrate my birthday with family and friends on December 21st.

In conclusion, I want to wish everyone a wonderful New Year, Good Health, and much Happiness!!!





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Charitable donations to these UNICO charities are tax deductible!
Send your contributions to the UNICO Foundation at:
271 US Highway 46, Suite A-108, Fairfield, NJ 07004

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*The Staff of the National Office is dedicated
to serving our UNICO Members and Chapters!*

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COVER PHOTOS

MAIN Top: Welcome Back Giuseppe Pampena! Giuseppe Pampena, Stamford, CT along with First Lady Terri Pettinato and National President Glenn Pettinato. Terri helped nurse Giuseppe back to health after his stay in the hospital in Scranton, PA. (Page 28)

MAIN Bottom: Glenn visits the St. Louis Chapter — St. Louis Chapter President, Vincenzo Monteleone, Spirit of Columbus Honoree 2011, George Stark, UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato and Columbus Day Grand Marshal 2011, Anthony Gandolfo. (Page 37)

SIDE BAR Top: Santa kicks off the NJ District IV Christmas Party for the New Jersey Developmental Center. (Page 30)

SIDE BAR Bottom: UNICO features National Member Mary Ann Esposito. (Page 55)

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Second Vice President Richard D'Arminio

As I continue to receive reports from Chapters across the United States I am truly amazed at the many great things that we accomplish in our local communities. There are so many different fund raisers that take place from beefsteak dinners and auctions, golf outings, pasta and meatball dinners, wine tastings, etc. There is so much money that is given out to those less fortunate that we are here to serve.

As I stated in an e-mail sent to all Chapter Presidents, since many members as well as officers may not attend the mid-year and/or National Convention, I think it would be a good idea if we held at least two conference calls in the new year. By the time you receive this issue we will have hopefully concluded our first one, and I would like to schedule the second one in either late April after Easter or early May before the Memorial Holiday takes many away on vacation. This will give us an opportunity to share ideas and network by having as many Chapter Presidents as possible at the same time on one call.

Each time I receive a Chapter Report from the Chapter directly or from the National Office I immediately respond and thank the Chapter President and/or Officer who e-mailed it, and I also throw in a comment or two. I also ask if I can attend an upcoming Chapter meeting as I will make as many visitations as possible.

Although I enjoy receiving and commenting on Chapter Reports I know that there are still many Chapters who do not submit them. I will try and reach out to you, but again I simply ask you or your Chapter Secretary to either complete the report online or simply attach your minutes and mail them out!

In conclusion, I thank all the Chapters who continue to send in their reports religiously every month. Please take the time to invite a National Officer, our office staff, and/or Committee Chairman to speak at one of your meetings. Let us continue to do good deeds and share ideas with one another. Sometimes just one idea can bring a Chapter to the next level with Membership growth, a bigger treasury, etc.

I would like to commend my own Chapter-Greater Ramsey for the creation and hosting their Annual "Charity Di Vino" in November with over 400 in attendance. Not only did they raise over \$24,000.00 but a few local Charities such as Meaningful Movements, and Hearts and Crafts were just a few of our beneficiaries. This one event also allows us to give to our National causes at our Annual Convention. Just like Past National President Andre' DiMino's Annual Italian Culture and Heritage Day event that he created that all Chapters should

do, by being on one of my upcoming calls or attending a Board meeting and/or Convention a Chapter may take just one idea and change overnight!

Merry Christmas to all and I look forward to talking to you and/or seeing you at an upcoming event, meeting, or Convention.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Chaplain's Message: Fr. Bob Wolfie

During Jesus' public ministry, he did not dress like a scholar or a priest or a dignitary. Outwardly, nothing indicated that he possessed any special power or authority; at least, not until he began to teach. When he did, Jesus showed that he is a person of genuine authority and power. At the time, no one dared to teach in the first person using the phrase, "What I say is" However, that is exactly what Jesus did. He taught in his own name, not relying on what someone had said before him. Jesus did not need any external human authority to validate Him. His authority comes from his own divine nature, from who he is.

Authority is much more than the right to tell people what to do or the power to make them do it. Jesus never bullied people into following him. He simply spoke with conviction, and his words pierced people's hearts. His teaching was always consistent. He did not flip-flop from one position to another. And there was no discrepancy between his words and his actions. Jesus lived as he taught, and whatever he said and did was a reflection of his love. No wonder his contemporaries were amazed.

Jesus' words brought healing and forgiveness. No one had spoken such powerful words before. The authority with which Jesus spoke moved many people to follow him and listen closely to his teachings. It is our responsibility to listen closely to Jesus' teachings, and that means more than just to hear them. It means to listen with an open mind and a willing heart and to put those lessons into practice. Through our baptism, we are commissioned to be his disciples, to share in Jesus' work. Every day, there are opportunities where we can bring God's presence and power to those around us. That is our task and the Holy Spirit will help us accomplish it.

God bless.

CORRECTIONS/OMISSIONS

ComUNICO November 2011, Volume 67,
Issue 01

On Page 22: The Italian Holidays article was submitted by Salvatore Mangano, Past National President. Information for this article was found utilizing various resources, including the internet.

On Page 38: The 2011 Golden Meatball Champion for Woodcliff Lake was **Lou Perricelli** not Jeff Perricelli.



EDITOR'S DESK



Editor's Comments: Pat Pelonero

Let me start by saying Happy New Year to all of our readers. I hope your Christmas celebrations were everything you wished for.

It is hard to believe our second issue is complete and in your hands. Where does time go? As you read this issue we will already be working on the next one.

You will see in this issue that we are trying to bring some new touches to ComUNICO. We have already added four extra color pages to enhance the overall look. There is also a featured article in this issue from Mary Ann Esposito, the Chef from Ciao Italia, television's longest running cooking show. Mary Ann graciously attended our 2011 Convention and for those who attended, we can remember her trying to teach our National President Glenn Pettinato how to cook. When the Office contacted her about entering something in our ComUNICO, she quickly replied and you will see the recipe she shared with the members. I would like to thank Mary Ann for giving this issue of ComUNICO a lift with her great cooking spirit.

There is one thing I would like to ask of all our members, that is to please try and support our advertisers that place ads in our paper. Their support is very meaningful and their ads help defray the cost of producing the ComUNICO. The advertisers support the membership; let us please think about giving support back to their respective businesses. To all the advertisers your support is greatly appreciated at the National Office, thanks for all those ads; and please keep them coming.

I hope that you find this issue interesting; and enjoy reading all about our UNICO family around the country. It is a way to catch up with friends and acquaintances through their articles and pictures.

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

The Atlantic City Chapter of UNICO is looking forward to a great 2012 rife with pride in our Italian American heritage, fellowship with our brethren, and a continued sincere effort towards helping others to a level befitting our motto, "Service Above Self".

In the last edition of ComUNICO, I shared information about a Pizza Bowl Family Fun Night that was to be held in late October. Well, the event took place without a hitch and was the first of, hopefully, a series of activities blending our local Chapter with the area's Sons of Italy Chapters. I am pleased to report that more than 80 attendees took part and enjoyed a wonderful evening of bowling, eating and relishing the friendship and bonding that the event was designed to provide. Other such get togethers are in the planning process for the New Year including a Family Movie Night at a local theater replete with ushers, red carpet, local dignitaries and extensive media coverage. We plan to utilize students from local high schools to assist with the technical aspects of the event surrounding its production. Stay tuned for reports on that and other exciting activities of your Atlantic City Chapter.

Finally, our Annual Family Christmas Brunch was held on Sunday, December 18 at the Historic Smithville Inn in Smithville, NJ. This gala end of year event brought spirited adults and bright eyed children together for a tasty brunch and a surprise visit from Santa Claus. Santa provided a gift for each child and availed himself to picture taking with the children brave enough to sit on his lap. Merriment pervaded the room and everyone had a wonderful time heralding the season and enjoying one another's company.

So, from our Atlantic City UNICO Chapter to yours, please accept our most sincere best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2012.

BAYONNE, NJ

Members of the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO show their support for the "Madeline Fiadini Lore Foundation for Cancer Prevention" at the Annual Gala November 2011. The foundation's mission is to help fund testing for cancer prevention. For information on the foundation contact 201-437-9100 or visit their website at www.mflfoundation.com.



From left to right: Father Joseph Barbone, John Minella, Frank LoRe, Madeline Fiadini LoRe, President of the Foundation; Vincent Sitta, John Martucci, and Leo Smith.

BELLEVILLE, NJ



Belleville UNICO distributes Thanksgiving Baskets to ten families. From left to right: Manny Alfano and Gene Antonio.

CLARK, NJ

The Clark Chapter of UNICO treated The McAuley School for Special Children in North Plainfield to an early Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, November 4th. Each child received a complete turkey dinner complete with pumpkin pie. This is just one of many events, charities and/or donations that the Clark Chapter will use from the proceeds obtained from the Italian Feast that was held in October.



From left to right: UNICO Members Vera Abruzzo, Theresa Spignola, and Angie House cut up pumpkin pie to serve to the children.



Member Sam Liff serves pumpkin pie to the children.



Clark UNICO Members that were in attendance at the Thanksgiving Dinner for the McAuley School for Special Children.



UNICO Members pose with all of the children at The McAuley School for Special Children and the Principal Sister LeAnne.



Clark Chapter members, Henry Varriano, Ralph Bernardo, President; Tony Ginesi and Sam Liff take a moment to visit Santa at the Robinson Plantation – Historical Museum in Clark.



Clark Chapter members Henry Varriano, Sam Liff, and President Ralph Bernardo present a \$1000 check to Scott McCabe, President of the Historical Society in Clark. The donation was made available with the proceeds from the Italian Feast held in October. This is just one of the many donations given out by the Clark Chapter.



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AT
WWW.UNICO.ORG**

CEDAR GROVE, NJ

Cedar Grove UNICAN Kate Brindisi along with friends Kathleen Quinn and Jessica Bishop, organized the first Annual Turkey Trot Miles for Miracles 5k at Verona Park, which took place November 26, 2011. The fund-raiser was held for Zoey Aster Penny a Verona, New Jersey resident, who was diagnosed with Progeria at birth. This degenerative disease prematurely ages young children, leaving them with a life expectancy of about 13 years of age. All proceeds raised at the run went to the Progeria Research Foundation by way of Team Zoey, a foundation created in honor of Zoey, who recently celebrated her second birthday.

More than 800 people came out to support Team Zoey/PRF Turkey Trot Miles for Miracles 5k at Verona Park for our first race, raising over \$37,000 to help find the cure for Progeria, the event has far exceeded expectations.

The Turkey Trot's success would not be possible if it was not for the incredible people who keep showing up to help support us and raise money for the Progeria Research Foundation. We would like to give a special thank you to all the Sponsors who helped make the Turkey Trot such a successful event. Such as Bishop Photography, Creative Beginnings Preschool, Ah'Pizz, Tierney's Tavern, Anderson's Flowers, and the Bruno Family. We would like to especially thank Al Siuta who donated the use of his timing system for the event. WE WILL FIND THE CURE FOR PROGERIA. Please don't forget HOPE STARTS HERE!

Please visit TeamZoey.com for information on Zoey or to make a donation. For information on Progeria, or to make donations to the Progeria Research Foundation visit, progeriaresearch.org.



Kathleen Quinn, Cedar Grove UNICAN Kate Brindisi and Jessica Bishop were the event coordinators for the Turkey Trot for Team Zoey.



Cedar Grove UNICANs Rich McAllister and John Matera came out to walk/run in support of Team Zoey/Progeria Research Foundation Miles for Miracles Turkey Trot 5k.

The Annual Cedar Grove UNICO Turkey Drive was another success! We collected and donated 381 turkeys and non-perishable food items to St. Lucy's Parish in Newark. We had many of our Cedar Grove UNICO members and their families out in the rain to deliver these turkeys ensuring those less fortunate than ourselves would have just as enjoyable a Thanksgiving meal as our own.



Members of the Cedar Grove Chapter and volunteers at the Turkey Drive.



Hundreds of turkeys that were generously donated.



Members and volunteers passing turkeys along...



The Cedar Grove Chapter attended the UNICO New Jersey District IV Annual Christmas party for the North Jersey Developmental Center. Standing from left to right: Dot Ricciardi, Greg Tufaro, Kate Brindisi, Pat DeFrancisci and Rich Orsini. Seated from left to right: Angie Fusco, Rich McAllister, John Borgese and Amy Tufaro.

The Cedar Grove Chapter of UNICO National has always remained true to the motto of Service Above Self, and it seems at almost every meeting we are gaining new members. At our most recent meeting we welcomed two new members, bringing our membership count up to 80 members.



Pictured from left to right are the five newest members who have joined our chapter since this September: Chapter President John Borgese, New Members: Christina Brindisi, Michael DeStefano, Mary Lomaetro, Emilio D'Amato, Mike DeFrancisci, and Past District Governor Anthony Latella.

NJ DISTRICT X

The Plainfields, Westfield and Elizabeth Chapters of New Jersey District X enjoyed a fabulous night celebrating at "Meet the President Night" at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ recently in honor of National President Glenn Pettinato.



From left to right: New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, Michael Colucci, Vice President of Plainfields Chapter; John DeAndrea, President of Plainfields Chapter; Terri Pettinato, National President Glenn Pettinato, Ann Walko, Past President Plainfields; Anthony Bengivenga, Past President Plainfields and Vince Tomasso, President of Westfield Chapter.



From left to right: Ann Walko, Past President of Plainfields; Anthony Bengivenga, Past President of Plainfields; Bob Tarte, Westfield Chapter and Courtney Villani, President of Elizabeth Chapter.

ANTI-BIAS COMMITTEE

Anti-Bias Committee -Special Notice!!! Update on H. Res. 367 & S. Res. 301

UNICO National is leading the way in getting October to be officially and PERMANENTLY designated as "Italian and Italian Heritage Month" in the United States.

But we need your help NOW!!! We need everyone to contact their legislators (Congress and Senate) to DEMAND they co-sponsor our resolutions.

H. Res. 367 is good for 2012, but the Senate resolution S. Res. 301 must be reintroduced in 2012. Check if your legislators have co-sponsored <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>

If this is to become a reality you must make this one of your priorities. We need all our members, their friends and relatives to contact their Legislators and the members of the Italian American Congressional Delegation via e-mails, but more importantly, calling their office, writing letters and sending faxes.

If we don't contact them, many members of Congress will not co-sponsor legislation, but they will if their constituents write or call them about it. Sometimes, all that is needed is just that one call or that one letter.

Your support is greatly needed. Please e-mail me with what you and your Chapter have done to make this a reality.

Your Senators can be e-mailed at their DC Office http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm. You can also reach your representative by phone, call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202 224-3121. Say his/her name and you will be put through to his/her office. Then give your name and say you live in the representative's District. Say that you want him/her to become a co-sponsor.

There are more than 30 members of the Italian American Congressional Delegation and almost a hundred associate members. Go to this NIAF Web Site and contact them http://www.niaf.org/public_policy/italian_american_congressional_delegation.asp. This must be done for our heritage, our children and our grandchildren. If we are successful it will be because of you and what you have done to make this a reality.

FAIRFIELD, NJ

On October 26, 2011 Fairfield Chapter had the pleasure in meeting the UNICO National President, and listening to his views on the direction UNICO National should take at this upcoming year. Fairfield Chapter is very excited to hear and support the President in any way needed, especially helping support flood victims of Hurricane Irene which drastically devastated Fairfield, NJ households. So please support your President in making any type of donation to help these poor families who lost everything in this past flood.



From left to right: Dr. Lenny Russo, Bruce Puleo, National President Glenn Pettinato, Joseph Catenaro, John La Forgi and Fairfield Chapter President Fred Mongelli.

President Linda Gail Alati of the Verona Chapter receives a token of appreciation from President Fred Mongelli of the Fairfield Chapter, to thank the Verona Chapter for making a donation to the flood victims of Fairfield. The Fairfield Chapter would also like to thank the Denville, Livingston, Montville and Orange/West Orange Chapters for making generous donations to the same cause, for families who lost everything including their homes. Just saying thank you could never express the heart-felt feeling the community of Fairfield has towards these Chapters, they will never be forgotten for this act of generosity.



Verona Chapter President and Former First Lady Linda Gail Alati with Fred Mongelli.

The Fairfield Chapter held their Annual Christmas party. The affair took place at the Brownstone, in Paterson, New Jersey. There was an enormous amount of food, with some Italian specialties. A great time was had by all who attended, and were entertained by our very own in house DJ Vincent Russotto of the Fairfield Chapter. President Fred Mongelli of the Chapter would like to thank his wife Michele for aiding him in planning the event. He also would like to thank all the members and potential new members who attended, and wish them and the rest of the membership "Buon Capodanno."



From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. J. Gambino, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sarachelli, Mr. and Mrs. F. Giaquinto, Mr. and Mrs. J. Oliva.



From left to right: Mr. S. Tobia and Ms. K. Gerish, Mr. and Mrs. J. Yuppa, Mr. and Mrs. G. Longo, Mr. and Mrs. R. Del Russo.



From left to right: Mr. R. Polo, Mr. and Mrs. T. Polifonte, Dr. L. Russo, Mr. and Mrs. J. Kryzsiak, Mr. and Mrs. L. Stellato.



From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. R. Alfano, Mr. and Mrs. R. Mettalo, Mr. and Mrs. J. La Forgia, Mr. and Mrs. J. Catenaro.

COMUNICO NOTICE

UNICO National would like to announce that members can now opt out of receiving ComUNICO.

We have heard from several members that they were receiving multiple copies of ComUNICO to their address. This happens when we have married members or multiple family members living at one address.

We have successfully implemented a process that now allows members to 'opt out' of receiving multiple copies. If you would like to stop receiving multiple copies at your address, please contact the National Office at 973-808-0035 or Patrizia Trento at ptrento@unico.org

Members who receive only one copy and still want to opt out can also reach out to National Office or Patrizia Trento and your name will be removed.

Remember that you can ALWAYS view the latest issue (and past issues) of ComUNICO at anytime by visiting the UNICO website – www.unico.org.

SCHOLARSHIP



UNICO National Scholarship Report: Joan Tidona

WANTED: Nominations

All Chapters are asked to seriously consider nominating candidates for the UNICO National Scholarship Awards. The opportunity to participate in the National scholarship program is the right of every Chapter in good standing.

Application forms and checklists were distributed to the Chapters in November and are also available on the confidential Members Only section of the UNICO website. Hard copies may be obtained from the National Office. All forms have been revised, based on recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. The changes are intended to clarify requirements and facilitate compliance. Be sure to provide your candidates with the updated forms. (Revised 2011) Applications must be submitted to the Chapter by April 15 and to National by May 1. Chapter representatives are asked to make certain the applications are complete and all required signatures and documents are included. It would be unfortunate if an excellent candidate is eliminated because pertinent information was accidentally omitted.

Scholarships Offered on the National Level

Sergeant John Basilone Memorial Postgraduate Scholarship

The UNICO Foundation, Inc. will grant up to a maximum of \$6,000 for a postgraduate scholarship, to a student attending an accredited program at a college/university in the United States at \$1,500 per year. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Dr. Benjamin Cottone Memorial Scholarship

The UNICO Foundation, Inc. will grant a \$5,000 scholarship, paid on award, to a student pursuing postgraduate education at an accredited medical school in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Bernard and Carolyn Torraco Memorial Nursing Scholarships

The UNICO Foundation, Inc. will grant two \$2,500 scholarships, paid on award, to students attending accredited pre-licensure or graduate nursing programs in the United States. Preference is given to applicants demonstrating financial need. A candidate must be a United States citizen.

Undergraduate Scholarships

William C. Davini Scholarship
Alphonse A. Miele Scholarship
Major Don S. Gentile Scholarship
Theodore Mazza Scholarship

The UNICO Foundation, Inc. will grant four \$6,000 scholarships to high school seniors who will be attending an accredited college/university program in the United States, each at \$1,500 per school year up to a maximum of 4 years. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Undergraduate candidates should be encouraged to apply for all four scholarships. To do so requires them to submit the original application and three complete copies, including all attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because the scholarships are judged at different locations.

UNICO Scholarships, on the local and national levels, are highly valued, sought after and appreciated. I can't begin to tell you how often past awardees have expressed gratitude for the assistance UNICO provided them.

BASILONE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Last fall, three previous recipients of our Basilone Scholarship participated, under the UNICO banner, in the Raritan parade; held annually in recognition of the exemplary patriotism of Sgt. John Basilone. While Renée Biribin Kilgariff (1989) Attorney at Law, John T. Farinella (1989) Attorney at Law/Educator and Stephanie Salek (2006) Attorney at Law, rode together to honor a great hero, they also brought awareness to the UNICO scholarship awarded in tribute to Sgt. Basilone. These highly accomplished young people make us very proud.

As UNICANs, we continue Dr. Vastola's vision to promote education by assisting deserving young students. Member commitment, to so many causes, extends way beyond what our founder could have imagined in 1922. It seems you have every reason to be proud of yourself.



UNICO National Sergeant John Basilone Scholarship recipients participated in the Basilone Parade, in Raritan, New Jersey. From left to right: Renée Biribin Kilgariff, 1989; John Farinella, 1991; Stephanie Salek, 2006.

**Scholarship applications and
information can be found in
the Member's Section of the
UNICO Website. Please visit:
www.unico.org**

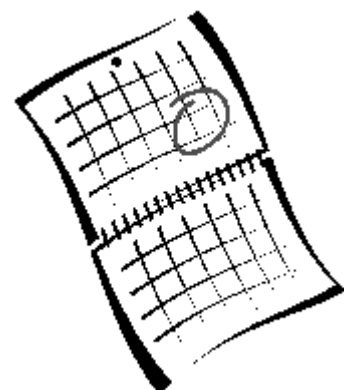
CALTECH CHESTER CARLSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sons and daughters of UNICO members are offered the opportunity to apply for the Caltech Chester Carlson Memorial Scholarship. Funded through the efforts of individuals in the copier industry, this scholarship has been made available to UNICO owing to the initiative of Past National President Frank Cannata. Upon applying to and being notified of acceptance by Caltech, a student should immediately request the scholarship application. Forms will also be accessible on line through Caltech. When submitting the completed application, the student must indicate that a parent is a member of UNICO National. This scholarship, valued at a minimum of \$17,750, will be awarded for the fall class of 2012. Past National President, Frank Cannata has long been a strong supporter and proponent of the UNICO National Scholarship Program. We thank him for making this exceptional opportunity available to UNICO daughters and sons.

UNICO NATIONAL AWARDS DEADLINES

- **National Scholarship Applications** are due to the Chapters by April 15th and to the National Office by May 1st.
- **Marconi Award Applications** are due to the Past National President Andre' DiMino by February 17th.
- The following **Award Applications** are due to the National Office by March 1st:
 - Americanism
 - Athletic
 - Cianci
 - Rizzuto
 - Vastola
- Please send Applications for the Basilone and DeFillipo Award to Past National President Frank Cannata.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the National Office at 973-808-0035



DENVILLE, NJ

Denville UNICO once again prepared 50 food baskets for the residences of Denville, who unfortunately this year came face to face with financial misfortune. Members of the Chapter collected food either donated or purchased from local businesses and delivered these food baskets, so that these residences could have a nice meal for Christmas. Each basket had either a turkey or ham this year, as well as many of the trimmings needed for a festive holiday dinner. Chapter members and their families assembled and delivered these baskets Christmas week in time for the Christmas holiday. Merry Christmas to all UNICAN's from Denville UNICO!



New Jersey District XI Governor and founder of the Denville Chapter Gino Lolocono pose with Chapter members and their children and grandchildren. From left to right: Gino Lolocono, Mark Sabeh, Anthony Lolocono, Sandy Lolocono, Sue Carol Scannelli and Jim Scannelli.



Denville Chapter President Joe Cardinale stacks the many boxes and cans of food prior to assembling the baskets for delivering to the residents.

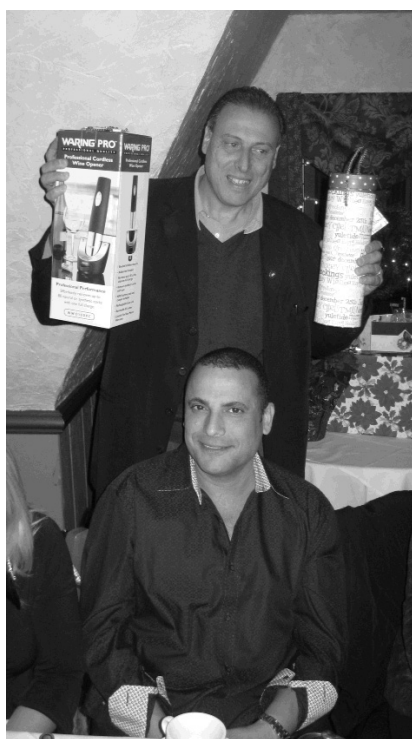


The Denville Chapter children pose for a group picture.



Sue Carol Scannelli the Chapter's Recording Secretary holding one of the more than 50 loaves of Italian bread donated by Anthony and Sons Bakery located in Denville. What is in your right hand Sue Carol? Good thing there were more than 50 loaves donated, since the entire group needed nourishment that cold Sunday morning. Thank you Anthony and Sons for your generosity, as they always support the Chapter whenever asked! Have a very Merry Christmas from Denville UNICO.

Denville UNICO celebrated the Christmas Season with their Annual Christmas Party. This year it was hosted by Casa Bella's Ristorante in Denville. The party was well attended and a great time was had by all UNICANs and their guests. The food was delicious and the Yankee Swap grab bag was a lot of fun. Gifts were passed around the group as you were allowed to take a gift from another member if you liked it better. The noise level was so loud with laughter that the restaurant almost asked them to leave. Fortunately, one of the Casa Bella's owners is a Denville UNICO member.



UNICO National Third Vice President Joe Paci shows off his Yankee Swap grab bag gift to the group. Joe is real happy with his gift; however don't get too attached to the gift, as you will not have it for long!!! It was stolen from Joe within minutes. Thanks for being a good sport Joe. Sitting is Denville UNICO member and Casa Bella's owner Tony Locantore. Thanks for being such a great host Tony. Everything was wonderful!



Denville Chapter President Joe Cardinale and his wife Colleen enjoy the evening at Casa Bella's.

ELIZABETH, NJ

ELIZABETH CHAPTER - CITIZEN of the YEAR James S. La Corte

On Sunday, October 9, 2011, the Elizabeth Chapter held their annual UNICO Citizen of the Year Award and celebrated with this year's recipient – Surrogate James S. La Corte. His great grandfather, Nicola, immigrated from Cammarata, Sicily to the United States in 1879. His roots in Elizabeth, New Jersey, go back to his grandfather, James B. La Corte, who was born and raised in Elizabeth and had a distinguished career as a deputy sheriff in Union County, New Jersey.

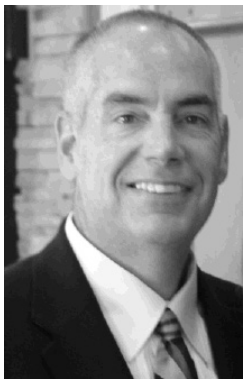
James' father, Nicholas S. La Corte, was also born in Elizabeth in 1911. Nicholas' legacy is well known to Italian-Americans who live in Elizabeth, as he was a World War II army veteran who became the first Italian-American Mayor of Elizabeth, New Jersey. He later went on to become a State Senator and then a State Appeals Court Judge.

Our Citizen of the Year, James, was born in 1947. He was a graduate of Fordham University and Southern Methodist University School of Law. He was a practicing attorney in the City of Elizabeth for over 25 years and also served on committees including the Union County Judicial Review Panel and the Union County Fee Arbitration Committee. In 1999, he was elected to serve as Surrogate of Union County and continues to proudly serve as such.

Special thanks to Elizabeth Chapter member, Joe Amato, who nominated our Citizen of the Year; Chapter President, Courtney Villani, who gave the evening's welcome address, and our heartfelt appreciation goes out to George Marretta, Vice President, whose tireless efforts putting the Program and Ad Book together, helped to make the evening a great success. Lastly, special thanks to all Elizabeth Chapter members that helped in organizing the dinner-dance and those who were able to contribute ads or attended the successful dinner-dance in honor of James S. La Corte.



EXPANSION



**Expansion
Director
Thomas Vaughan**

I hope everyone had a great holiday and is ready for a fulfilling 2012. It is always busy at the Expansion Desk and I have hopes to host multiple Charter Nights this year.

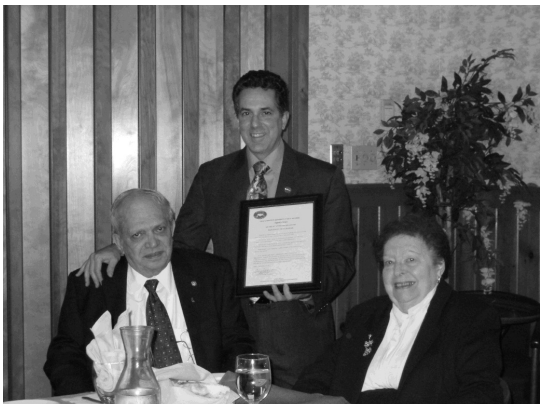
Our newly approved Chapter in Pennsylvania is called the Keystone Chapter and they are preparing for a Charter Night in the spring. I will keep everyone up to date as plans get formalized. Huntington, New York, on Long Island, is tantalizingly close to the magic number of fifteen applicants. I have confidence in the leadership of this potential Chapter and hope to have good news on this one soon.

I have been in contact with Don Piccolo and he is still working hard on getting a Chapter started in Myrtle Beach. We would love to have a Charter Night at the same time as the Mid Year Meeting in Myrtle Beach.

I have received notification of interest in forming a Chapter in Fort Meyers, Florida. I know this area has had a history with UNICO, but the contact person is someone who is enthusiastic about forming a Chapter.

2nd Vice President Rick D'Arminio is working with me on Myrtle Beach and he is also exploring a potential Manhattan Chapter. Gerry Heytink is still helping me with Ocean City, Maryland. Past National President Andre' DiMino recently sent me a great lead in Edison, New Jersey. Please contact me at unicotomv@gmail.com if you have anything to contribute to the formation of these Chapters or if you have a lead on a new Chapter anywhere else.

HAZLETON, PA



Frank Ciampi receives the Presidential Award for over 50 years of service from National President Glenn Pettinato. Also pictured is Frank's wife.

FARMINGTON, CT

The Farmington, Connecticut Chapter of UNICO celebrated the 42nd Anniversary of its Annual Pasta Dinner on Sunday, October 23rd, serving 300 dinners at Irving A. Robbins Middle School. In preparation for the Pasta Dinner, the delicious meatballs were made by members at Meatball Night, October 21st at Holy Family Monastery. Thanks to all the work done under the leadership of our Pasta Dinner experts, this event was very successful.



From left to right: Jim Kane, Ralph Arcari, Robert Seravalli, Ray Lavendier, and Marie Macaro at Meatball Night.



From left to right: David DeNuccio, Fred Alciati, and Ralph Arcari working in the kitchen at the Pasta Dinner.



From left to right: Sal DiMauro, Joey and Michael Filomeno at the Pasta Dinner.

On Wednesday, November 30th, the Farmington, Connecticut Chapter of UNICO sponsored a lecture presented by Ann Sievers, Art Gallery Director and Curator at St. Joseph's College. The presentation entitled "Italia Bella" featured views of Italy by European and American artists. This informative and enjoyable event took place at the Farmington Library.



President Ralph Arcari and Ann Sievers at the lecture held at Farmington Library.

Angelo's on Main was filled with festive energy as we gathered for our Annual Christmas Party on December 14th. In keeping with a tradition of our Chapter members donated toys and gifts to be delivered to the Klingberg Family Center.



Ralph Arcari and Lea Marcello at the Christmas Party.

OAKVILLE/ WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville-Watertown, Connecticut Chapter of UNICO National had Ashley Turney of 'Live-It' present a 'Journey through Italy' on October 27th at the Falls Avenue Senior Center in Oakville, Connecticut. Ashley studied in Florence for six months and lived in Rome for five years. She also worked throughout Italy as a tour guide. Her lively presentation covered the 20 regions of Italy from north to south. She spoke on 'la vita Italiana' (the Italian style of life) and what it means to live in a country that contributes so much of the world's culture.



From left to right: Rich Gubbiotti, Italian Heritage committee member; Ashley Turney, Speaker; Dick DiMaria and Elaine Orsini Cieslewski, Chapter President.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Executive Vice President Dave Donnini

Happy New Year!

I cannot believe it is 2012 already. Time is going by so fast. The 2012 Convention Committee and I are still working hard on preparing for the Convention which is going to be held in August. The 2012 Convention will be at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club and Spa, Marco Island, Florida. The dates of the Convention are August 8-12. This is an amazing property. Joe Agresti, Past National President; Frank Caperino, Past National President and myself did a site visit in November after attending the Eastern Regional in Stamford, Connecticut. The property keeps looking better and better upon each visit. Wait until you see what the Committee has planned for all of the attendees....

We have been busy planning some fundraisers as well. Here they are as follows:

1. Meet The President/Pasta Dinner 2012 Convention Fundraiser-January 21, 2012- Hawthorne, California.
2. Bowl-A-Thon- February 5, 2012 – Clifton, New Jersey
3. Pasta Dinner Fundraiser- March 15, 2012- San Diego, California
4. Karaoke Night- March 31, 2012 - Woodland Park, New Jersey
5. Las Vegas/Mexico Cruise- April 23-30, 2012
6. Art/Wine Auction- April 29, 2012- Mt. Airy Lodge/Casino, Mt. Pocono, Pennsylvania

The Convention is fast approaching and rooms are selling fast. For more 2012 UNICO Convention information, please visit www.2012unicoconvention.org.

In closing, I want each and every member to think of a way how we can "GROW UNICO". I do have some ideas, but would love to get as many suggestions from the members as possible. Send an email to daved@unico.org.

Thank you to all UNICANS for our continued support and for your "SERVICE ABOVE SELF". We have the best service organization in the United States. I am proud to be of service as your Executive Vice President.

*"Traveling is the ruin of all happiness!
There is no looking at a building after
seeing Italy" - Fanny Burney*

MARCONI SCIENCE AWARD

UNICO National Marconi Science Award and Medal 2012

Applications are now being accepted for the 2012 UNICO National Marconi Science Award to be bestowed on March 24, 2012 at UNICO National's Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach. The Applicant must be a living, US citizen of Italian descent and involved in the physical sciences, such as electronics, physics, chemistry, etc. Applications will be judged on a number of factors including education, area of expertise, patents, publications, awards and a brief written essay.

This award was established by UNICO National at the August 1994 meeting of the Board of Directors. The intent was to honor the centennial (1895 - 1995) of the first long distance wireless transmission and to recognize the great scientific contributions made by Guglielmo Marconi to the world.

Then UNICO National President Frank Cannata appointed a committee, chaired by Dr. Joseph Tella and co-chaired by John Alati, which took on the responsibility. A deserving recipient was chosen from the numerous applications. On April 30, 1995, at a gala dinner in Westchester, NY, attended by many UNICANS and guests, Dr. Alfonso DiMino, an accomplished inventor and scientist, nominated by the Woodcliff Lake, NJ UNICO Chapter, was presented with what would become the first "UNICO National Marconi Science Award and Medal."

Shortly thereafter, the Marconi Committee, with support of National Officers, recommended the continuation of the award, and in late 1995 it became a National Award to be presented annually.

Guglielmo Marconi was the genius who began the communications revolution. His discovery of long wave, short wave and microwave transmissions ushered in the modern era. Radio and television are just two of the off-springs of his brilliant contributions. UNICO is honored to remember his legacy through this award.

For information contact Andre' DiMino, Chair, Marconi Science Award Committee - andre@unico.org or 201-767-6040.



UNICO NATIONAL
Marconi Science Award Committee
20 DiMino Court, Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
andre@unico.org

Deadline for Submission
Friday, February 17, 2012

Presentation of Award
Saturday, March 24, 2012

2012 Application

This form must be filled out completely with all attachments listed below. Do not leave any blanks. If not applicable, indicate by entering "NA". Application with attachments must be received at the above address or by email by deadline to be considered for Award (*Fully electronic submissions in PDF file format are acceptable.*)

Attachment 5 – Essay must be submitted via email to andre@unico.org

Good luck and thanks for entering!

Eligibility

- Applicant must be a living, US citizen of Italian descent and a full-time resident of the United States.
- Applicant must be involved in the physical sciences (i.e. electronics, physics, chemistry, etc.)
- Applicant must be available to attend award ceremony if selected to receive award (expenses provided by UNICO).

Criteria to be evaluated

1. Area(s) of expertise
2. Multi-disciplinary
3. Patent holder in physical science
4. Published
5. Education

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ email _____ @ _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Employer Address _____

Employer Phone _____ Web Site _____

UNICO Nominating Chapter (if applicable) _____

- Attachment 1 - Education and Awards - List School(s) & Degree(s) and any Award(s) received with dates.
- Attachment 2 - Area(s) of expertise - List and describe in detail
- Attachment 3 - Patent(s) - List patent number, date and description. Attach front page of patent(s) with abstract.
- Attachment 4 - Publications - List all published articles, reports, papers, books, etc. by title, date and publication.
- Attachment 5 - Essay - The applicant should describe in narrative form of approximately 200 words why he/she should be considered for Award and include comments on his/her Italian heritage.

NOTE: ESSAY MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO andre@unico.org

By my signature below, I confirm that I agree to being placed into consideration for this Award; that I am a US Citizen of Italian descent; that all representations made herein or attached hereto are true; and, that if I am selected for the Award, I hereby agree to attend the Award ceremony.

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____

GARFIELD, NJ

The highlight of the year for the Garfield Chapter is the Annual Christmas basket giveaway. On Sunday, December 4th, thirty six volunteers from the Chapter and local schools met to fill 50 Christmas baskets with canned good, pasta, bread and chicken. An assembly line was formed by the group and the baskets were loaded into a delivery truck. The volunteers delivered the baskets throughout the town to needy Garfield residents as part of the Chapter's service to the community. Afterwards, Chapter members sat down to a nice breakfast at the Parkway Diner, tired but very rewarded.

Special thanks go to Chapter member Salvatore Militello with Budget Blinds for the use of his building, UNICO National Third Vice President Joseph Paci for providing the delivery truck and the local merchants who donated thousands of dollars' worth of food.



Former Chapter President Anthony Randazzo, Executive Vice President Alan Focarino, President Joseph Kovacs, UNICO National Third Vice President Joseph Paci and Man of the Year Vincent Latona load the delivery truck.

Third National Vice President Joseph Paci was on hand at the Garfield UNICO Man of the Year/Christmas Party. This year's Man of the Year was Vincent Latona whose dedication for almost 25 years got him unanimously voted by his fellow members. Vincent heads many of the Chapter's events and has never felt he had earned such an award. He felt he was just doing what he enjoyed and the passion that filled his heart was rewarding enough, until this year when his step son Past Garfield President Shawn P. Cochrane said he would not accept Vincent declining to receive the award and that was final. So congratulations, and God bless to a fantastic UNICAN and Garfield UNICO's Man of the Year.



Third Vice President Joe Paci and Garfield Man of the Year, Vincent Latona.



Pictured is future UNICAN Mason James Cochrane, son of Garfield Past President Shawn Cochrane and his wife Jennifer. Mason attended his first Garfield UNICO Man of the Year Dinner.

On October 11, 2011, the Garfield Chapter held a formal swearing in ceremony and dinner at the Venetian Catering facility in Garfield, New Jersey. UNICO National Third Vice President Joseph Paci installed Joseph Kovacs as the new Chapter President. As part of tradition, the changing of the pins occurred between outgoing Chapter President Anthony Randazzo and Mr. Kovacs. Mr. Paci also inducted the Chapter's other recently elected officers for the 2011-2012 year. Dinner and dancing rounded out the festivities for the evening. At the October monthly meeting, the Chapter members presented Mr. Randazzo with a plaque and thanked him for his service as Chapter President the last two years.

Various Chapter members attended the Columbus Day Wreath Laying Ceremony in Garfield's Columbus Park. Chapter President Joseph Kovacs, Immediate Past Eastern Regional District Governor Dominick Nicastro and son Louis marched in the Annual Columbus Day Parade through New York City.

On November 3rd, the Garfield, New Jersey PBA #46 honored past Chapter President Anthony Randazzo and several other local people as lifetime membership recipients at an Awards Dinner given in their honor.



UNICO National Second Vice President Richard D'Arminio congratulating incoming Chapter President Joseph Kovacs at the September Chapter Meeting.



PHOTO CONTEST

The UNICO National Italy Photo Contest

You have probably seen the absolutely beautiful photos of Italy that are in UNICO's Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar each year. Well, did you know that these have all been provided by our own member, Passaic Valley, New Jersey Chapter President, and UNICO National photographer Steve Pelonero? Yes, they were and they have been just perfect for our calendar.

But, now here is your chance to help us produce our new calendar for 2013 with your own photos of Italy.

We are launching a photo contest to see who can provide us with their own photos of Italy to be chosen for our 2013 calendar. We know that many of our members enjoy trips to Italy and take some terrific shots of the land of our heritage. Well, why not share them with the world by submitting them to this contest.

Photos will be reviewed and the winning photos will be published in the 2013 calendar. Please submit all photos in electronic format (jpg, etc.) in the best resolution possible. Winning entries will be notified in advance of publication and will receive credit in the calendar for their published photos.

Please submit your photos as e-mail attachments to uniconational@unico.org and include your name and phone number in the e-mail. Also please provide a description of the photo which includes where it was taken (town, region, etc.) names or descriptions of buildings, or other prominent subjects in the photo as well as when it was taken. You can submit as many photos as you like!

We look forward to seeing all the great photos of Italy from our members and to finding out who will win this contest!



HERITAGE AND CULTURE



HENRY ARMETTA

Henry Armetta was an Italian actor who appeared in over 150 films, starting in silent films as early as 1915 to a movie released in 1946, after his death.

Armetta, whose real name was Enrico Armetta was born on July 4, 1888, in Palermo, Sicily. In 1902, at the age of 14 he stowed away on a boat and came to America. The authorities were ready to send him back when an Italian compatriot came forward to act as his sponsor. He performed menial tasks to get by and eventually ended up working as a pants presser in the famous New York City Lamb's Club, a private theatrical club, where he befriended Broadway star, Raymond Hitchcock, who got him a chorus part in his play "A Yankee Consul".

He moved to Hollywood in 1920 and easily found work as a stereotypical Italian. In Hollywood, Armetta slowly gained a name for himself as a character actor, and by the end of the decade, he had carved a niche for himself as a portrayer of humorous and sympathetic Italian immigrants, often playing a barber, grocer or restaurant owner.

Armetta was so popular that he was frequently rewarded with extraneous bit roles that were specially written for him. Laurel and Hardy fans will remember Armetta as the flustered innkeeper who is kept awake nights trying to emulate Laurel's "kneesie-earsie-nosie" game in "The Devil's Brother". In the late 1930s, Armetta briefly starred in a series of auto-racing films, bearing titles like "Road Demon" and "Speed to Burn". He also headlined several short-subject series, most notably the "Nick and Tony" comedies of the early 1930s.

Throughout most of his career Armetta had a stocky build. A much thinner Armetta had a brief part in one of his last appearances in the musical "Anchors Aweigh" that starred Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra.

Henry Armetta died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 57 shortly after completing his scenes in "A Bell for Adamo". He was survived by his wife and three children.

Armetta was famous for his struts of walking with his body to one side and his heavy Italian accent. The fact that he always played sympathetic and lovable characters made him a positive image for Italian Americans at a time when prejudice ran deep against our people. He certainly was an asset to us and should be remembered as such.

Researched, adapted and submitted by: Salvatore J. Mangano, PNP 2011-2012, UNICO National Italian Heritage and Culture Chair.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Third Vice President Joe Paci

I hope you all had a great Christmas and I am wishing you all a very healthy New Year. As your Third Vice President, one of my jobs at any National meeting is to set up the Committee meeting rooms.

First of all; I would like to thank Pat Pelonero for all of her help in setting up all the rooms at the Eastern Regional Meeting in Connecticut.

Second; I would like to thank all the Committee Chairs that also attended the Eastern Regional. Guess what...it is almost time to get ready for our Midyear Meeting this coming March. Please, if you need a meeting room let me know by the middle of February.

If you need any help with your Committee, I am only a phone call away. Remember I am here to help. I will be speaking to our National Office about our Committees. I would love to hear from you; any suggestions you may have as to how we can do things better and make it easier for the National Office will be appreciated.

As the Chair for the Disaster Relief Committee, I am happy to announce that before Christmas; we were able to give all the money out to our Chapters in need. I am praying that this does not happen again. It was very sad to hear the stories and experiences that our members had to go through.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that helped with the disaster, and all the people outside of UNICO for their generosity...they just gave. On behalf of all the people that we helped I would like to say "THANK YOU".

This effort of course could not be done by one person; therefore I would like to thank my committee: Richard D'Arminio, 2nd Vice President; Perry Russo, New Jersey District IV Governor; Salvatore Benvenuti, and Pat Pelonero. I could not have done it without all of your help and support.



Presentation of Disaster Relief Funds. From left to right: Sue Carol Scannelli, Third National Vice President Joe Paci, Denville Chapter President Joe Cardinale, National President Glenn Pettinato and Jim Scannelli.

COOLEY'S ANEMIA

Checks were presented to Catherine Higdon and Dr. Riberdy of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital on behalf of UNICO National Foundation by members of the Memphis Chapter of UNICO National. Former Cooley's anemia Committee Chair, Sharon Thompson, presented a check for \$12,410 for continued research for the cure of Cooley's anemia and a check for \$1075 for the general fund.



From left to right: Robert Ratieri, Regina Giometti, Dr. Riberdy, Catherine Higdon, Sharon Thompson, Ray Ricossa, Manette Singer, and Ron Giometti.

Sharon Signaigo Thompson presents a check to the research team at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. The grant from UNICO National Foundation is being used for research to identify genes that activate fetal globins expression in order to improve anemia in Cooley's anemia patients. UNICO National Foundation continues to be acknowledged in published journals by Dr. Ryan.



From left to right: Dr. Tom Ryan, Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics; Sharon Thompson and Dr. Tim Townes, Chairman, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics.



MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION



Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade

This UNICO year is now at the half-way mark. The wonderful season of Christmas has past and the New Year has begun. Have YOU made a YOUR New Year's resolutions yet? We will get back to that later.

Where are we in Membership?

With the present membership just over 6,000 we are at our July level. In fact, we are maintaining the same membership level as six years ago. Membership growth is flat. On the average, we lose as many members as we bring in. With all the wonderful good that we do, we still have difficulty increasing our membership.

What to do?

Let us turn to the Chapters that are increasing their membership and ask "What are you doing in your Chapter that brings you the success that you have experienced?" Chapters like Clark, Greater Philadelphia, Hazleton, Point Pleasant Beach, Kansas City, Greater Atlantic City, Montville, Passaic Valley, Passaic Clifton, Waterbury and Woodcliff Lake all had significant increases in membership last year. When it comes to getting a good sauce recipe or a lesson in wine making, everyone has the answer. Well, let us get some advice as to the recipe for increasing membership.

We really do not have to look very far. All any Chapter has to do is offer a good program. Be active in the community. Hold some fundraisers, either on your own or with another club or organization. Have a blood drive. Have a Heritage Night. Have a Super Bowl Party. Sponsor a sports event. Bring in headliner entertainment. Run a bus trip or a trip to Italy. Read ComUNICO thoroughly and see what the other Chapters are doing. If you see an event you like, make it your own for next year. If you need advice on how to run the event, all you have to do is contact that Chapter. They will be only too happy to share their expertise with you. Get as much publicity for your event before it happens and then follow it up with more publicity. Make sure your community knows you are a part of it. While you are conducting these events, be sure to have plenty of UNICO information and applications on hand. Our "Friendly and Knowledgeable" National Office will supply your needs. Have an information table well stocked and manned with an experienced member on hand.

New Year's Resolutions

Now, let us go back to New Year's Resolutions. Is there anyone out there who has never made a New Year's Resolution? How many have made one but could not keep it? I think we have

all sailed in that boat. Here is a resolution that we can all fulfill. Since we are all members of UNICO's largest Committee, by sheer virtue of our UNICO membership, I will call it the UNICO Membership Committee Resolution. Let us all go out there with this ONE thought ... BRING IN AT LEAST ONE NEW MEMBER BY JUNE. Go out there and spread the "Good News" about UNICO and how YOUR new member can be a part of it. Next column will focus on Retention.

CARBONDALE, PA

Carbondale celebrated their Christmas Party on December 7, 2011. UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato and First Lady Terri Pettinato attended.



Carbondale Chapter members are pictured with Glenn and Terri Pettinato.



From left to right: Peter Pettinato, Secretary; Yvonne Gatto, Third Vice President; Glenn Pettinato, Richard Ruggiero, Recording Secretary; Chip Calabro-Eastern Regional District Governor; Tom Gretzula, First Vice President and Joe Masco, Treasurer.



From left to right: Glenn Pettinato, 40-year member Joe Carachilo and First Vice President Tom Gretzula.

OUR STORY

Here you will find stories from our members about their family and history. Please contact the staff at ComUNICO if you wish to have one of your stories featured here!

THE TRADITIONAL ITALIAN WEDDING CONFETTI

Felix Sergio, Saddle Brook, NJ UNICO

A very old tradition practiced by Italians, is the giving of Confetti at a Wedding Ceremony.

It is customary for Italians to serve a confection, known as Confetti, at their wedding receptions. Guests are given the Confetti not only in the spirit of nostalgia and tradition, but most especially to thank them for sharing this occasion with the newlyweds and to signify how their presence at the Wedding Celebration has added to the sweetness of the very special day.

In the case of my mother's home town of Pacentro in the Province of Abruzzo, the confetti is purchased from a renowned confectioner whose name is Pelino and is located in the Sulmona/Pacentro area. The time honored tradition continues and families, such as ours celebrating Italian weddings, contact confectioners in Italy who ship the confetti world wide.



Image from beau-coup.com

SHARING YOUR STORY

It is our First Lady, Terri Pettinato's hope that you enjoy reading stories from our members and that they encourage you to submit your own! Please submit your story to comunico@unico.org. Remember that stories need to be 300 words or less. We look forward to sharing your story!

**CALL TO MID YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TO BE HELD SATURDAY MARCH 24, 2012
MYRTLE BEACH MARRIOTT & SPA AT GRAND DUNES
8400 COSTA VERDE DRIVE
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29572
843-449-8880**

2012 HERITAGE CALENDAR

2012 UNICO Heritage Calendar, make a statement against stereotypes and negative portrayals and celebrate the richness of Italian and Italian American heritage and culture by purchasing the 2012 UNICO Heritage Calendar!

Aficionados of Italian culture are urged to help support the great accomplishments of this incredibly rich culture through the new 2012 Italian American Heritage Calendar now available through UNICO National, President Glenn Pettinato announced today.

Throughout history and continuing today, Italians and Italian Americans have made incredible contributions to world culture in all fields, including science, entertainment, business, the arts, sports, religion, cooking, and so much more. Some of the names featured in the calendar say it all: Giovanni Caboto, Antonio Vivaldi, Lidia Bastianich, Giulio Natta, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Jennifer Aniston, Mario Batali, Luigi Pirandello, Lt. Joe Petrosino, Anna Magnani, Dante Alighieri, and Leonardo Da Vinci.

In fact, the calendar highlights 365 Italians and Italian Americans who have had an impact in the world, past and present. It features important Italian American heritage historical events, births, deaths, coats of arms from the regions of Italy and more. The beautifully printed keepsake wall calendars were produced through the efforts of UNICO's Anti-Bias Committee and sell for \$6 which includes postage.

The calendar may be purchased by calling the UNICO National office at 973-808-0035. A fundraiser/bulk discount rate is also available. They also make a great gift for the holiday season. The richness, diversity and brilliance of the culture makes the 2012 UNICO Italian American Heritage Calendar a must to have on a daily basis.

Manny Alfano
ABC/Calendar Chairman
Bloomfield, NJ
973 429-2818



UNICO NATIONAL *Karaoke Night!*

Saturday, March 31, 2012

7 pm to 11 PM

Holy Cross Church, 220 Browertown Road, Woodland Park, NJ 07424

♪ **Thousands of Songs for You to Sing**

♪ **Six-Foot Assorted Heroes**

♪ **Gourmet Hot Dog Cart**

♪ **Soda - Coffee - Dessert**

♪ **BYOB! - Door & Raffle Prizes**

Only \$35 per person

Advance Purchase Required

Credit Cards - Call UNICO National Office 973-808-0035

Make Checks Payable to "UNICO Convention 2012"

Mail to: UNICO National, 271 US Highway 46 West, Suite A-108, Fairfield, NJ 07004

Proceeds to support UNICO Convention 2012

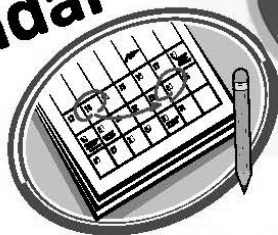
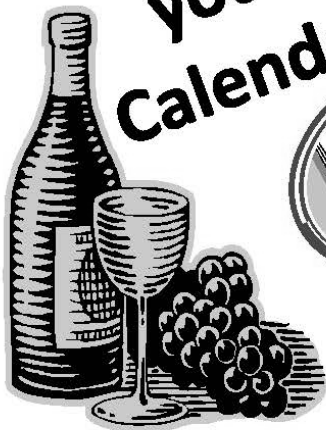
For info call - PNP Frank Tidona 201-456-1732

PNP Renato Biribin 908-472-0164

PNP Joe Agresti 201-874-0546



**Mark
your
Calendar**



WINE

Foods

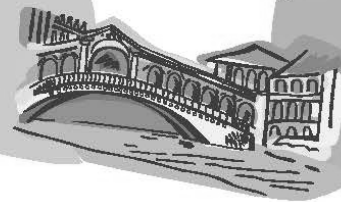


More information to follow

Sunday

April 29th 2012

**UNICO
Convention 2012
Wine / food & Art**



Mount Airy
CASINO • RESORT

Mt. POCONO PA..

Art Auction

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO held their Annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 15, 2011. The event was held at Traditions at the Glen in Johnson City, New York. Santa and one of his elves stopped in for a surprise visit-all were assured that they were on his "nice" list. The group enjoyed a wonderful Italian dinner. Cookies and cakes were plentiful, being made by the members with their traditional recipes. Their Nonnas would have been proud!! The evening was truly special because this was not just a group of UNICANS gathering, but a group of UNICANS who have become family. From the Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO, BUON NATALE!!!!



From left to right: Richard Wahila, Barbara Wahila, Frank Carro, Angela Carro, Greater Binghamton Secretary; Felix and Jean DeSio, UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato and First Lady Terri Pettinato, Donna Lupardo, Scott Peters, Marybeth and Rob Salamida take time for a UNICO family portrait.



From left to right: Marie Walsh, Greater Binghamton member and Christmas Dinner Chair; Richard Wahila, Greater Binghamton Treasurer; Santa, Rob Salamida, President Greater Binghamton and Barbara Wahila, 1st Vice President Greater Binghamton visit with Santa and give him their Christmas wish list.



From left to right: Greater Binghamton member Michael Marinaccio, Dot Marinaccio, Greater Binghamton member John Barbieri, Maria Barbieri and Mary Johnson enjoy the evening festivities.



From left to right: Joe Doolittle, Greater Binghamton member; Marco Cuda, Greater Binghamton Board Member; Joe Pasquale, Greater Binghamton 2nd Vice President; Mary Johnson and Dr. Felix DeSio Past District Governor-it is hard to tell if this group has been naughty or nice!!

Members of the Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO had a special reason for packing the room at their November 9, 2011 monthly meeting. UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato and First Lady Terri Pettinato were the guests of honor. Members had time to meet and get to know the President and First Lady. Glenn and Terri were presented gift baskets with items unique to the Greater Binghamton area. An enjoyable evening was had by all in attendance.



From left to right: UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato, First Lady Terri Pettinato, Past District Governor Felix DeSio, and Greater Binghamton President Rob Salamida.

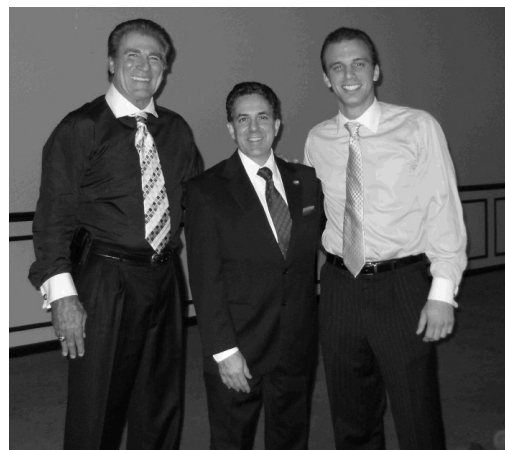
On November 9, 2011 The Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO inducted Joe Titti as their newest member. Welcome Joe!!



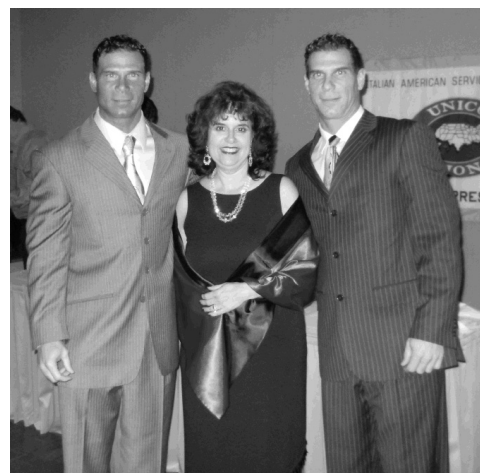
From left to right: Joe Titti, Rob Salamida, Greater Binghamton President and UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

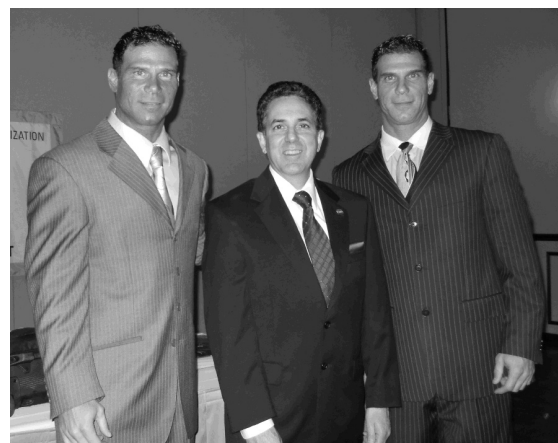
National President Glenn Pettinato and First Lady Terri Pettinato attended the Philadelphia Chapter's Awards Dinner where the Chapter made donations to the Children's Hospital and other local charities.



From left to right: Eagle Football Star Vince Papale, Glenn Pettinato and Mark Maggi.



From left to right: Ben Ferrara, Chapter President; Terri Pettinato and John Ferrara.



From left to right: Ben Ferrara, Chapter President; Glenn Pettinato and John Ferrara.

The DEADLINE for the March Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, February 13, 2012.

Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: comunico@unico.org.

ComUNICO will only accept high resolution digital photos and text in MS Word or in the body of an e-mail.

Please call (973) 808-0035 with any questions.

HILLSIDE, NJ

The Hillside Chapter of UNICO and the Italian American Civic Association of Hillside sponsored a celebration/forum recently marking the feast day of Mother Cabrini in conjunction with Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Hillside. The forum, which featured a number of speakers, was held as a comparable way to review bias problems of the past and present immigrants. Mother Cabrini, Patroness of Immigrants, founded 67 missionary institutions to serve the sick and poor and to train additional nuns to carry on her work.



From left to right: Hillside UNICO President Angelo Bonanno, Hillside Mayor Joseph Menza, New Jersey State Senator Raymond Lesniak, Union County Freeholder Linda Carter, and Yves Aubourg, Roselle Councilman and Hillside UEZ Coordinator.



From left to right: Hillside UNICO President Angelo Bonanno, United States Senator Robert Menendez, Reverend Aurelio Yanez Gomez, Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Hillside; and Robert Bengivenga, New Jersey District X Governor.



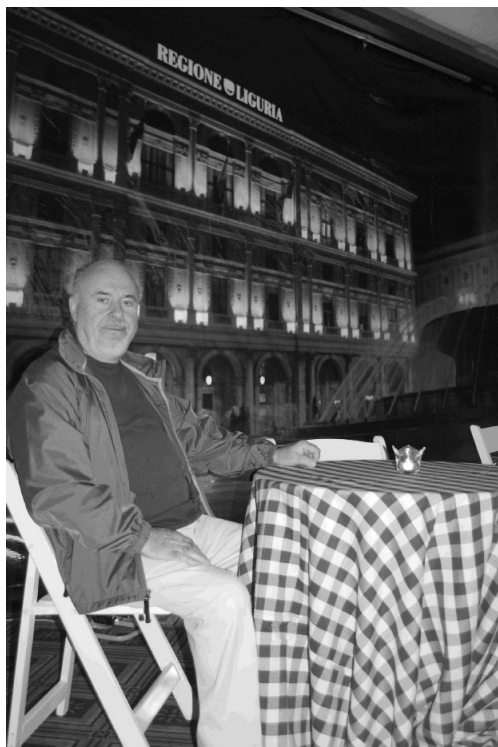
From left to right: Hillside UNICO President Angelo Bonanno, Reverend Aurelio Yanez Gomez, Frank DiLeo of Hillside UNICO and the Italian American Civic Association of Hillside, and Sister Adelina DiNere of the Cabrini Convent in New York.

GREATER HARTFORD, CT

The Greater Hartford Chapter of UNICO held its Annual Cultural Dinner on November 12, "An Evening in Genoa" that featured the region of Liguria. The event was held at the Mt. Carmel- St. Christina Hall in East Hartford and was attended by 360 members, family and friends. The evening began with a presentation by Dr. Sebastian Mozzicato that highlighted the history, geography and culture of the region. With accompanying photos and slides, Dr. Mozzicato described the Italian Riviera cities of San Remo, Genoa, and Portofino, famous citizens including Christopher Columbus and Giuseppe Garibaldi, and the region's influence on Italian and world culture and events, even the design and manufacture of "jeans" by Levi Strauss. An eight course dinner of traditional dishes of the region was followed by an evening of music and dancing as well as performances by vocalists Christina Luna and Gabriel Milluzzo, son of one of the Chapter members, Santo Milluzzo. Attendees also had their photos taken with a 16 X 20 reproduction of the Agorà fountain on the Piazza de Ferrari, and enjoyed gelati and imported formaggi from carts adjacent to "the piazza". Also in November, was the first annual mass to honor deceased members of the Greater Hartford Chapter of UNICO. The mass was conducted at St. Luke's Church in Hartford by the Reverend Michael Galasso, Chapter Chaplain.

Former President of the Greater Hartford Chapter, Mary Joan Picone, has recently been elected as Connecticut District III Governor. Congratulations Mary Joan!

In December the Chapter held its annual Christmas dinner and carol sing. Follow us on Facebook: Greater Hartford Chapter of UNICO National or send us a note at: greathartunico@gmail.com



Dr. Mozzicato after a casual stroll through the piazza before the evening event.



Mary Joan and Jo Piccone "An Evening in Genoa."

CAROSELLO MUSICALE ITALIANO

"Carosello Musicale Italiano" is the first non-commercial Italian language cultural radio program in the United States. This year it celebrated its 40th anniversary. The program airs on WWUH-91.3 FM Stereo University of Hartford, West Hartford, CT every Saturday from 5-7pm.

Antonio (Tony) Magno arrived in America at age 16 in 1961 from Aulpi di Sessa Aurunca Province of Caserta, Italy. After realizing that there was only one Italian language radio program in the Hartford area, he decided to start another radio program with the youth in mind. The program started in 1971 and by 1975 it moved to a non-commercial format devoted to all kinds of Italian music, culture and tradition. Within a year his brother Carlo joined the program and later Mario Grietti joined the program.

"Carosello Musicale Italiano" also serves as a medium for Connecticut area UNICO Chapters to get information on their local events out to listeners. Tune into WWUH-91.3 FM Stereo on the campus of the University of Hartford broadcasting on Saturdays from 5-7pm. They also broadcast on the internet at www.wwuh.org.



Tony Magno, radio host - Carosello Musicale Italiano.



****Fun Fact: Italy has three active volcanoes: Etna, Vesuvius, and Stromboli (from www.lifeinitaly.com)****

GREATER RAMSEY, NJ

The Greater Ramsey Chapter of UNICO National recently held a Christmas luncheon and fun afternoon for the benefit of the senior residents living at The Woodlands Senior Housing Community in downtown Ramsey.

Morano's Gourmet Market of Ramsey catered an outstanding luncheon with plenty left over for each resident to take home for dinner. Entertainment was provided by The Music Man Karaoke, featuring popular music from the 40's through 80's including Italian language and popular sing along Christmas tunes. Each resident was given a raffle ticket for door prizes that included poinsettia plants and Shop-Rite gift cards. Together, the guest residents and the Ramsey UNICO volunteers enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of great food; music and dancing...everyone had a great time.

Woodlands residents surprised UNICO volunteers by joyfully singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" to show their appreciation of Ramsey UNICO's efforts.

The Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter locally conducts fund raising events with the proceeds used for scholarships, local mental health programs, supporting children with disabilities, cancer research, helping cure Cooley's anemia, senior citizens programs, promoting Italian studies, and preserving the Italian heritage.

For more information about the Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter visit grunico.org or call Joe Tredici at 201-785-4063



From left to right: Dorothy Verdone, UNICO Luncheon Chairperson; Denise Kilgallen, Woodlands Director and Joe Verdone, calling out raffle numbers.



Jan Mansley UNICO Volunteer taking food orders from residents.

VISIT UNICO ONLINE
AT
WWW.UNICO.ORG

KEARNY, NJ

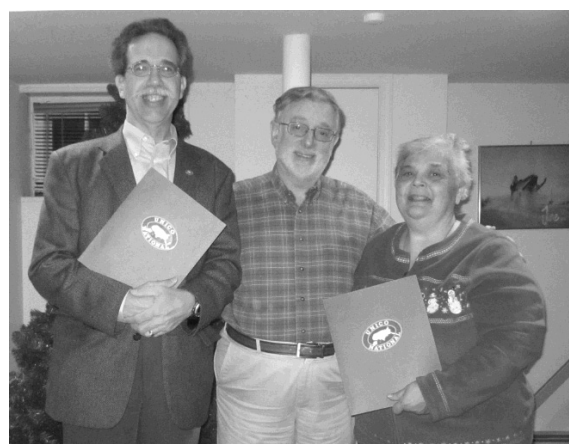
The Kearny Chapter honored fellow member Judy Landi Hyde as its Woman of the Year at The Fiesta in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey. Mrs. Hyde, the current President of the New Jersey State PTA was honored for her many years of devoted service to the children of Kearny, Hudson County and New Jersey. In addition to her service with the PTA, Mrs. Hyde served on the Kearny Board of Education for six years. She is a founding member of Kearny Project Graduation and also the Child Shield program of Kearny. Mrs. Hyde was recently honored with the Woman of Distinction Award by Senator Robert Menendez. Mrs. Hyde received many tributes that evening, including a special Certificate of Achievement presented by UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato.



National President Glenn Pettinato presents Judy Hyde with a Certificate of Achievement as Chapter President Lou Pandolfi looks on.



Judy Hyde receives her Woman of the Year plaque and Number One ticket surrounded by her fellow Kearny Chapter members.



Kearny Chapter President Lou Pandolfi welcomes new members John Josso and Libby McInnis at the Chapter's December meeting. Mrs. McInnis is also a member of the Chapter's Ladies Auxiliary.



At its November meeting, the Kearny Chapter welcomed JoAnn Mitchell, Alice Belfiore, Jean Sansone, Ida Nigro and Theresa Trucillo from its Ladies Auxiliary as members of the Chapter. Not pictured: Pearl Yaszczewski.

The Kearny Chapter Ladies of UNICO recently conducted their main fund-raiser for the year – a "Born to Shop" Night. Members and their guests gathered in the recently renovated and expanded Casa di Rosa room of The Fiesta Restaurant in Wood-Ridge, New Jersey where they got a "jump" on their Christmas shopping by visiting the many vendors that lined the dining room and the expanded lobby. Following shopping everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner. The evening concluded with several raffles and a 50/50 – and of course more shopping. The evening was a success and raised funds for the many charities and scholarships supported by the Kearny Chapter and the Ladies.



Guests from the Hackensack and Saddle Brook Chapters enjoyed a delicious dinner and lots of time to shop for Christmas gifts.

UNICO NATIONAL DIRECTORY

In our ongoing efforts to keep our records up to date, please contact the National Office if you notice any discrepancies with the UNICO National Directory. We also request that if your contact information changes you notify the National Office. You may do so by submitting a Membership Change form, or e-mailing us at uniconational@unico.org.

Remember, you can find the Directory on the UNICO website in the Members Section. You can also contact the UNICO National Office.



THE MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING BECKONS

T'was a cold night in winter,
and all through the land,
Winter's grip finally tightened,
Froze our toes and our hands.
Many UNICANS were huddled,
under blankets in bed,
and dreamed of the Board Meeting,
someplace warmer instead.

Consider this the coming clatter to be heard on the lawn - the semi-official invitation to the 2012 Mid-Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Come and join us at the Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort and Spa at Grand Dunes - The ONLY AAA Four Diamond Resort in Myrtle Beach. Enjoy a relaxing end of winter celebration with your UNICO friends and family, while we also tend to some of UNICO's most important work.

Spending a few days in late March in South Carolina can be quite tempting for many of us desperate to escape another cold winter. Even those of us in more temperate climates cannot dismiss the allure this getaway destination.

The Resort itself boasts two restaurants, two bars and lounges and indoor and outdoor pools. Come and enjoy an ocean front lunch, or a romantic dinner, a poolside snack or late night cocktails and appetizers or just relax with an appointment at the award winning Hibiscus Spa.

For the golfers among us, (do not read this part if your loved one spends too much time golfing already) there are up to 80 golf courses in the area from which to choose.

For the shoppers among us, (do not read this part if your loved one's hobby is wearing out the magnetic stripe on your credit cards) Tanger's Outlet (15mi) is a short drive away, and closer still (8mi) is Barefoot Landing with unique shopping, dining and entertainment to offer.

Other area attractions include the Carolina Opry, Brookgreen Gardens, Ripley's Aquarium and Broadway at the Beach.

Come and help UNICO assess its budget, select its major award winners, honor our Marconi Science Award winner and continue its cultural and philanthropic work.

I look forward to seeing you in March in Myrtle Beach.

Dr. Peter Pettinato, UNICO National Mid-Year Board Meeting Chairman

**** To Obtain a Mid Year Board Meeting registration form please contact the
UNICO National Office or visit www.unico.org ****



UNICO NATIONAL

Mid Year Board Meeting March 23~25, 2012

MYRTLE BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA at GRAND DUNES

An AAA Four Diamond Resort

8400 Costa Verde Drive

Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

Telephone: (843) 449-8880 Fax: (843) 449-8669

Room Rate: \$119.00 per night (+ 13% state and local taxes)

All reservations must be received at the MYRTLE BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT on or before Friday March 9, 2012. Reservations received after March 9th will be accepted at the Group Rate on a space and rate availability basis.

All reservations must be guaranteed and accompanied by a first night room deposit, or guaranteed with a major credit card; however no charges will be applied to your credit card until check-in.

Cancellation fees will be applied if room is cancelled less than 7 days prior to arrival.

Individual reservations can be phoned in toll free at (800)-228-9290 and just reference the UNICO National Mid Year Board Meeting.

OR

Simply follow the link below. You will be directed to the property's home page with the negotiated rate code already entered in the appropriate field and can quickly make your room reservation.

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/myrqd?groupCode=uniunia&app=resvlink&fromDate=3/23/12&toDate=3/25/12>

Check In Time: 4:00pm Check Out Time: 11:00am

Self Parking \$10.00 plus 9%tax Valet Parking \$18.00 plus 9% tax

Golfing is available at many area courses and can be easily arranged with the Concierge at (843) 692-3725.



2012 UNICO NATIONAL

Mid Year Board Meeting March 23~25, 2012

MYRTLE BEACH MARRIOTT RESORT at GRAND DUNES
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Registration Form

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Spouse's Name: (if attending) _____
(If spouse is a member please complete a separate form)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Children Attending - Name and Ages: _____

Chapter: _____ District: _____ Office: _____
(i.e., National, District, Chapter, Delegate)

MEALS	Member	Guest
Includes Continental Breakfast Saturday morning and Marconi Award Banquet Saturday evening.	<u>\$150.00</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>

REGISTRATION: (UNICO Members only)	<u>\$75.00</u>	<u>n/c</u>
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TOTAL with registration:	_____	_____
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GRAND TOTAL: \$ _____

Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL" or, if you prefer, use one of the following
(Circle one below)
MasterCard ~ Visa ~ Discover ~ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____ Security Code _____ (3 or 4 digit on back)

Signature /Name on Card _____

Completed form should be mailed or sent by facsimile to:

UNICO NATIONAL

271 US Highway 46 West, Suite A-108

Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458

Tel: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 or email to: uniconational@unico.org

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter of UNICO National dedicated its November dinner meeting to honoring all veterans, including a special recognition for Chapter members who are veterans of any branch of the United States Armed Services. The special guest speaker at the meeting was Colonel Patrick Slowey who expressed his appreciation to all those who served our country. He remarked about the strong family orientation in New Jersey, where he served at Fort Dix. He informed us that over 1.2 million soldiers passed through Fort Dix during World War II. New members sworn in at the November meeting were Joe Serritella, Lou Crupi, Benjamin Costa, Wayne Greenfeller, Art Tuosto, and Christopher Dragone.

December found over 100 in attendance at the Annual Christmas Social. Members also brought donations of clothing for the "Wounded Warriors" and Toys for Tots.

Members received their \$100 raffle tickets to sell as our primary fundraiser to provide scholarships for deserving Nutley graduates. Last year saw the Chapter present over \$30,000 in local scholarships.



Nutley UNICO celebrated Veteran's Day honoring members and guests at a recent dinner. Front row from left to right: Anthony Biondi, Sr., Joe Pepe, "Pops" Cocco and Joe Zarro. Back row from left to right: Bob Montanino, Colonel Patrick Slowey, Charlie Kucinski, Ernie Capalbo, Carmen Ucci and Dominick Ferraro, President of Bloomfield UNICO.



Bob Montanino and Mike Italiano, Co-Chairs of the Nutley UNICO Annual Golf Outing, get the event underway.



The Nutley UNICO Softball Team defeated the Nutley Irish American Club in a charity softball game with all proceeds being presented to the Nutley Special Young Adults.



The Genitempo and Del Tufo families join Anthony Genitempo, the recipient of the Larry Costello Memorial Scholarship.



Nutley UNICO members Tom Sposato and Mike Italiano receive their medals at the Nutley Italian American Wine Tasting Competition.

ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ

The Orange/West Orange Chapter UNICO National, in partnership with the West Orange Community House and the Township of West Orange, brought smiles to the faces of many on Sunday, December 11 with the arrival of Santa Clause with a sleigh full of toys and gifts for needy children.

Santa (aka Carmine Campanile) distributed over 130 gifts during the Annual Christmas celebration held at St Joseph's Community Center. Chapter members along with family members, bought and wrapped the gifts, decorated the hall and helped provide a banner day for our Chapter and our town. These photos do not do justice to the smiles and appreciation shown by the young children, ages 5 to 10 that attended our party. They were entertained by a local teenager band and were fed with food donated by area restaurants. St Joseph's Church donated the use of their community center and members of their Sunday CCD provided face painting and other activities for our young guests.

Sincere thanks to our Chairman Frank Paolercio and Chapter President Mary Berger and all the members who attended and all those who donated for this special day. Service Above Self does not get any better than this event.



The Orange/West Orange Chapter of UNICO National placed UNICO signs at various strategic locations around West Orange. The signs not only depict UNICO as a national organization but shows that UNICO is an Italian American organization.



One of nine newly installed signs.



Frank Paolercio and Chapter President Mary Berger with a newly installed UNICO sign.

GOT FACEBOOK?

If you have any questions about social media or want your event posted on Facebook, please contact the national office at uniconational@unico.org

KEARNY, NJ

On Friday evening, December 9, 2011, the Kearny Chapter hosted a Christmas Party for mentally and physically challenged individuals at the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center (LCCC). Working with Pathways to Independence, the Kearny Chapter provided 160 guests with food, music by a DJ and gifts from Santa. Chapter members decorated the hall, served food to the guests and also served as Santa's helpers.

President Lou Pandolfi welcomed everyone to the party. Kearny Mayor Alberto Santos and Council members Albino Cardoso and Susan McCurrie also attended the party. Applebee's of Kearny, once again, provided all the hot food for the party and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fiore of Tilcon generously provided the gifts that were distributed by Santa. Additional community support for the party came from Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tully of Shop-Rite of Kearny and Mr. Lawrence Inserra of Shop-Rite of Lyndhurst.

The party was a great success as everyone enjoyed the food, dancing to the music and of course, Santa's visit.



Chapter member Marty Ball and his young son, Vinny (the Chapter's youngest member) kept everyone "movin' to the music."



From left to right: Chapter members Theresa Trucillo, Pearl Yaszczewski, Libby McInnis, Alice Belfiore and Ida Nigro serve food to the party's many guests. Patty Hirsch, President of Lyndhurst UNICO also helped serve guests.



Denise Ficeto and Celeste Pandolfi shop for the "fixin's" for the Thanksgiving baskets that were delivered to needy families in Kearny.

LOS ANGELES, CA

The Los Angeles Chapter's Annual Christmas party was held at Buca Di Beppo in Redondo Beach, California.



UNICO National Executive Vice President David M. Donnini is pictured with new members after their installation. From left to right: David Donnini, Michelle Guidi, Marilyn Guidi, Mr. and Mrs. Balboa, Noelle Tauetia, Isabella Tauetia, Joe Donnini, Mia Guidi, Adriana Guidi, President Larry Guidi and Vice President Deanna Donnini.



UNICO Los Angeles President Larry Guidi promotes the new UNICO calendars. Seated is Ann Donnini the mother of Executive Vice President, David Donnini.



UNICO Los Angeles President Larry Guidi's granddaughter, Isabella along with her mother, Michelle, who is a new member.

RARITAN, NJ

The Raritan UNICO Chapter is a relatively new group that was started a little over two years ago by Deacon John Pacifico of Raritan and current Chapter President, Jerry Maddaluna.

As with any new group, we have struggled with membership, raising money, etc. We are a proud group and do not believe in giving up.

This holiday starting with Thanksgiving we became a 'band' of Guardian Angels. It started at Thanksgiving time with the idea of Michael Falconeri to have a Food Drive for the homeless, the needy and the Somerset County Home for Displaced Children. It was like the Miracle of the Bread and Fish. The members immediately got to work with food collections, gift cards and we were able to feed many, many families through the local food bank and the churches. We were also able to feed homeless men and children at the Home for Displaced Children.

Now here it is, Christmas time and this 'band' of Guardian Angels got busy again. Through the intercession of one of our original members, Ed Danberry, we were able to bring in new members, active members and we, through the generosity of all members were able to bring Christmas to the displaced children, again to the homeless and needy. Our Chapter has the Michael Sunder Project that has been sending boxes overseas to our military personnel. We will continue through our Chapter to send boxes as needed until they all come home.

There is no greater gift needed then to see the faces of the children at the shelter light up when the gifts were brought there. You need to experience hugs and kisses from them in gratitude. This is what Christmas is about and we are so proud of our small, active group to have brought this to them.

We have faith in the members of our group and are going to strive in the future. To have the Raritan Chapter not only helps with our other obligations, but to make sure that the children and the homeless have some kind of near, normal life.

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY
FROM THE NATIONAL
OFFICE STAFF!**

PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ

At their monthly Passaic Valley Chapter meeting December 14th, Past National President Joe Agresti, who is also co-chairman of the New Jersey District IV North Jersey Developmental Center Christmas Party, presented the following members with thank you certificates for their "Service Above Self" and also for their donations and time offered at the Annual NJDC Dinner. Pictures from the annual Christmas Dinner can be seen on the www.UNICO.org website and also on the www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com website.



From the left to right: John Morano, Chuck Russo, Judy Post, Chapter President Steve Pelonero, Patrick Corrado and Past National President Joe Agresti.

PLAINFIELDS, NJ

Plainfields' Chapter holds their Annual Christmas wrapping for the Keystone Christmas Party. The Keystone School in South Plainfield, New Jersey is a resident school for the mentally challenged. Each year the Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO hosts this party on the 2nd Saturday of December at the Sacred Heart School in South Plainfield, New Jersey and includes Santa Claus to distribute the gifts as the members sing the Christmas carols.



From left to right: Plainfields' UNICO members Susie Leonardis, Plainfields' Past Chapter President Ann Walko and Angela Baratta wrapping the gifts. New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga and Past National President Renato Biribin are seen in the background.



Connie Kozacheck, Vice President Plainfields' Chapter and Mary Timko, Secretary of the Plainfields' Chapter wrap the gifts for the Keystone Christmas Party.



In the kitchen at Plainfields' Pig Roast from left to right: Frank Licato, Sr., Past National President; Frank Licato, Jr., TJ LaMarca, and Mike Walko, all members of the Plainfields' Chapter UNICO.



Plainfields' UNICO recently held its Annual Christmas Party at Giovanna's in Plainfield. The officers took time to pose for a group photo. From left to right: Renato Biribin, Past National President; Carol Bednar, Treasurer; Janet DeAugustine, Secretary; John DeAndrea, President; Victoria DeAugustine, Board of Directors; Bob Tarte, Past President; Michael Colucci, 1st Vice President; Connie Kozachek, Vice President; Anthony Bengivenga, immediate Past President.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

On December 8, 2011, at a luncheon at Carucci's Restaurant, The Coccia Foundation and the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National presented checks in the amount of \$8,000 to The Saddle Brook Board of Education to help fund a new Italian Language and Studies program aimed at 1st to 6th grade students attending all Saddle Brook Elementary schools. We are very proud of

the inclusion of Italian Studies in the Saddle Brook School system.

We extend our gratitude to the Coccia Foundation and our Ladies of UNICO. (A joint effort that met with success)

It is our goal to extend this program to include the Middle and High Schools students in the near future.



On Thursday, November, 17, 2011 The Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National held its first Tricky Tray Italian Style at the Venetian in Garfield, New Jersey. It was a rousing success. Almost 400 people attended the event and over 400 prizes were raffled off. The final raffle was a super 50/50. It was a fun night enjoyed by all.

We want to thank the Committee for a job superbly done. It is no easy task to put together such a successful event. The money raised will be used for many charities.



Part of the Committee announcing Tricky Tray Winners.



Executive Vice President, Joe Nasello and his wife, Marilyn, 2nd Vice President of the Saddle Brook Chapter decided to put our UNICO Park in a Christmas spirit by decorating the Gazebo in the park. They did it as welcomed surprise, not only to our Chapter but also to the community. We want to say thank you Joe and Marilyn.

UNITY...NEIGHBORLINESS...INTEGRITY...CHARITY...OPPORTUNITY

REHOBOTH AREA, DE

Vita Mule is a charter member of the Rehoboth Area Chapter. For the last few years, Vita has been creating hand made quilts for donation to La Esperanza for the abused and homeless women and their families who receive services through La Esperanza.

This year, Vita had a wish to create warm quilts as Christmas presents for 12 families in need. However, Vita only had 5 weeks to accomplish the task. Determined to achieve her goal, Vita reached out to other members of the Chapter to assist her in making her wish come true. Vita showed the members how to select coordinating fabrics, how to cut squares, and gave them guidance on the fabrics that needed to be ironed before being cut. Experienced members tied the special knots and inserted the batting so that Vita could complete each quilt.

Nina Wilson, Rosie Kondash, Josie Cilea, Margie Klapper, Mary Jane Deets, Mary Teresa Morrison and Bernie Polinski helped with the project; but it was Vita who was the major contributor of time and talent since creating quilts for people in need is one of her passions. To Vita's delight, her Christmas wish came true. All twelve quilts were completed in time and she even received a quilt donated by a friend. Now, thirteen quilts had to be delivered by members to La Esperanza in time for Christmas.

On December 11, the beautiful quilts were presented to Sister Rosa who is in charge of La Esperanza's pre and post natal care program. Sister will be distributing the quilts to homeless or needy mothers with newborn babies. La Esperanza collaborates with local and state health programs to provide direct services to low-income pregnant Hispanic women and their babies.



From left to right: Joan Boraski, UNICO Liaison to La Esperanza; Bernie Polinski, Mary Jane Deets, Sister Rosa, Vita Mule and Monica Viana.

Once again this year, the members of the Rehoboth Area Chapter generously supported the BeachORIGINALS' Dining Cards fundraiser. The dining card program is offered by one of our local newspapers and provides great dining discounts at participating restaurants. Organizations, such as our Chapter, received \$10 from the newspaper for each card we sold. The money we earned this year was used to support our Chapter's Outreach Program.

The proceeds of this year's fundraiser were given to two local charities to provide food to families in need during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

The Children's Beach House in Lewes, Delaware received a donation to provide a Thanksgiving meal for one of their families in need. The Children's Beach House is a not for

profit that serves children ages 7-15 that have developmental delays and disabilities in fine to gross motor skills, speech and/or language skills, and auditory processing or hearing challenges and display cognitive behavior challenges. The programs help these children with special needs reach their highest potential as functioning members of their families and communities.

A donation was also made to the Cape Henlopen School District's Christmas Adopt a Family Program, which is administrated by a local church as the "Christmas Joy Program". The school district works with the county social workers and the Delaware Guidance Council to identify and screen the 80 families who were accepted into this year's program. Each family is given a set of clothing for each child, a coat for each family member if needed, two toys for each child, Christmas dinner, and \$10 gift cards to a local grocery store for each family member. The church's volunteers shop, wrap and deliver the food baskets and gift items on behalf of the school district. Our Chapter's donation was used to purchase food baskets for the families.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

As a result of a five year action plan to increase and retain membership, Point Pleasant has demonstrated a steady growth in its Chapter. District Governor Grace Gynn, who was President at the time when the Chapter only had 35 members, instituted a media blitz and several successful membership drives to add new members to this Chapter chartered in 2003. Now with over 108 members-27 of which are Youth members, President Tony Scardaville is working to motivate and retain this membership.

Donna Grassano Chapter Secretary, who is the contact officer for the Point Pleasant Membership Committee has been busy working on a new project to recognize and empower each member. Donna created a simple tri-fold which not only lists all contact information and important dates, but also lists each member on a committee within the Chapter. In this way not only do all feel to be an active and vital part to the success of UNICO, but this also encourages new members to sign up and help participate. The tri-fold is updated periodically to add new events and to include new committees and members.

National Membership Chair Mark McDade was able to meet with District Governor Gynn and Point Pleasant officers recently and discuss innovative ideas to increase and retain membership.



NJ District I Governor Grace Gynn and National Membership Chair Mark McDade with Chapter Secretary Donna Grassano and Point Pleasant President Tony Scardaville.



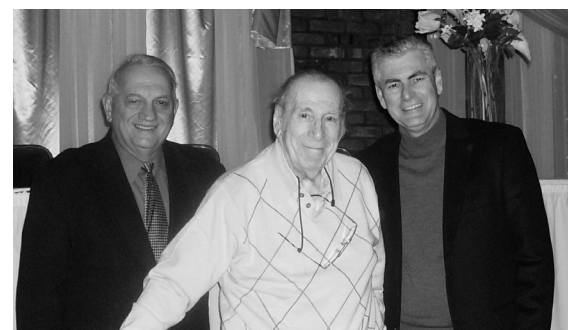
From left to right: Anthony Scardaville, President of Pt. Pleasant; Eileen Scardaville, National President and First Lady, Glenn and Terri Pettinato.



Point Pleasant Chapter Members are joined by National President and First Lady, Glenn and Terri Pettinato and Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade.

HILLSIDE, NJ

Dominick Peterpaul of the Hillside Chapter of UNICO was recently honored at the Chapter's Christmas party for having over fifty years of continued service.



From left to right: Angelo Bonanno, Chapter President, honoree Dominick Peterpaul and his nephew, Dr. Frank Deo, Hillside Superintendent of Schools.

**America
A beautiful
Italian name!**

RUTHERFORD, NJ



The winning team of the Rutherford UNICO Bocce Tournament held at Rocking Horse Ranch is from left to right: Tony Stassi, Jean Cook, John Cook, Team Coach; Pat Larossa, Bob Donato, Bocce Chair and Guy DiNapoli.



Rutherford UNICO Christmas Party and Mille Grazie Award Presentation: From left to right: Joan Tidona, Mille Grazie Chair; Stephanie Licata, Award Winner and Dr. Cosmo Ferrara.



Mille Grazie Committee, Award Winner and Family: From left to right: Stephanie Licata's grandmother, Barbara Laborim, Committee Member; Dr. James Cuzzo, Committee Member; Dr. Cosmo Ferrara, Sponsor IHA Student; Stephanie Licata, Award Winner, IHA Student; Stephanie's Dad and Joan Tidona, Chair.



Rutherford UNICO Donates \$1,000 in Shop Rite Gift Cards to the Rutherford Food Pantry: From left to right: Maureen Bigley, Food Pantry Board Member; Frank Tidona, Chapter President; Mike Duchak, Food Pantry Board Member and Vinnie De Cesare, Chapter Sergeant-at-Arms.

COCCIA INSTITUTE VISIT



Glenn Pettinato and Joe Coccia are pictured at the Coccia Institute Office.



New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission members are pictured with UNICO members Joe Agresti, Glenn Pettinato, Salvatore Benvenuti and Joe Coccia.



Glenn discusses issues with New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission. From left to right: Joe Agresti, Glenn Pettinato and Salvatore Benvenuti.



UNICO National President, Glenn Pettinato and UNICO National Executive Administrator, Salvatore Benvenuti.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

The San Antonio Chapter's Annual Christmas Luncheon and New Member Swearing In Ceremonies was held on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at Paesano's Italian Restaurant.



Standing from left to right: Joe Monaco, Chapter Vice President; Tony Arabia, Texas I District Governor. Seated from left to right: Bill Kelly, Chapter President; Harold Ferrese, Past National President.



Standing from left to right: Bill Kelly, Chapter President; Sandra Rao, Christine Lazzeroni Hill and Anthony Bummara, new member. Seated from left to right: Valene Bummara, new member and recipient of the John Basilone Memorial Scholarship; and Harold Ferrese, Past National President.



The new members were sworn in by Past National President Harold Ferrese. From left to right: Rose Marie Arabia, Chapter Treasurer; Carmelo Ruffo, Chapter Sergeant at Arms; Kathy Fletcher, Scholarship Chair.

LONGMEADOW, MA

The Longmeadow UNICO celebrated the Christmas Season with a family brunch at the Longmeadow Country Club. Members embraced the season of giving by collecting many non-perishable items at the brunch so they could be donated to the local food pantry. The morning was full of family, friends, food, and beautiful Christmas melodies provided by Longmeadow High School's musical talents, the Longmeadow Lyrics. Some of the students from this group had flown to Italy last school year with the assistance of a \$250 gift from the Longmeadow UNICO they were given after performing at the 2010 Christmas brunch. The students shared with the members the amazing places they were able to experience.



Standing from left to right: Geno Marcheselli, Secretary; Joe Pasternak, President; Mia and Dawn Pasternak, Christine Tazzini and Joseph Sarage. Bottom row from left to right: Lena Decarlo, Eva Sarage, Louis Sarage, Treasurer; Dawn Sarage and Dr. Anthony Sarage.

The Longmeadow UNICO hosted its 11th Annual Food and Wine Tasting at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. Over 300 people joined for a night of food, friends, fun, and community. The money raised from this event will provide scholarships for students in the Longmeadow Chapter of UNICO's community. Over the past eleven years, the Longmeadow Chapter of UNICO has been able to raise over \$80,000 and provide between three to five scholarships to students every year.

The Food and Wine Tasting not only raises money to promote education, it allows over 30 restaurants in the local area to display delicious food samples. The events' highlight is M.S Walker Wine Distributor who supplies more than two dozen varieties of wine samplings throughout the night. Beer, vodka, and cappuccino samples were also available at the tasting.

The Longmeadow High School Key Club also played a significant role in this event every year by helping restaurants serve food to all the attendees. The Key Club was presented with a gift of \$400 at the event, so they can further their impact as an organization helping the community as well. This event surely was a night everyone could enjoy.

MONTVILLE, NJ

On Saturday, November 19th Montville UNICO again sponsored the distribution of turkeys and food baskets in conjunction with the Turkeys 4 U program of providing turkeys at Thanksgiving. Turkeys 4 U is a group of Kinnelon and Montville High School students who work to raise money to buy turkeys for food pantries, shelters, churches, and just folks down on their luck and in need. This year turkeys were delivered to Father English Center in Paterson, the Interfaith Food Panty in Morristown, the Market Street Mission in Morristown, the Kinnelon Health Department, St. Pius Church in Montville, and St. Peter's and St. Ann's Churches in Parsippany. The students organize, purchase, deliver and raise the money in a business like manner on their own. This year they distributed 1233 turkeys. Montville UNICO provides guidance and support and this year again provided additional food stuffs and trimmings for a complete Thanksgiving dinner for 70 families in need.

Started in 2002 by at Kinnelon High School student, Blake Wheale, Turkeys 4 U students have over the past 10 years raised over \$130,000 dollars for turkeys. This year, with the economy in such poor condition, it is even more important to reach their goal of helping as many people as possible. Funds raised this year will go to purchase turkeys for next year's program, so the 18 students from Kinnelon and Montville High School are still working diligently to collect funds. Tax deductible donations can be made to Montville UNICO Foundation and sent to Casha and Casha LLC. 115 Horseneck Road, Montville, New Jersey 07045. (In the memo section of the check put "Turkeys 4 U")



From left to right: Kathy Suppa, Charitable Goals Chair and Susan Speciale.



Kinnelon High School students of Turkeys 4 U are joined by Montville UNICO members Kathy Suppa, Pat Barone and Stephen Priola.

Montville UNICO held its 2nd Annual Homemade Wine Making Contest on Saturday, November 12th at St. Peter's Church in Parsippany. Over 100 people attended and 14 homemade wines were judged by Francis Mastrangelo from Bottle King and Karen and John Troisi, owners of Jean Edwards Cellars Winery. Guests were also treated to a full buffet dinner and a tricky tray program, which was very popular.



Wine Contest Chairperson Nick Contorso with First Place Winners Jim Cleffi and Joe Marino.



Wine Contest Chairperson Nick Contorso with Second Place Winner Paul Henke.



Third Place Winners from left to right: Tony Speciale, Rich Giordano and Mickey D'Addato.

"Italy, my Italy! Queen Mary's saying serves for me - - (When fortune's malice lost her Calais) Open My heart and you will see Graved inside of it, Italy" -- Robert Browning

SAN DIEGO, CA

The San Diego Chapter of UNICO celebrated Christmas together at Our Lady of the Rosary Italian Catholic Church in San Diego's Little Italy on Sunday, December 11. The church hall became the best Italian "flash restaurant" in Southern California as members arrived with their favorite specialties to share.

Babbo Natale visited the party and presented gifts to the little ones in attendance. Babbo Natale bore a remarkable resemblance to UNICO Past National President Frank Caperino.

The Chapter also collected new toys for the church holiday toy drive and presented money raised with a raffle to Father Joe Tabigue who serves as the pastor of the church.



Babbo Natale dropped into the San Diego Chapter Christmas Party! Here Santa presents a gift to Logan Rider. Santa's resemblance to one of our UNICO Past National President is uncanny.



Sandro Piancone is assisted by his son Michael and his nephew Carlo with sales of raffle tickets. Proceeds from the raffle were donated to Our Lady of the Rosary Italian Catholic Church.



San Diego UNICO celebrated the spirit of Christmas together at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish. The set-up crew consisted of from left to right: Roger Maury, John Orsini with his granddaughter Savannah, Jennifer DeSpenza, Steve Codrero, Ingrid Zurlo and Jim DeSpenza.

Members of the San Diego Chapter of UNICO supported fellow UNICAN Barry LaForgia by attending a fund raiser gala for International Relief Teams.

Barry had a career as an attorney until he was moved by his Catholic faith to start International Relief Teams (IRT) in 1988. The mission of IRT is not only to assist people in immediate need of medical treatment but to also assist fledgling nations in creating medical infrastructures. For example, IRT recently sent a team to Uganda to administer free eye exams and to distribute eye glasses. They also sent a team to Vietnam to help organize protocol for neo natal treatment in their hospitals.

IRT operates around the globe and has recently rebuilt family homes along the Gulf of Mexico, delivered food and medicine to the draught stricken Horn of Africa and helped to organize hospitals and clinics in Eastern Europe. The gala was very well attended and raised \$161,000.



From left to right: Barry LaForgia, Executive Director of International Relief Teams and member of the San Diego Chapter of UNICO and Matteo Risi, President of the San Diego Chapter.



Members of the San Diego Chapter of UNICO supported International Relief Teams at their fund raiser gala. From left to right: Patty Risi, Matteo Risi, Chapter President; Marianne Lalli-Regan, Angela and Giuseppe Cortese.

SCRANTON, PA

Mark Rotella, author of *Amore, The Story of Italian American Song*, was the most recent presenter for Penn State Worthington Scranton's Italian Heritage Series, which began last year and was made possible thanks to a permanent endowment established by the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National. The endowment specifically funds a three-tiered program in Italian Studies, Heritage and Culture at Worthington Scranton that focuses on academics, co-curricular and out-of-classroom experiences, as well as community outreach. Penn State Worthington Scranton and the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National have enjoyed a very positive relationship for the past several years by virtue of an endowed scholarship the group created

in 2002. This fund has been of tremendous assistance in helping local students pursue a Penn State education close to home.



From left to right: Scranton members Pat Yanni, Ken Kenowski, Palma Yanni, Chapter President; and Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Mr. Rotella, Maria Russoniello, Director of Development, PSWS; and Angela Schuback, External Relations Assistant, PSWS and Lou DiMattio.



The Scranton Chapter Choral Group performs at their Annual Christmas Party. From left to right: Gayle DeAntona, Eileen Soranno, Jim Soranno, Rosalie Prizzi, Frank DiVizio, Cesira Berardelli, Patti Montalbano, Doris Lindsley, Linda Malinoski, Bonnie Blase, Julie Yando, Joann Quattrone and Ashley Yando, Director.

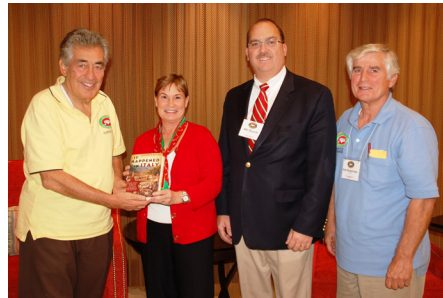
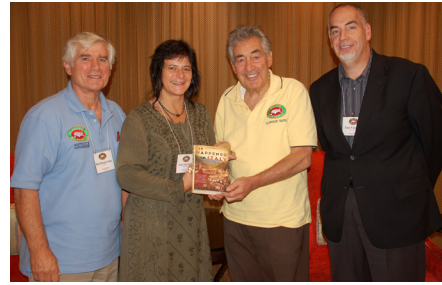
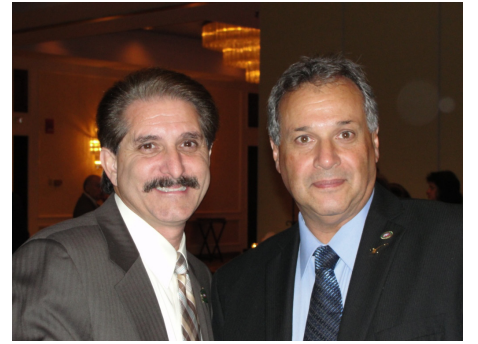
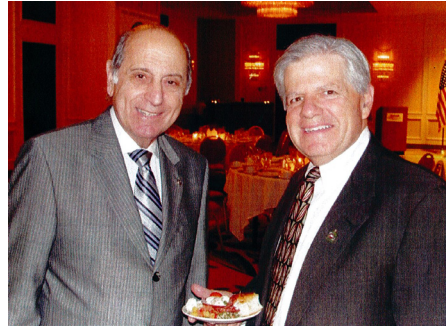


Members work at the Annual Boys/Girls Club Christmas Party. From left to right: Carol Dougherty, Palma Yanni - Scranton Chapter President, Ann Reilly, Gloria Bernardi, Diane Alberiggi, Joan Quattrone, Gale DeAntona, Patty Montalbano, Lois Mallick, Marie Waerhouse.



Members serve meals at the Annual Boys/Girls Club Christmas Party. From left to right: Joseph Scagliotti, Pat Yanni, Eileen Soranno, Jack Brunetti, Palma Yanni, Captain Dave Bird, Jim Soranno, Steve Andrechak, Jim Minicozzi.

PICTURES FROM THE EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING



Giovanni the Italian Teddy Bear

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Press his furry paw, and in Italian he greets you, inviting you to respond. Join him when he counts to ten and when he sings, "Giro, Giro, Tondo," and "La Bella Lavanderina." Listen while Giovanni teaches you "goodnight" and "goodbye" with the promise of seeing you again.

Giovanni speaks only Italian and comes with a translation guide. Giovanni's sweater bears the Italian colors, the bottom of his left foot, a miniature Italian flag. This cuddly 15" bear is a must for only...



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UNICO NATIONAL EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING STAMFORD, CT



Frank Cannata, PNP



Mike Spano, PNP



Frank Paolercio



Glenn Pettinato and the Mayor of Stamford.



Linda Gail Alati



The President and First Lady.



Donna Brown



Patty Hirsch



Mike D'Arminio, Glenn Pettinato and Sal Mangano.



Glenn Pettinato and Giuseppe Pampena.





Joe and Nurys Paci and Frank Greco, Jr.



The DiNapolis and the First Lady.

The Eastern Regional Gala



John and Jane Morano



Gerry and Roseann Heytink



Criss and Sal Mangano



Paula and Joe Marino



Grace and Robert Gynn



The Giovannuccis, Michele Vaughan and Brian Guarco.



Ralph Torracco with The Pettinatos.



The President and his Vice Presidents.



The Cannatas and The Pettinatos.



Frank Cannata and Glenn Pettinato.



Connecticut Chapter Members with the President.



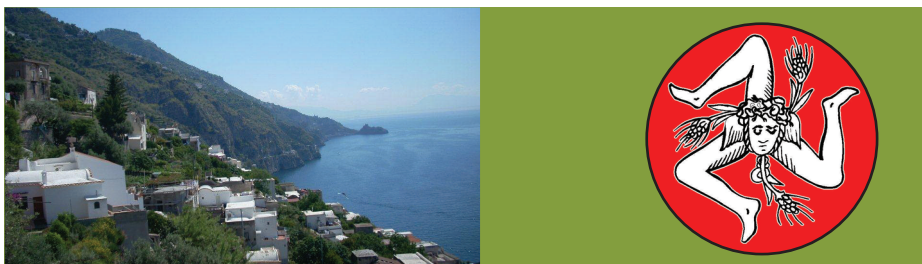
The McDades, The Pettinatos and The Peloneros.



The Pettinatos and their cousins.



New Jersey Chapter Members with the First Lady.



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NJ DISTRICT IV 34TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members of ten local Chapters of UNICO National in conjunction with Nina Corradino of Nina's Salon in Clifton hosted the 34th Annual Christmas Party benefiting clients of the North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa. Guests included over 40 challenged clients of the Center along with their matrons. The event took place on Thursday evening December 1st at the Brownstone House in Paterson.



Santa sure had a spring in his step!



Mike Corradino, Passaic-Clifton Chapter and Nina Corradino, Co-Chair. Mike founded and chaired this event for over 25 years.



Past National President & Chair for this event along with Glenn Pettinato, National President & Past National President, Andre' DiMino.



Entertainment for the evening included from left to right: Past National President Paul Alongi, sax; Bob Gizzi, keyboard; John Morano, sax; Nick Sisco, guitar.



New Jersey District IV Chapter Presidents with UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato. From the left to right: John Harris, North Haledon; Steve Pelonero, Passaic Valley; Perry Russo, New Jersey IV District Governor; Glenn Pettinato, National President; John Borgese, Cedar Grove; Dominick Ferrara, Bloomfield; Dave D'Arco, Passaic-Clifton.



Everyone loves Santa!



Residents enjoyed getting gifts from Santa & dancing the night away!





UNICO NATIONAL 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2012

The dates for the Convention are:
Wednesday, August 8th through Sunday, August 12th, 2012

MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT
BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB & SPA
400 South Collier Boulevard, Marco Island, Florida 34145
(239)-394-2511

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- GIVE THE AGENT YOUR ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DATES

It's just that easy!

UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE IS ONLY \$159.00 PER NIGHT
(Subject to State & local tax and hotel service charge)

All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Record your confirmation number
or ask to have it sent to you by providing your E-mail address.

If you wish to extend your stay, you can take advantage of the same great UNICO Group rate up to three
nights prior to or the three nights following the convention, based on availability, of course.

Next - fill out your convention registration form and mail
it along with your payment to:

UNICO National
271 US hwy 46 west, Suite A-108 Fairfield, NJ 07004-2458
Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail - uniconational@unico.org



2012 UNICO NATIONAL 90TH ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB AND SPA
400 South Collier Boulevard Marco Island, Florida 34145
August 8th - August 12th, 2012

Name _____ Nickname _____
Spouse's name, if attending _____ (if spouse is a member, please complete a separate form)
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Children Attending - name(s) and age(s) _____

Chapter _____ District _____ Office held _____
(i.e., National Officer, District Governor, Chapter President, Delegate, Trustee)

FEES AND CHARGES	UNICO MEMBERS	NON - MEMBERS	CHILDREN 11 TO 16	ATTENDEES NOT RESERVING THEIR ROOMS FROM THE "UNICO ROOM BLOCK" MEAL PACKAGE COST
Meals included in this charge:	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$125.00	\$450.00
3 FULL BUFFET BREAKFASTS				
ICEBREAKER				
AWARDS LUNCHEON				
INAUGURAL BALL				

CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER FREE

Registration (UNICO Members only)	\$ 125.00	N/A		\$125.00
Golf (starting at 7:30 am Wednesday)	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
Total with registration:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Total amount of check enclosed or to be charged: \$

Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL Convention 2012" or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards:

(Circle one below)
MasterCard Card number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____ (3 or 4 digit on back)
Visa Signature _____ Print name _____
Discover Signature _____ Print name _____
Amer. Express Phone Number _____

COMPLETED FORM SHOULD BE MAILED OR SENT BY FACSIMILE TO:

UNICO NATIONAL
271 US Highway 46 West, Suite A-108
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458
Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 or e-mail to: uniconational@unico.org
www.2012UNICOConvention.org

**Obtain registration forms by contacting the National Office or online at
www.unico.org and www.2012unicoconvention.org**

90TH ANNUAL UNICO CONVENTION

At this time we'd like to extend a Happy New Year to all our UNICO friends and family. We would like to share some information about our upcoming UNICO Convention at the world-class Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club and Spa. Our committee has been working diligently making sure this will be a productive, outstanding and enjoyable event. The Convention dates are Wednesday August 8th thru Sunday August 12th. The hotel is located on three miles of pristine beach front property.

On Wednesday morning you can begin your convention stay with a round of golf at the Hotel's private golf course, the Rookery at Marco Island Golf Course. You can sign-up on the Convention Registration Form included in this edition.

There will be so much to enjoy at the beach. You'll never tire of the options. Choose from pedal boats, parasailing, wave runners, hobbies, kayaks or lounge in the water hammocks. The hotel offers rides, rentals, sailing lessons and more. If you prefer a quieter more relaxing time there are three beautiful pools to enjoy.

For the more adventurous there are Sailing & shelling excursions, wave runner tours, airboat tours and eco-tours. For the kids there is The Arcade Lounge, a playground near the children's wading pool, as well as a fun-filled day of activities in the Tiki Tribe.

Want to pamper yourself? Enjoy the services, treatments and amenities of the Hotel Spa. They include body scrubs, body wraps, facials, fitness classes, massages, plunge pool, steam room and therapy baths. Enjoy all this with a 20% UNICO discount.

You can shop at many nearby locations including Coastland Center Mall, Coconut Point Mall, Marco Town Center Mall, Marco Walk, Tin City Shops and The Waterside. If that's not your thing there are many tours to the everglades, the ten thousand islands, the beautiful Naples Bay or guided house tours.

The Hotel has eight restaurants/lounges (10% discount at specified outlets), boutique shops, on site car rental, baby sitting/nanny service and complimentary internet in all guest rooms. Space doesn't permit us to include everything we want you to know. We will follow up with further news. In the mean time visit the hotel website at www.marcoislandmarriott.com, send in your UNICO registration form and phone the hotel to reserve your room. Phone the UNICO office if you have any questions. We'll see you at Marco!

KANSAS CITY, MO

The Kansas City Chapter experienced another banner year in 2011. The on-going success of this 72 year old Chapter is reflected in its proud heritage, history and dedicated service helping others in past, present and future charitable endeavors.

Our largest fund raiser, Festa Italiana 2011, was attended by over 100,000 people enabling Kansas City UNICO to award \$52,000 in scholarships to deserving local high school graduates. The Kansas City Chapter will once again grant over \$50,000 in scholarship awards at its Annual Awards Program on June 3 at Festa Italiana 2012.

Kansas City UNICO Chapter members Carl DiCapo and Tony Severino have been recognized for their accomplishments in professional life and service to their community. Carl was recently honored by the University of Missouri at its Annual Faculty-Alumni Banquet. Carl earned his degree from MU's Hotel and Restaurant Management Program – a program he helped establish in 1969. The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO will fund an annual scholarship in his name which will be awarded to a deserving high school graduate aspiring to attend MU's Hotel and Restaurant Management Program.

Tony Severino just completed his 29th year at Rockhurst High School with a record of 279-62-1 and 35th year as a head coach with an overall record of 322-83-1. He is the only coach to win State Championships in both Missouri and Kansas. Severino is a member of the Missouri Football Coaches Hall of Fame and has been honored by the United States Army, being named head coach of the West team in the U.S. Army All-American High School Bowl in San Antonio, Texas on January 7, 2012. The game will be televised nationally at 12:00 pm on NBC.

Tony has been nominated for the 2011 Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award which will be announced in early January, 2012. The school of the winning coach will receive \$10,000 and the coach will win an all-expense paid trip to the Super Bowl.



Mike Cucchiara



Tony Severino



Marc Enna and Kansas City President Michael Mange.



Carl DiCapo receives the University of Missouri's Alumni Award.



Joe Cygan and Tom Rago.

SOUTHINGTON, CT

The Southington Chapter donated \$1,000 to "Bread for Life" at the November, 2011 meeting held at Testa's Restaurant.



From left to right: Bob Tonon, Sergeant-at-Arms; Eldon Hafford, Executive Director of Bread for Life; Luigi Barbato, President and Marco Ingriselli, Vice President.

Members of the Southington Chapter took a trip to New York to "Eataly" and came across this cioccolato which was very "unique" -- UNICO.



From left to right: Mark Mongillo, Chairman of the Board and Luigi Barbato, President of the Southington Chapter.

WESTWOOD, NJ

On December 3rd, The Westwood Chapter spent the day at Harrah's Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Forty two members and friends and family of UNICO enjoyed the day. Westwood will use the proceeds to fund upcoming events such as the Super Bowl Sunday Fundraiser.

A Pasta Dinner for the benefit of Children with Autism and other community and cultural events is scheduled for March 24, 2012.



Members pictured from left to right: Dina Lo Piccolo, Frank Lo Piccolo, Marie Hanlon, Rich Porter, Roseanne Heytink, Howard Snyder, Lisa Heytink, Doug Auld, Gerry Heytink, Frank Vitale and Steve Russo.



2012 UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION AD JOURNAL

ILLINOIS DISTRICT I

Calling all Chapter Presidents and District Governors! Our 90th Annual UNICO Convention will be held at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club & Spa from Wednesday, August 8th through Sunday, August 12, 2012. One of the ways you can support the 2012 UNICO Convention is by having your Chapter or District take out an ad in our Convention Ad Journal. You can also help support this effort by passing along the ad journal form to any business you think would be interested. We encourage Chapter members to also consider taking out an ad, especially if they plan on running for one of our National Offices. The 2012 ad journal is below. You can also contact the National Office to obtain a form via mail, e-mail or fax. Please contact Past National President, Paul Alongi at 973-338-4665 or at palongisr@firstmco.com for further information.



90th UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012 MARRIOTT MARCO ISLAND BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB AND SPA MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA **Souvenir Journal Form**

PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING SPACE

(Check One)

- | | |
|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FOUR-COLOR INSIDE OR OUTSIDE COVERS ----- | \$1,000.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORPORATE SPONSOR PAGE ----- | \$ 750.00* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOLD PAGE----- | \$ 500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE PAGE----- | \$ 275.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HALF PAGE----- | \$ 175.00 |

Corporate Sponsor packages are also available.

Submission Deadline—June 30, 2012.

NOTE: A \$25.00 discount applies if received prior to June 1, 2012

* Corporate Sponsor pages will be produced in color – Please have submissions “camera ready” for printing.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

Make check payable to: “UNICO NATIONAL 2012 Convention” or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards:

(circle one below)

MasterCard	Card Number _____	Exp. Date _____	Security Code _____ (3 or 4 digit on back)
Visa			
Discover	Signature _____	Name _____	
Amer. Express			

Completed form should be mailed or sent by facsimile to:

UNICO National Convention 2012

Attn.: Paul Alongi, PNP

271 US Highway 46 W, Suite A-108

Fairfield, NJ 07004

For more information, contact Paul Alongi, Chairman

Phone (973) 541-3414 Fax (973) 402-0770 or Email at palongisr@firstmco.com

UNICO National News Release

The Italian American Community shares an evening dedicated to the bravery of Italians during The Holocaust.

During the middle of the Twentieth Century, twenty percent of the Jews located in Italy lost their lives to the Nazi campaign of annihilation; throughout the remainder of Europe, eighty percent of the Jewish population was lost. This remarkable difference came from the ethic of a people and its importance is being noted throughout the world. It was an undertaking that required the ingenuity and dedication of countless Italians who were under the rule of a regime aligned with the campaign of its Axis partner Germany, whose quest was the destruction of the Jewish race. At last, the bravery of the Italians during the Great War has gained public attention through the study, research and publication of Elizabeth Bettina, as documented by her book, *It Happened In Italy*.

In March of 2010, Illinois UNICO members Anthony Fornelli, Paul Domico and Michael Veselka attended a presentation by Elizabeth Bettina. The presentation included testimony from individuals among those who had been saved from almost certain death by the help of Italians from communities throughout Italy during WWII. Following the reception, Fornelli extended an invitation to Ms. Bettina to present her documentary to audiences in Chicago.

On November 7, 2011 Casa Italia hosted the joint undertaking of the Counsel General of Italy in Chicago, UNICO National, The National Italian American Foundation and The Joint civic committee of Italian Americans. There, more than one hundred people, Italian Americans and members of the Chicago Jewish community gathered to hear testimony of bravery of the people of Italy from Jewish survivors who now live in the Chicago area.

It was heartwarming to hear the story told of the people of Italy in their defiance of the horrors of the holocaust. The story, as documented by Elizabeth Bettina, has made its way into the hearts and minds of our Community thanks to the leadership of Anthony Fornelli and UNICO National.

-Richard Caifano, November, 2011

The deadline for the March Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, February 13, 2012.

Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: comunico@unico.org.

ComUNICO will only accept high resolution digital photos and text in MS Word or in the body of an e-mail.

Please call (973) 808-0035 with any questions.

Get the latest information by visiting:
www.2012unicoconvention.org

MEMPHIS, TN

The Memphis Chapter of UNICO met at Memphis National banquet room to celebrate Christmas time with a wonderful dinner and a fun game called "Dirty Santa" where we opened and stole presents from each other, everyone went home with something.



Memphis UNICO members really enjoyed our Annual Pizza with Santa at Madonna Learning Center (School for children with Mental Health needs). The kids got to talk to and receive gifts from Santa, got their face and hands painted, made a tree ornament craft, they sang Christmas songs and they got to eat lots of pizza. It was a blessing to see these kids having so much fun.



In honor of Columbus Day, the Memphis UNICO Chapter celebrated with an awards banquet. We honored Frank Palumbo as the Italian American of the Year, Pat Halloran of the Orpheum as the Civic Award recipient. Also, special recognition went to Sharon Thompson commemorating her year as Chapter President. Everyone had a wonderful time of fellowship and celebration.



Members and guests took some time out to take a group picture.



NEW JERSEY DISTRICT I

Point Pleasant Beach, Brick and Lincroft Chapters celebrated October as Italian Heritage Month by participating in several activities together. The month started with all three Chapters marching behind the UNICO National float in the Ocean County Columbus Day Parade.

District Governor Grace Gynn along with Immediate Past District Governor Lisa Pizzella then organized an evening of culture, music and dining at The White Sands to culminate Italian Heritage Month for all members and friends of New Jersey District I. Entertainment was provided by Brick President Joe Gironda and Mimmo. Special Guests for the evening were UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato and his wife Terri along with Membership Chair Mark McDade and his wife Michele. District Governor Gynn spoke of all the events held during the month of October in her district and then highlighted the individual contributions members made to culture and heritage in their own Chapters. Lisa Pizzella discussed the important work of the One Voice Coalition to counter Anti-Bias before she introduced the National President. President Pettinato spoke of the importance of our heritage and First Lady Terri asked members to send in their family stories to ComUNICO. Glenn and Terri made it a point to greet each of the 140 attendees and all appreciated their trip to the Jersey Shore.



Point Pleasant Chapter President Tony Scardaville and his wife Eileen welcome National President Glenn Pettinato and his wife Terri to New Jersey District I Italian Culture Night.



New Jersey District I Chapter Presidents greet National President in Point Pleasant. From left to right: Lincroft President Judy DiBlasio, Brick President Joe Gironda, District Governor Grace Gynn, UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato, Immediate Past District Governor Lisa Pizzella and Point Pleasant Beach President Tony Scardaville enjoy Italian Culture Night festivities.

UNICO FOUNDATION

Each year we say how fast time seems to pass us by? Now that the calendar has turned the page on 2011, we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to make a gift to the UNICO Foundation. Your charitable donation will be used to provide much needed grants to worthwhile causes such as Cancer Research, Cooley's anemia, Mental Health, and the promotion of Italian American cultural experiences.

So please, consider making a donation TODAY. Simply go to www.unico.org and click on the UNICO Foundation Charities icon on the home page and you will be given a safe, online approach to donating to the UNICO Foundation.

Thank you for your support and Best Wishes for Healthy New Year to you and your family!

- John DiNapoli, President, UNICO Foundation

POINT PLEASANT, NJ

Antoinette DePaola, Esq. was sworn in as Point Pleasant Council President, on Jan. 2, 2012 at the Point Pleasant Borough re-organization meeting. Antoinette, a Republican, replaces Democrat John McHugh, Jr. as the council president. She was sworn in by Ocean County Freeholder Joseph H. Vicari, Jr. The Republicans now hold a 4-2 majority on the governing body.

Antoinette was born and raised in East Orange before moving to Point Pleasant sixteen years ago. She is the daughter of Anthony and Dolores DePaola, formerly of Newark and East Orange. She is the sister of Gina Russo, and Dr. Anthony DePaola. Ms. DePaola did her undergraduate at New Jersey State University formerly Trenton State. She received her law degree from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio. Presently she works in risk management for the County of Ocean. Ms. DePaola is a single parent with 2 children, Maria & Joseph. She is also a member of the Italian-American organization, UNICO.

"I am honored to be elected Council President," said Ms. DePaola, following the ceremony. "I intend to work hard to do best for the citizens of Point Pleasant."

**CALL TO MID YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TO BE HELD SATURDAY
MARCH 24, 2012
MYRTLE BEACH MARRIOTT & SPA AT GRAND DUNES
8400 COSTA VERDE DRIVE
MYRTLE BEACH,
SOUTH CAROLINA 29572
843-449-8880**

2012 UNICO CONVENTION BOWL-A-THON

The intent of the Bowl-a-Thon is to raise funds to supplement and subsidize this year's Convention being held in Marco Island, Florida.

Our Bowl-a-Thon this year is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2012, 10 AM sharp at the Van Houten Lanes, Van Houten Avenue, Clifton, NJ. The bowling is free and teams will compete for Trophies. There are sixteen lanes at the facility and we are requesting sponsor's fee of \$300.00 per lane. There are four bowlers per lane and three games will be played. Bowling should be over at 12:30 sharp.

See the pledge sheet at 15 cents per point for the bowler's friend or family or you may solicit straight donations. You don't have to bowl to get donations. Make all checks out to UNICO National Convention 2012.

We look forward to your participation and hope that your response will help "fill the lanes". Finally mail all checks to Paul Alongi at 21 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, NJ 07003 or call the UNICO National Office at (973) 808-0035.

UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012

BOWL A THON III

ALL PLEDGES AND DONATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012

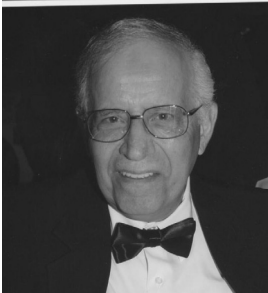
DATE – SUNDAY, February 5th, 2012, 10AM SHARP

LOCATION – VAN HOUTEN LANES, 564 VAN HOUTEN AVE., CLIFTON

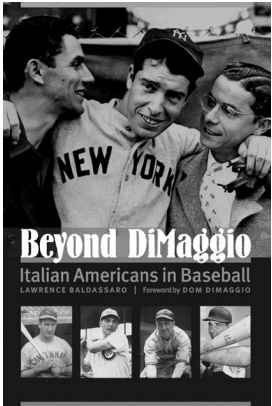
Name	Address	15 cents pledge for each point scored	Amt. Straight donation
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Any person may make a donation to the UNICO National Convention 2012, by mailing to
Paul Alongi, 21 Leo Terrace, Bloomfield, NJ 07003

BOOK REVIEW



**Beyond DiMaggio:
Italian Americans in
Baseball"**
**Written by Dr. Lawrence
Baldassaro**
**Reviewed by: Dr. Tony
Arabia**



Author Baldassaro in 2011 gave America an important 520 page comprehensive of the cultural history of Italian Americans in baseball. It includes a harvest of happy and sad times as well as dozens of records and names of legends and tributes to many (if not, all) its heroes.

From the University of Nebraska Press, this book stands tall as the definitive authority of the 20th century prominence of players, managers, and executives.

They were the DiMaggios and many other names like: Lazzeri, Crosetti, Melillo, Maglie, Pinnelli, Abbaticchio, Berra, Rizzuto, Bodie, Branca, Cavaretta, Lasorda, Torre, Girardi, Francona, Scioscia, Martin, LaRussa, Garagiola, Campanella, Caray (Carabina), Colavita, Lombardi, Giamatti, Conigliaro, Piazza, Biggio and so on!

A Professor Emeritus of Italian, the author spent ten years researching the subject and included many fascinating facts. He has said that he wanted to give the game a platform through the lens of Italian Americans and their legacy in the game of baseball. Sports fans will gain a treasure from the author's informative and often humorous accounts.

ENJOY!

Announcing the 2012 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar

2012 Italian & Italian American Heritage Calendar UNICO NATIONAL

Each day of the year find out about notable Italians, Italian Americans and events related to the Italian experience. That's 365 important Italian and Italian American Heritage facts as well as other Italian info for you to learn and enjoy on each day of the year. It is an excellent resource for any person interested in Italian and Italian American Heritage and Culture.

To order yours for only \$6.00 (postage included) email
uniconational@unico.org or call 800-877-1492

Visa, MasterCard and Amex accepted.



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR SALVATORE BENVENUTI

Women's Auxiliaries

At this year's National Convention two amendments were passed that impact on the status of Women's Auxiliaries in UNICO.

- The first amendment eliminates any new Auxiliaries within the UNICO organization.
- The second amendment provides that existing Women's Auxiliaries may continue to exist provided that all members thereof are required to be Chapter members and must pay dues to UNICO National. Also, existing Auxiliaries are subject to the UNICO Service Mark and subject to any licensing fee as set by the Board of Directors.

In an effort to mitigate any hardship with respect to the above amendments, the Executive Committee has approved a grace period for this fiscal year (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012) for the payment of the initiation fee for members of the existing Women's Auxiliaries. Therefore, current members of the Women's Auxiliary will not be charged any initiation fee for this fiscal year, but must be added to your membership roster. Beginning with next fiscal year, all Women Auxiliary members must be added to your Chapter roster and will be billed as a regular member in accordance with the constitution.

Over the past few months I have met with a few Chapters and Auxiliaries in order to discuss the changes and answer any questions with these new requirements. A few Chapters have already sent in membership applications for their Women's Auxiliary members who chose to stay members of the Auxiliary and become members of UNICO National.

One of the reasons for this change with respect to Auxiliaries was due to the fact that women are now eligible for membership in UNICO National on the same and equal basis as men. In fact, approximately 40% of our membership is now composed of women, all of which pay dues to National. Another reason for the change was that Women's Auxiliaries were enjoying the benefits of the UNICO trade name and service mark without contributing to the administrative and related costs. The Board of Directors (and subsequently the membership with their vote on this amendment) felt it was unfair to have two classes of women within the UNICO organization; a regular member who paid dues and an Auxiliary member who paid no dues.

Why should anyone pay membership dues to UNICO National?

UNICO National maintains a National Office with administrative expenses (salaries, rent, utilities, etc) and program costs for all our national programs such as Anti-Bias, Columbus Day, Expansion, Membership and Retention, and National Awards. In addition we also publish six editions of ComUNICO newspaper.

UNICO National also provides the sole administrative services for UNICO Foundation. The Foundation currently does not reimburse National for any of its administrative costs. That means that every dollar donated to the Foundation goes to the charitable cause for which it is designated. This is all made possible because UNICO National absorbs all these costs. Thus, UNICO National acts as the fund raising arm for the Foundation so that all donations to the Foundation can be used 100% for the charitable purposes.

How does UNICO National get its fund to operate?

The only sources of revenue for UNICO National are the membership dues. As some of the administrative and operating costs increased, we had to increase our dues this year to \$65 for regular members. Because our members pay membership dues, National is able to fund all its operating costs and also provide all the administrative and operating costs for the Foundation.

By having the Women's Auxiliaries pay membership dues, they are in substance helping fund not only the operations of National, but also supporting the Foundation and all its charities. We urge every Women's Auxiliary to become a member of UNICO National and continue to support the National programs and the Foundation charities.

Chapters that have Women's Auxiliaries are reminded to submit membership applications for any Auxiliary member who will become a member of National. Remember there is no cost for these members this year due to the waiver granted by the Executive Committee. Should you have any questions or need any membership forms, please contact the National Office.

ST. LOUIS, MO

The St. Louis Chapter of UNICO's Christmas Party and Meet The President Night was held at Spazio Westport, St. Louis, Missouri on December 11th. We had a wonderful evening with lots of great food and holiday cheer.

National President Glenn Pettinato and St. Louis Chapter President, Vincenzo Monteleone installed our newest member Mark Russo. Congratulations Mark and welcome to UNICO!



From left to right: Mark Russo, Chapter President; Vincenzo Monteleone and National President Glenn Pettinato.



Chapter President Vincenzo Monteleone presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Dr. Ann Cross and Dr. Laura Piccio, of the John L. Trotter MS Center Project.



Chapter President Vincenzo Monteleone presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Pat Knoerle-Jordan, West County MS Center, accompanied by Maureen Lordo.



National President Glenn Pettinato presented St. Louis Chapter Member George Stark with the UNICO National Presidential Award for outstanding community and charitable volunteer work.

"V" FOUNDATION

UNICO "V" Foundation for Cancer Research Reaches Milestone

UNICO Memorial Grants to "Help Find a Cure" through Cancer Research reaches \$500,000 on completion of our tenth \$ 50,000 grant. Listed are our accomplishments.

- 2000-Vincent DeVita, M.D., Yale University School of Medicine, funded in memory of Louise Dante for Hodgkin's disease Research.
- 2001-Susan Conzen, M.D., University of Chicago Cancer Research Center, funded in memory of Madelyn Fornelli for Breast Cancer Research.
- 2002-Peter Albertsen, M.D., Pamela Taxel, M.D., University of Connecticut Health Center, funded in memory of Leo Diana for Prostate Cancer Research.
- 2003-Arnold Levine, Ph.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, funded in memory of James Mattiace for Carcinoma of Undetermined Primary Origin.
- 2005-Charles Powell, M.D., Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center at Columbia University Medical Center, funded in memory of Richard Juliano for Lung Cancer Research.
- 2007-Joel Levine, M.D., Carole and Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Connecticut, funded in memory of Anthony Gonnella for Colon Cancer Research.
- 2008-Richard Drachtman, M.D., Cancer Institute of New Jersey for Pediatric Cancer Research funded in memory of Leno Sodini.
- 2009-Anthony Heaney, M.D., Ph.D., UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center funded in memory of Frank Milo for Pancreatic Cancer Research.
- 2011-Mark Kester, Ph.D. and Kevin Stavely-O'Carroll, Penn State Cancer Institute, Penn State College of Medicine in memory of Salvatore Bernardi for Novel Therapeutic Approaches to Gastro Intestinal Malignancies.
- 2012-Ramaswamy Co-Director, Section of Medical Oncology, Siteman Cancer Center, Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine, funded in memory of Dorothy Varsalona for "Molecular Assay to Predict Outcomes in Resected NSCLC using NanoString Technology". This grant will be completely funded March, 2012.

Special thanks to all our Chapters, Districts and members and to the "V" Foundation for Cancer Research for their partnership and outstanding support over these years. NOW the next 10 Years!!!!



"V" Foundation Dinner and Grant Presentation Frank Paolercio

UNICO National presented the 10th memorial grant of \$50,000 at the "V" Foundation Dinner Auction at Pier 60 overlooking the Hudson River in Manhattan. There were approximately 400 people in attendance, comprised of radio and television announcers, coaches, players as well as their guests.

UNICO National was the only presenter during the evening and mentioned with fondness by "V" Foundation-CEO Nick Valvano. There were many kind words spoken from those present at this affair and all were greatly appreciated by our organization.

This year's grant brought our total donations, so far, to \$500,000 for cancer research to "Help Find a Cure." This grant is in the name of Dorothy Varsalona and will be presented to the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University Hospital for Lung Cancer Research.



From left to right: Nick Valvano, "V" Foundation CEO; UNICO Past National President John Alati, UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato and Frank Paolercio, Chair UNICO National "V" Foundation.



From left to right: Frank Paolercio, UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato, Past National President John Alati, Michael Kay, and Past National President Frank Cannata.

VERONA, NJ



Verona UNICO members and Chapter President Linda-Gail Alati donate food gift cards to Connie Pifher, Verona Welfare Director for the "Children's Fund". From left to right: Larry Colombo, President Linda-Gail Alati, Connie Pifher, Barbara DiRocco and Santi Condorelli.



On behalf of Verona UNICO, Chapter President Linda-Gail Alati and member Barbara DiRocco donate Christmas gifts to Our Lady of the Lake Reverend Michael Hanley to an "adopted" family program for the season.



Verona Chapter President Linda-Gail Alati presents a donation to Verona Volunteer Fire Department Chief Pat McEvoy. Looking on are members Steve Amadeo and Bonnie Sharkey.



New Jersey District XI Governor Gino Lacono joins Verona President Linda-Gail Alati and Past New Jersey District XI Governors Joe Carpinelli, Nicki Carpinelli and Frank Greco at the Verona Chapter Christmas party.

WEST ESSEX, NJ

The West Essex Chapter of UNICO hosted a Christmas Party for the developmentally disabled residents of the ARC in West Caldwell. Pasta, meatballs, salad and dessert was served to over 110 residents at Notre Dame Church in North Caldwell.



From left to right: Vince Lanfrank, Frank Astorino, John Chiaia, Carl Sposato, Event Chair; Frank Greco, Jr., Chapter President; Ray D'Uva and Bob Masella are joined by members' children and volunteers before the start of the Christmas Party.



Chapter Members Gabe D'Uva and Jimmy Bergamotto prepare to serve the salad.



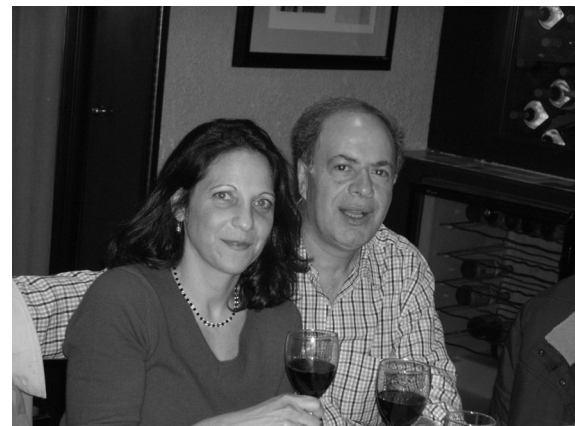
Members' children and Confirmation Candidates volunteered their time to serve the guests.



President Frank Greco, Jr. and Christmas Party Chairman Carl Sposato.

SCOTCH-PLAINS FANWOOD, NJ

On December 27, 2011 Scotch Plains Fanwood UNICO held its Annual Holiday Party for members and guests. Camaraderie and UNICAN spirit were enjoyed by all 30 attendees at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield, New Jersey. Our Chapter will be celebrating 39 years of existence in 2012. Buon Ano a Tutti!



UNICAN Ben Caruso and friend enjoying the Holiday party.



UNICANS and their guests enjoying the great Italian food and wine. From left to right: Tom Donatelli and spouse, Nick Fabiano and spouse, Lou DeCristofaro and spouse.



More Holiday spirit among the UNICANS and their spouses. From left to right: Ernie Hernandez and spouse, John Lestarchick and spouse, Al Gialanella and spouse.



WETHERSFIELD, CT

A Christmas Party, with a Real Santa Claus!

Yes, Virginia, there was a great Christmas Party with a "real" Santa Claus at the Wethersfield Community Center under the auspices of the Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO National.

Under the direction of UNICAN Thomas Vaughan, we continued our long-standing tradition of a UNICO Christmas Party for not only UNICO members and our families, but also other town children and their families.

Our Chapter was graced with our own early Christmas present – our own Santa Claus! A new member of our Chapter, Marco Maio, is a bono fide, trained, credentialed, certified, professional Santa Claus. He is assisted with a Mrs. Claus, named "Katie Claus," played by his wife Katherine Maio.

More than 75 children (and some adults) availed themselves of the opportunity to either sit in Santa's lap or cuddled close to him, telling Santa what sugarplums were floating in their heads. Our Santa handled all these children young and older with a smile and a whisper of encouragement and honesty, offering hope but not guaranteeing every juvenile hope and desire.

Speaking of adults, more than a few took advantage of Santa and Mrs. Claus' merriment and gladly joined the positive atmosphere of the evening.

UNICAN Fred Odell and his culinary crew put together a wonder dinner for all, young and older, which meal was blessed and was appreciated by all.

A Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



From left to right: Wethersfield UNICO's Santa Claus ("Santa Marco") performed by UNICAN Marco Maio is assisted by Mrs. Claus ("Katie Claus"), performed by Marco's wife, Katherine Maio.



Anthony Martino and Aaron Odell, along with other Wethersfield UNICANs prepared the meal and served the happy holiday crowd of children, parents and other family members.



From left to right: "Santa Marco" happily listens to the wishes of two children, who eagerly await his whispered offerings.



"Santa Marco" wishes Emily a blessed holiday and encourages her to share the holiday with others.



Even adults wanted to share the season: UNICANs Tom Vaughan and Marco Maio along with Michele Vaughan and Katherine Maio at the end of the evening.

NEWBURGH, NY

The annual tradition of hosting a luncheon on Thanksgiving Eve for the Newburgh area Interservice Clubs was held at a new location. For all of the years since the event was established in 1975, it was conducted at Mount Saint Mary College, but this year the invitation was not extended and loyalists to the event started looking around for a new venue. The new owners of the former Ritz Theater on Lower Broadway in Newburgh, Tricia Haggerty Wenz and her husband John, offered the newly remodeled Green Room to accommodate the over 200 attendees.

A few members of the various organizations remembered the old days when the theater's Green Room was used as a meeting place by many groups, including Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions. About 30 organizations celebrated thankfulness together at the luncheon. The lunch began and ended with prayers of thanksgiving offered by UNICO Chaplain Reverend Bill Scafidi.



Seated from left to right: Vincenzo Napolitano, Past President Tony Navarro and Treasurer Nick DeMarco. Standing from left to right: Past President Regina Angelo, Newburgh City Manager Richard Herbek, Father William Scafidi, Chapter Attorney Ralph Puglielle, Vice President Anthony Tangredi and Denise Baginski.

IN MEMORIAM

Thomas J. Kirwan, Newburgh UNICO member has passed away. Son of the late Frank and Mildred Nicholas Kirwan, he was born on January 17, 1933 in Newburgh. On May 4, 1963, he married Verna Harding Kirwan who survives at home. In addition to Verna, his loving wife of 48 years, he is survived by his children, Victoria Fabiano and her husband, Frank of Newburgh, Matthew Kirwan and his wife, Jamie of Newburgh; grandchildren, Peter John Fabiano and Matthew Thomas Kirwan; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill & Pat Harding of Poughkeepsie, Charles & Jane Fitzpatrick of New Windsor and Brenda Harding of Newburgh; and cousin, Edward Kirwan of New Windsor. He is also survived by his extended family, George & Roseanne Meyers of New Windsor, Tony & Jeanne Ciccone of New Windsor and Leigh Redfern of Newburgh.

Thomas J. Kirwan was a lifelong resident of the City of Newburgh. Assemblyman Kirwan represents the 100th Assembly District, which is comprised of the Town and City of Newburgh in Orange County, the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County, and the Ulster County towns of Marlboro, Lloyd and Shawangunk.

Mr. Kirwan is a graduate of the Newburgh Public School system. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History & Political Science from Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh.

Assemblyman Kirwan served 28 years in the New York State Police, retiring as a Lieutenant in the Bureau of Criminal Investigations. He spent his last four years in Manhattan in the New York Drug Enforcement Task Force investigating mid-to upper-level drug dealers in New York City. He is a member of the civic organization UNICO in Newburgh, participating in various charitable projects.

Taken from his biography on Mr. Kirwan's Assembly Page



WILKES-BARRE, PA

Wilkes-Barre Chapter recently held its two premier events: Miss UNICO and The UNICO All-star Football Classic.

Each year The Wilkes-Barre Chapter holds The Miss UNICO pageant, and awards scholarships to the winner and 1st and 2nd runners up.

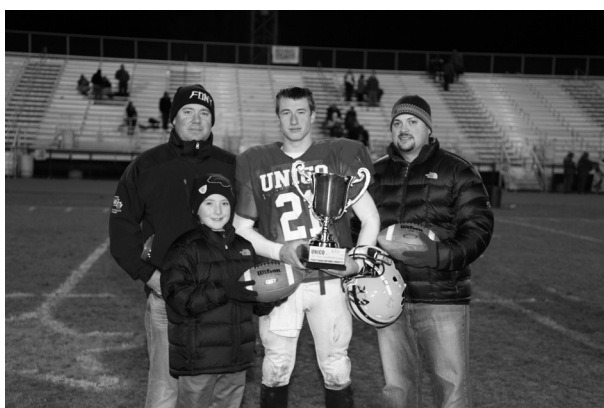
The UNICO All-Star classic is in its 61st year, and the proceeds from the game book are typically donated to local charities, this year The Wilkes-Barre Chapter made the decision to donate 100% of the gate proceeds and a percentage of the game book proceeds to benefit victims of the recent flood.



Miss UNICO 2011 Jade Welsh, representing Berwick High School.



Miss UNICO 2011 and her court, from left to right: Second Runner Up Jacqueline Joseph, the West Side Career and Technology Center; Miss UNICO Jade Welsh and First Runner Up Tiffany Oplinger, representing Lake-Lehman High School.



Chapter President Dr. William Anzalone Jr and the game MVP.

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ

A special Christmas tradition for children of the area is The Woodcliff Lake UNICO Chapter's Annual "Pizza with Santa" event. This year was a great success with dozens and dozens of children and adults enjoying a great afternoon meeting with Santa and Mrs. Claus while they enjoyed delicious refreshments, including pizza and created seasonal crafts. After spending time telling Santa what they wanted for Christmas, each child received a special gift and bag of goodies. The Woodcliff Lake Chapter each year donates the proceeds from this event to the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee through the UNICO National Foundation.



A sincere and heart-warming hug for Santa from an appreciative child!



Former First Lady Jenny DiMino keeping the secret about Santa!



Members of the Woodcliff Lake Chapter of UNICO participated in the event are joined by Santa-Past National President Andre' DiMino and Mrs. Claus- Donna Santoli for a Chapter photo.



UNICO Members from other areas also attended the event. From the Rutherford Chapter Vinny Laborim, UNICO Mental Health Chair Barbara Laborim, Rutherford Chapter President and Past National President Frank Tidona, UNICO Scholarship Chair Joan Tidona and sitting on Santa's lap, Geraldine Lipari.

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Guidelines for all articles and/or photos for ComUNICO:

- All submissions shall be e-mailed to comunico@unico.org.
- All articles should be submitted in WORD and should not be more than 300 words.
- Articles submitted by UNICO National Officers should be no more than 500 words.
- Articles must be submitted on a timely and pertinent basis.
- Only digital photos in .jpg(*) format will be accepted. Cell phone photos or hard copy photos will not be accepted for publication.
- Photos must be accompanied by captions and all people in the photo must be identified. Photos not including this information will be returned to the Chapter for clarification.
- No more than six to eight photos per chapter shall be submitted per issue. The Chapter must prioritize the order of submission.
- All submissions must be received by the National Office by 5:00 PM Eastern on the day of the deadline.
- Deadlines are hard and fast and no exceptions shall be made.

* .jpg - is a commonly used method of compression for photographic images.

If you have any questions or concerns with regards to these guidelines, please contact the National Office at 973-808-0035.



IN MEMORIAM

Benjamin Manfredo DeAngelis, 91, formerly of 655 Wilson Street, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 6, 2012 at The Village at East Farms in Waterbury. He was the beloved husband of Angeline (Spino) DeAngelis, with whom he celebrated a 63rd wedding anniversary in October.

In addition to his professional distinctions, Ben was an energetic participant in numerous civic organizations. He was proud to have been president of the Waterbury Chapter of UNICO National, having served on the Board of Directors for years. In October of 1990, UNICO honored Ben's service by making him Waterbury's "Mayor for the Day." In addition to his dear wife, Ange, Ben leaves three children and their spouses.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to benefit Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, 785 Highland Avenue Waterbury, CT 06708.



Joseph J. Monti, 80, passed away September 25, 2011 at his home. Mr. Monti was born on the Island of Ischia in the Province of Naples, Italy then immigrated to America and settled in Brooklyn, New York, and later transplanted to Memphis. He was a decorated Korean War veteran who received the Presidential Citation for Service Above and Beyond the Call of Duty. Mr. Monti was a Member of Custom Tailors and Designers Association of America and received the designation as 1 of the 15 individual designers in America. His civic contributions include the Knights of Columbus, the Memphis Chapter of UNICO, and an active volunteer for St. Jude. He is survived by his four grandchildren: Marielle, Anthony, Andrew, Brandon Joseph; his four children: Bruce, Paul, Joanne, and Joyce; two daughters-in-law, Diane and Melissa, and a son-in-law, Albert, three sisters: Janie D'Onofrio, Anna DiPietro, and Clara Zultowski.

COMUNICO PICTURES

The more the National Office works on ComUNICO the more we learn. To help streamline our process we need the Chapters help. When sending in pictures and captions, please reference each picture file name to a caption. For example- Picture 1- From left to right: John Smith, Mary Smith and Joe Smith.

Each Chapter should send in no more than eight pictures and the pictures should be prioritized as to what you would like to see in the paper first. We are trying our best to get all pictures into ComUNICO.

DR. M. ANN WALKO

for

3RD VICE-PRESIDENT~2012



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FIRST FEMALE TO SERVE ON THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

DISTRICT X AMERICANISM AWARD/GRAND PATRIOT AWARD-NATIONAL LEVEL/CHAPTER AWARD FOR AMERICANISM

INVOLVED IN NATIONAL CONVENTIONS/EASTERN REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETINGS/ MID-YEAR MEETINGS/CURRENTLY SERVE ON THE AMERICANISM AWARD COMMITTEE/ARMED SERVICES AND 2013 CONVENTION COMMITTEE/DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT AND HERITAGE AND CULTURE COMMITTEES

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CHAired DISTRICT X AMERICANISM AWARD AND BRIAN PICCOLO AWARD PROGRAMS-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY AND COLUMBUS DAY PROGRAMS, COUNTY FLAG RAISING, BASILONE PARADE AND THE COLUMBUS DAY PARADE IN NEW YORK. ENGAGE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN PROGRAMMING AS PART OF SERVICE LEARNING.

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OAKVILLE/ WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville-Watertown Chapter held a Pasta Supper for the Watertown Area Association for Special Citizens on December 8th at the VFW, Davis Street, Oakville. Dessert was provided by the Watertown Park and Recreation Department. The VFW donated the use of the hall. Santa Claus did also make an appearance handing out gifts to the guests. A good time was had by all.



Members of the Oakville-Watertown Chapter of UNICO National are shown dispensing food to the guests. From left to right: Joe Masi, Dick Di-Maria, Vinnie Dorso, Elaine Cieslewski, Chapter President and Stanley Masayda.

SECAUCUS, NJ

Along with a tradition set by Mary Capitol, Secaucus UNICO made it's annual visit to Hudson Manor Nursing Home to distribute gift bags filled with goodies along with some holiday cheer!



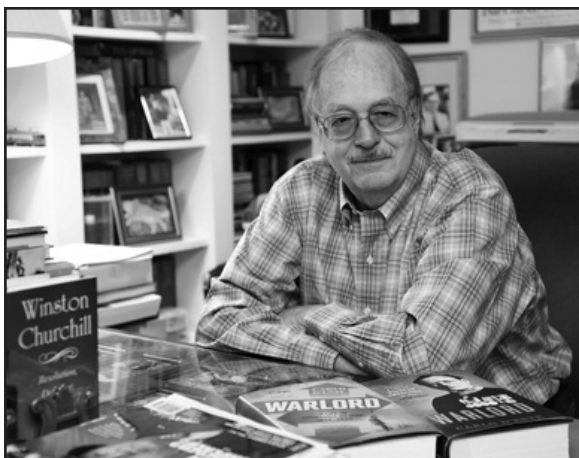
From left to right: Back Row: Sandra Lopez, Bree McClure, Mrs. Clause (President Debbie Santoro), Gene Salvatore, Joe Arena, Gerry Dowd, Anthony Lopez, Melissa Vogel, Sophia Vogel, Samantha Vogel, and Carol Marra. Front Row: Bree Marra, Lauren Dowd, and Ann Arena.



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The son of a World War I soldier who despised armed conflict, Carlo D'Este rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and has emerged as one of America's premier World War II biographers.

LOU&A

by Louis R. Carlozo

Military scribe

It's a fantastic feat to write a book with little or no formal training, but Carlo D'Este has gone much further, spinning a life story that puts him in league with the very battlefield heroes he chronicles.

In 2011, the 75-year-old D'Este won the coveted Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing, netting a \$100,000 cash prize along with it. This honor crowns a career that began humbly in 1983, when D'Este published his first volume, "Decision in Normandy," which offered a fresh perspective on the leadership of Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery and the Allied landings after D-Day.

"I had no writing experience whatsoever — in fact what little I had was military writing, and so I had to learn via some very bad lessons," says D'Este, a former Army lieutenant colonel stationed in Europe and Vietnam. (He received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, and Commendation Medal for his military service.) "But I had people who helped me and mentored me, who went out of their way to point me in the right direction."

(See Lou&A on Page 52)

NEWSMAKERS Grimm reaper

by Jim Distasio

Life is starting to feel more and more like a fairy tale for actor David Giuntoli.

After minor TV roles and a stint as a reality show contestant, this rising Italian-American star has jumped to the top of the network food chain with his lead performance in NBC's new fantasy-meets-cop drama "Grimm," which airs at 8 p.m. on Fridays.

The show's premise asks the question: What if all of those Brothers Grimm stories you read as a kid — "Cinderella," "Hansel and Gretel," "Little Red Riding Hood," etc. — were real?

Giuntoli plays Nick Burkhardt, a present-day Portland, Ore., homicide detective who discovers he hails from a storied line of criminal hunters tasked with keeping the

world safe from the fantasy stories' biggest baddies. Dubbed the Grimms, this fraternity counts Burkhardt as one of its last living descendants, and a guy whose detective skills come in handy after the storybook world spills into ours with deadly results.

Despite its relatively innocent source material, "Grimm" isn't for the kiddies.

"We go very dark, very gruesome, and there are a lot of thrills," Giuntoli told The Huffington Post.

The pilot episode revolves around Burkhardt investigating the murder of a red-hooded coed viciously attacked and killed during her jog through the forest by — spoiler alert, but you probably already guessed it — a mystical, evil wolf.

(See Newsmakers on Page 52)



The honchos at NBC took a chance by casting David Giuntoli, a relatively unknown, in the lead of role of its new fantasy-meets-cop drama, and everybody has been reaping the benefits.

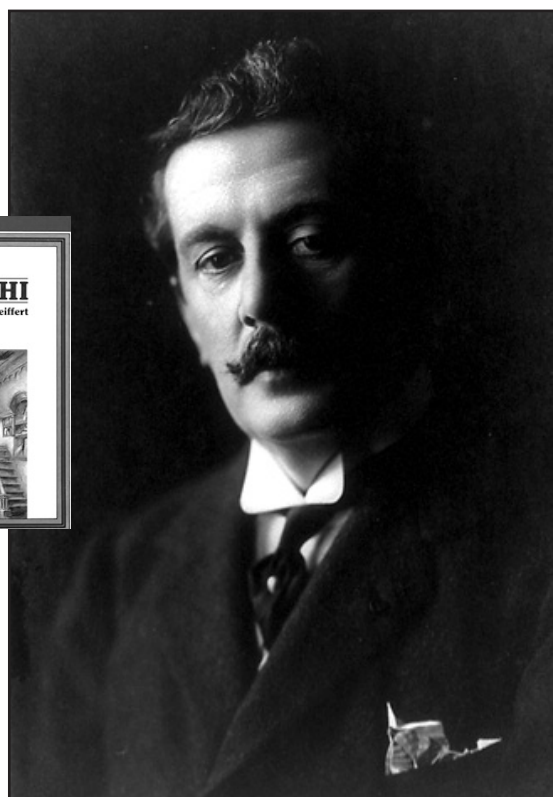
REVIEW Discerning composer Giacomo Puccini

by Arielle Basile

Even though Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) had a relatively small output compared to some of his contemporaries — Claude Debussy wrote several hundred individual pieces in his lifetime — Puccini's 10 operas hold a place of honor in the modern repertory.

The verismo composer was born in Lucca into a long line of musicians. Although his father — a composer, organist and teacher — died when Puccini was 5, his mother was determined that he continue the family's musical tradition. After graduating from the Istituto Musicale Pacini in Lucca, Puccini received a grant from Queen Margherita to attend the Milan Conservatory.

Puccini embraced opera as his true calling at an early age, even traveling by foot to Florence to see Verdi's "Aida" when he was 18. In 1883, he entered a competition for one-act operas organized by the publisher Sonzogno. While his score



for "Le Villi" was rejected for its illegibility, a few influential friends mounted a successful performance of it in Milan, catching the attention of Sonzogno's rival music publisher, Giulio Ricordi.

Ricordi commissioned another opera from Puccini, even providing him with a modest retainer so that he could compose in comfort. Working again with Ferdinando Fontana, the same librettist who wrote "Le Villi," Puccini premiered his second opera, "Edgar," in 1889, but a bad story and poor libretto made it a flop. Soured by the experience, Puccini rejected three proposed librettists for his next opera, "Manon Lescaut," but his ultimate collaboration with Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa was a triumphant success. Not only was his fortune assured, but Puccini's ongoing collaboration with Illica and Giacosa produced "La bohème" (1896), "Tosca" (1900), and "Madama Butterfly" (1904), securing him a place in musical history.

(See Review on Page 52)

LIBRI A woman's-eye view

by Judith Anne Testa

When I started this book, I thought I wouldn't like it, but it "grew on me." The theme, while not original, is unusual and enjoyable: viewing Italy via its many images and pleasures involving or aimed at women. Although the intended audience is definitely female, men might find some things of interest as well.

The author begins with a gigantic subject: images of goddesses, saints and the Virgin Mary, of which there must be millions to be seen in Italy. Naturally, van Allen is selective, picking a few great works of art in Rome, Florence, Venice and elsewhere. From religious art she moves on to palaces — most of them also museums — that have associations with women, ranging from the ancient Roman villa at Oplontis that perhaps was inhabited by Nero's wife, to Peggy Guggenheim's palazzo-museum in Venice. Next come gardens, where the author stretches a bit to find the feminine at the Villa d' Este in Tivoli (built by a cardinal), but where she also points the reader to several lesser known garden sites.

The rest of the book pretty much quits high culture and concentrates on fun places and activities appealing to women. There's a section on beaches, another on spas, one on sweets and wines, a long section on shopping, and others on cooking classes, active adventures involving biking, hiking and boating, and another chapter devoted to the kinds of classes offered for foreigners in Italy that

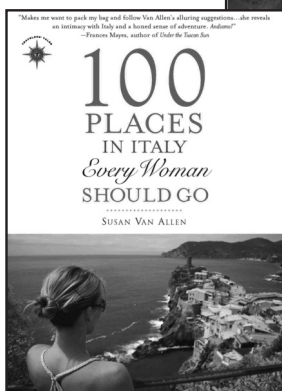
women might enjoy, among them leather-craft and lace-making. There's a section on entertainment that includes suggestions ranging from opera to puppet shows and soccer. Toward the end are some words of advice from contemporary women who've written about Italy and a catch-all section on places for children, planning a wedding in Italy, and visiting your Italian relatives.

The author is at her best when she drops the overly breezy tone in which she summarizes ancient myths and biblical stories, and instead offers neat little capsule biographies, such as the

one of Isabella d' Este that accompanies the entry on the Ducal Palace in Mantua, and one of Anita Garibaldi that's part of an entry on a park with a street dedicated to her. Van Allen also includes some really interesting bits of information, such as the fact that a café in Verona inspired the creation of Starbucks, and that the word "spa" is an acronym for "Salus Per Aquam," or "health through water." Who knew?

Although I enjoyed the book, I have a few quibbles. I'd have preferred a book organized by region rather than topic, so the reader could see what was available in each part of Italy. The author blithely recommends restaurants and hotels without giving any indication that many of them are extremely expensive. There are quite a few art historical errors (noticeable to art historians like myself) and several lose-that-comparison moments, such as mentioning Giotto's Arena Chapel frescoes in the same sentence with "The da Vinci Code," and comparing the unveiling of Titian's glorious "Assumption of the Virgin" in the Frari church in Venice to the opening of "Star Wars." Puh-LEEZE!

All in all, though, this is an entertaining book to page through, and any woman who loves Italy will find something in it of interest.



100 Places in Italy Every Woman Should Go
by Susan Van Allen

- ◆ Pages: 435, paperback
- ◆ Cost: \$18.95
- ◆ ISBN: 978-193236165-0
- ◆ www.amazon.com

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INSIGHT An incredible journey

by Deborah Woods

As hard as I wrack my brain, I can't remember the actual day I started this journey. I remember discussing it with my Italian-American friend, Lynne Russell, who didn't qualify. A "50 percent" like me, she said, "do it for the both of us." No jealousy. She was happy that one of us could and would have EU status. Italian citizenship is based on "jure sanguinis." I was eligible because my grandfather was still an Italian citizen at the time of my mother's birth, which makes her and some of her descendants Italian citizens.

My fondest childhood memories are of my grandparents, Carmelo and Antonia Fasulo Battaglia, who came to visit us from Florida each year. They were immigrants from Sicily and came through Ellis Island. My grandfather came over on the SS Campania from Montemaggiore.

Each time they came, they took me along with them to visit other family members from Italy. What a wonderful feast of food! Just like the movies "Babette's Feast" or "Big Night." I would sit and listen to them talk Italian all night and not know a word except "mangia." Half the time I didn't know what I was eating. One time, I thought I was biting into breaded veal. Later, I found out it was eggplant. I was too young to like it. I did love the homemade ravioli, though. Dessert was Italian cookies, fruit and coffee. I was allowed to have wine but not the coffee!

My Great-Aunt Philomena took me aside to show me her ravioli tools, which she was so proud of. This must have been my epiphany, where I found my love of cooking. I savor her style of cooking to this day, and these scenes play in my mind as if they were just months ago.

In doing my research about my grandfather, I went online in the Erie County Vital Records office, a tip that my friend Kathy Brown gave me. As bad luck would have it, there were seven Carmelo Battaglias, and I didn't know which one was my grandfather. Several months later, we took my mom to the Erie County records room. They gave her several documents and she recognized her dad's signature on file. At the bottom of the paper were my mom, Guissepina; her sister, Maria; and brother, Giuseppe.

The date that appears online was only the date he applied for citizenship, not the actual official naturalization date as it appeared. I let out a yell! This was the first document that proves my grandfather was still an Italian citizen when my mother was born in the United States. He was still under allegiance to King Vittorio Emanuele of Italy. Had he become a U.S. citizen before my



Only half Italian by birth, Deborah Woods felt 100 percent after her arduous efforts to obtain citizenship finally bore fruit.

mom's birth, I would not have qualified at all.

An original document was required for my own application process, and even though the document I presented was a photocopy, I was in good shape, because it bore an official cover letter stating that the copy could serve as an original. Once the document with the cover letter arrived in the mail, I made my official appointment with the Italian Consulate in Miami. My husband made a "mind map" of all the documents we needed, which served as a visual aid for organizing this undertaking. My appointment was August 14, 2010. I had one year to get the rest of my documents in order, all bearing the necessary Apostille seal. Linking all the documents was like a treasure hunt. Each one had new information, with new names and dates, and every person was interconnected.

On August 13, we flew to Miami and stayed in our favorite Art Deco district of Miami Beach. Cuban food was on our mind as we searched for just the right place. A walk on the beach was restorative. Before going to bed, I looked over my papers for the 100th time.

This was worse than a job interview or a mortgage closing. Everything had to be in my file or I might have to wait another year for another appointment. Morning came quickly and I had

forgotten to bring my makeup. Well, something had to be left behind. No trip of mine is complete without forgetting some essential tool. Luckily, there was a Walgreens down the street from our hotel and they have everything.

We got into the car and sped down the street. I ran into the store and got some eyeliner. It was hot outside, the A/C was blowing up a storm inside the car and I was a mess. This date was on my calendar for an entire year! Why must I always do things at the last minute? It was now 10 a.m. and I had just opened the door of the consulate's office. I was flustered beyond measure and my clothes were wringing wet from the August heat, but I had made it.

Trying to collect my thoughts, I began wondering if I was going to be interviewed by a man or woman, young or old, and was he or she from Italy. Silly stuff. Something I always do to take my mind off of my worries. Finally, they called my name. Of course, my husband wanted in on the action, so he followed me into the consulate office. There was no stopping him. Maybe he thought he was acting as my legal counsel.

I was received by Virginia Valore, head of citizenship. She was unfazed by the fact that my husband was joining me, acknowledging that he was more than welcome. I knew that I was in the presence of a kind woman, and I was immediately set at ease. As I reflected on the momentous nature of the occasion, I guessed that I wasn't the first applicant to bring my spouse, or even my entire family. I wasn't lucky enough to have my mother with me. I begged and pleaded and could not get her to come. She said, "Why? I'm 100 percent Italian. I don't have to prove anything." Wild horses couldn't get her to budge.

Ms. Valore looked over all the documents and said, "You qualify." My heart raced and I wanted to pump my fist and break out into a "YES!" But I restrained myself. She looked at the naturalization date and said, "Your mother was born just two months before your grandfather's naturalization. Close call indeed."

Now came the snafu. My marriage certificate and my birth certificate were supposed to be translated into Italian. My head dropped and I looked at my husband and knew where the mistake had occurred. We had called a well-known expert in the field and he said it was not required in the Miami office. So much for the experts. If we had heeded the Miami consulate's website, we would have known better. Never did I think we

(See *Insight* on Page 52)

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by Nicola Orichuia



Dueling over da Vinci

When Leonardo da Vinci started to work on "The Battle of Anghiari," little did he know that 500 years later there would be a full-scale war to find out where his mysterious painting is hidden ... if it still exists, that is.

Perhaps no one is more convinced of its existence than University of California-San Diego Professor Maurizio Seracini, who is willing to drill holes into other artistic masterpieces to get to the bottom of this story. Seracini has dedicated the last 11 years to researching and studying historical documents pointing to one of the most enigmatic puzzles of the Renaissance.

The known facts about the painting are few. In 1503, Pier Soderini, patron-for-life of the Florentine Republic, had commissioned two of the greatest contemporary artists to work on opposite walls of the majestic Salone dei Cinquecento in the city's Palazzo Vecchio. On one side, Michelangelo was to depict the 1364 battle of Càscina, while Leonardo was to portray the 1440 battle that took place in Anghiari, close to Arezzo, between Florentine and Milanese armies. Michelangelo's project fell through almost immediately, as the artist went back to completing the famous Statue of David. Leonardo, instead, gave it a shot, but ended up using a method that would prove a total fiasco. Adopting the "encaustic" painting method used by ancient Greeks and Romans, Leonardo mixed heated beeswax with colored pigments and started applying the paint on the wall of the Sala dei Cinquecento. But instead of obtaining warm tones that stood out, the colors had a hard time sticking to the wall. The job became so cumbersome Leonardo eventually gave up. The artist's

(See *Circo Italia* on Page 53)

PERSONAGGI More bite than bark

by Nicola Orichuia

When Mario Monti was tapped to replace Silvio Berlusconi as head of the Italian government, the economics professor accepted the job without hesitation. In the blink of an eye, Italians witnessed a radical change in governing style. Berlusconi was outgoing and pompous, while Monti seemed reserved and humble. He showed up in Rome on the day he was supposed to talk about forming a new government with a small handbag and no security guards, and after he was done talking with President Giorgio Napolitano he went to pick up his wife at the train station. Photographers tried hard to catch him smiling, but it seemed impossible.

People started wondering whether Monti would ever smile. ... They eventually discovered that he does, but rarely. All these character traits are not to be confused with shyness. Monti is far from timid, having gained a reputation as an economic bulldog in recent years on the EU stage.

Like Berlusconi, Monti is from Italy's northwest, but has family roots that stretch back to Argentina. Born in 1943 in Varese, just a few miles away from the border with Switzerland, the 68-year-old prime minister is one of Europe's top economic experts. Not surprisingly, President Napolitano saw in Monti Italy's only hope in dealing with the

(See *Personaggi* on Page 52)



Known as an economic bulldog on the EU stage, Mario Monti has been tasked with the challenge of righting the ship of state as Italy's new prime minister.

CINEMA Vision of loveliness

by Jeannine Guilyard

Silvana Mangano was one of Italy's most beautiful leading ladies. Born in Rome on April 21, 1930, she grew up amid the poverty and strife of World War II. Trained as a dancer, she persevered through those tough times, and in 1946, she won the Miss Rome beauty pageant, which served as a launching pad to cinematic stardom.

Just three years later, she landed a role in one of the most influential films in Italian cinema, Giuseppe De Santis' "Riso amaro" (Bitter Rice). A pioneering work in the neorealist movement, it received an Academy Award nomination in 1950. Produced by Mangano's husband, the prolific filmmaker Dino De Laurentiis, "Riso amaro" is a multi-layered story that called on all of Mangano's talent and sex appeal as she played the part of a peasant girl who could manipulate just about anyone with her beauty.

The film follows three main characters through the rice-planting season in northern Italy. Set in World War II, it depicts the travails that Italians endured due to the economic and social crisis of that time. It is a beautiful story



Earning a living as a dancer during World War II, Silvana Mangano emerged as the belle of cinematic ball in post-war Italy.

that tugs at the heartstrings because, like other neorealist films of that period, it paints a clear and compelling picture of what people had to go through just to put food on the table for their families.

Mangano's next blockbuster was Alberto Lattuada's "Anna." The 1951 drama features an all-star cast, including Silvana Mangano in the title role as a sinner who becomes a nun, Raf Vallone as the wealthy man who loves her, and the beloved Vittorio Gassman as Vittorio, a sly waiter who propels Anna along a dark path. Mangano's real-life sister, Patrizia, played her sister in the film, and Sophia Loren had a small, uncredited part as a nightclub worker.

"Anna" became a huge success in Italy and abroad, as did the Brazilian dance tune, "El Negro Zumbon," that was featured in the film. Known as "Anna" in the United States, it became a hit song in 1953 and is still revered in Italy and Spain half a century later. Filmmaker Nanni Moretti used the song in his

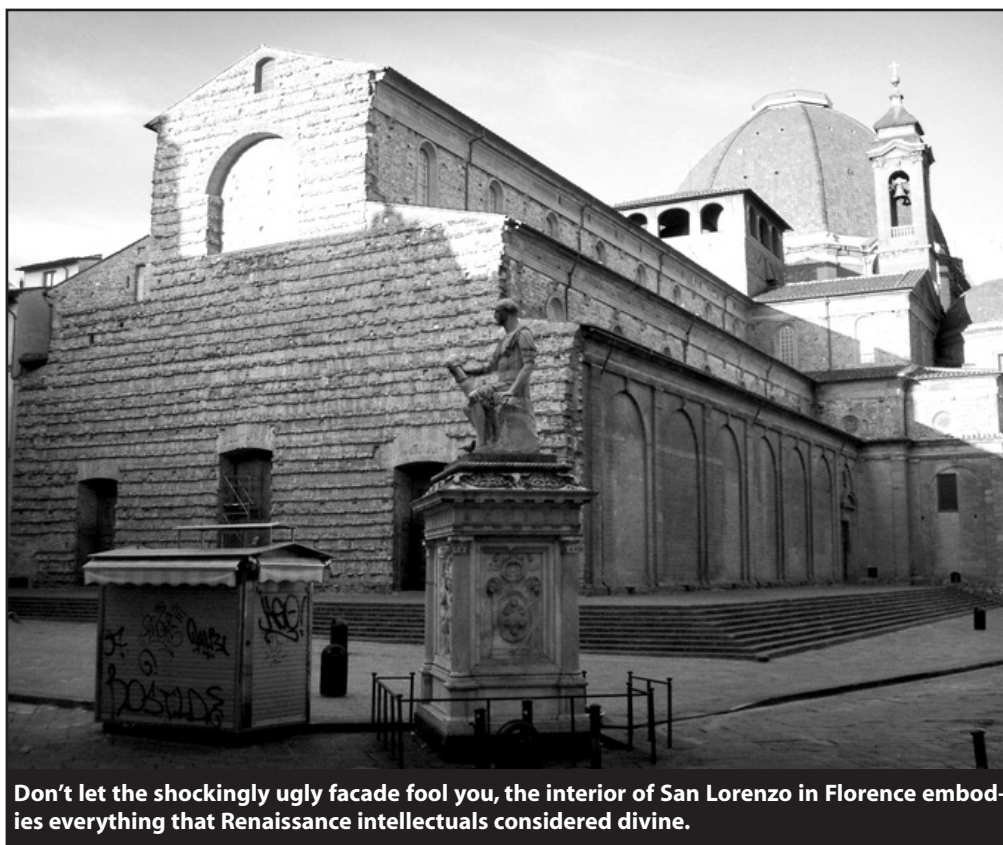
(See *Cinema* on Page 53)

VIAGGIO Harmony and light

by Judith Anne Testa

Whether we realize it or not, when most of us think about church architecture, we're picturing some version of a French Gothic cathedral of the 1200s and not an Italian Renaissance church. Gothic churches are dramatic — they have dazzlingly tall, narrow naves rising to pointed arches and complex, vaulted ceilings, their walls are pierced by enormous, multi-colored stained glass windows made possible by external supports known as flying buttresses, and the buildings are ornamented inside and out with statuary, carved pinnacles and fancy stone tracery. In contrast, Italian Renaissance churches are lower and wider, their ceilings flat, their arches round. They lack stained glass windows, and their facades, if finished at all, are notably plain. For these reasons, when visitors enter the church of San Lorenzo in Florence, the interior can fail to conform to their idea of what a "real" church should look like. It doesn't appear religious — it's cool and rational, and its spaces are mathematically precise. It's filled with the clear light of day, and the unadorned surfaces are a near-monochrome gray and white.

But before you dismiss San Lorenzo and other Italian Renaissance churches for not being as spiritual as the more dramatic and somehow mystical Gothic, consider this: Many Renaissance intellectuals believed that God created the universe according to precise, rational, mathematical principles and proportions, and therefore a church designed according to such principles would be far more "divine" than those irrational, rule-of-thumb Gothic structures. It was Italian scholars of the 1300s who first began using the term "Gothic" as a way of condemning earlier, medieval churches, suggesting they



Don't let the shockingly ugly facade fool you, the interior of San Lorenzo in Florence embodies everything that Renaissance intellectuals considered divine.

were so distorted in their proportions and therefore so ugly that they might as well have been built by the Goths — the barbarian savages who centuries earlier had brought down the Roman Empire! Filippo Brunelleschi, the architect of San Lorenzo, was one of those who believed that a church designed and constructed along rational lines would be a more accurate reflection of divinity than any Gothic structure, and through his plans for San Lorenzo he set out to prove that point.

Although you'd never know it when you enter San Lorenzo today, the church has a complicated, murky history, and it was designed and constructed piecemeal. The original church may have been the first ever built in Florence. It was consecrated by St. Ambrose of Milan in 393 on a site now near the center of Florence, but which was then outside the walls of the earlier and much smaller city. For centuries that building served as the city's cathedral, before the bishop's "cathedra," or chair (which makes a church a cathedral), was transferred in the seventh century to Santa Reparata, the ancestor of Florence's present cathedral. San Lorenzo was rebuilt during the 1100s, and that was the church Brunelleschi was initially hired to expand rather than replace.

In 1418, a group of well-do-to citizens living in the parish of San Lorenzo decided on the common goal of rebuilding their decrepit, 300-year-old church. Each member of the group agreed to contribute funds for the construction of his own family's chapel, to be located around the transept of the church. Leading this group was the wealthiest man in the neighborhood and one of the richest in the city, Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici, founder of the Medici family fortune, who promised to pay for the building of a sacristy, the large room where priests store and put on their vestments for the celebration of masses. But Giovanni's money came with conditions: in exchange for underwriting the cost of construction, the Medici would gain exclusive use of the sacristy as their family burial site, and they would also have the privilege of a double chapel at one end of the transept. This gave the

Medici patronage rights over a traditionally important part of the church complex — the sacristy — and also twice as much space within the church as any other family that was part of the neighborhood-sponsored project. The Medici were beginning to flex their political muscles in order to assert their superior status through architecture.

Given who controlled the largest amount of money, it's not surprising that Brunelleschi began by designing and building the sacristy, originally planned as an addition to the old church. Today this structure, attached to the left side of the present church, is called the Old Sacristy, to distinguish it from the second and later sacristy on the opposite side, designed by Michelangelo in the 1520s and more often designated as the

Medici Chapel. With Giovanni di Bicci financing the building program, work on the sacristy progressed rapidly. Completed in 1428-29, it's the first Renaissance architectural space that could actually be entered and experienced. Beneath its central dome is the simple sarcophagus of Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici and his wife Piccarda Bueri, designed by Brunelleschi's adopted son, Andrea Buggiano. Set into one wall is a much more elaborate tomb made of bronze and an extremely expensive stone known as porphyry, which holds the bodies of Giovanni di Bicci's grandsons, Piero and Giovanni de' Medici. The work was commissioned in 1472 from the prominent sculptor Verrocchio by Piero's son and the ruler of Florence, Lorenzo the Magnificent.

In its plan, the sacristy is a perfect square, extended on one side by a smaller but equally exact square area for the altar. Brunelleschi used modules of space to create a simple system of proportions. As an example of this system, each story of the building, including its central dome, is related to the height of the entire building in the ratio of one to three. Although this may sound tedious or irrelevant, the end result of simple ratios and proportions is a structure that conveys a strong sense of harmony — an ordered and restful space that Brunelleschi and many of his erudite contemporaries believed reflected divine order and harmony.

Although the colorful decorations in terracotta and stucco that adorn the walls and the pendentives that uphold the dome of the sacristy are the work of Brunelleschi's long-time friend, the sculptor Donatello, it seems that Brunelleschi was unhappy with the idea of having the perfect harmonies of his architecture interrupted by sculpture, even sculpture created by someone he knew and admired. There are stories from the time that describe Donatello up on a scaffold, happily slapping stucco onto preconstructed armatures, while a furious Brunelleschi threw fits on the floor below.

Work had also begun in 1418 on the transept project — all those family chapels, with each one to be paid for by a different family — but due to financial problems and disagreements among the participants, work had pretty much ceased by the time Giovanni di Bicci de' Medici died in 1429.



Old Sacristy of S. Lorenzo
architecture by Brunelleschi
sculpture by Donatello



Interior of S. Lorenzo, designed by Brunelleschi

Brunelleschi, by then hard at work on the greatest project of his life, the construction of the cathedral dome, was called back to S. Lorenzo around 1434 and asked to create a plan for replacing the original nave. But it wasn't until 1442 that Giovanni di Bicci's son Cosimo, by that point well established as the de facto ruler of Florence, declared himself ready to pay for the construction of a whole new church — of course to be designed by Brunelleschi. Although work on the cathedral dome was reaching a crucial point, Brunelleschi — workaholic that he was — agreed to take on the additional commission.

But once again, Medici money came with political strings attached. In exchange for his 40,000 florins, Cosimo demanded the right to be buried in front of the high altar, exclusive patronage rights to the altar area (considered the most sacred as well as the most prestigious part of the church), and a promise that no family crest other than his own would appear in the church. What the other families involved in the church project thought of that is not recorded, but it's easy to imagine they weren't happy about it. By assuming the heavy building costs and exacting privileges in return, Cosimo had effectively transformed a parish church into a Medici family church, despite the continued presence of the other families who maintained control of their chapels in the transept. When we consider that San Lorenzo was the site of the first church in Florence, we could say that Cosimo also symbolically claimed the entire religious history of the building for himself and his family. In a city that proudly proclaimed itself a republic, this form of take-over patronage must have seemed extraordinary, and it had definite princely overtones.

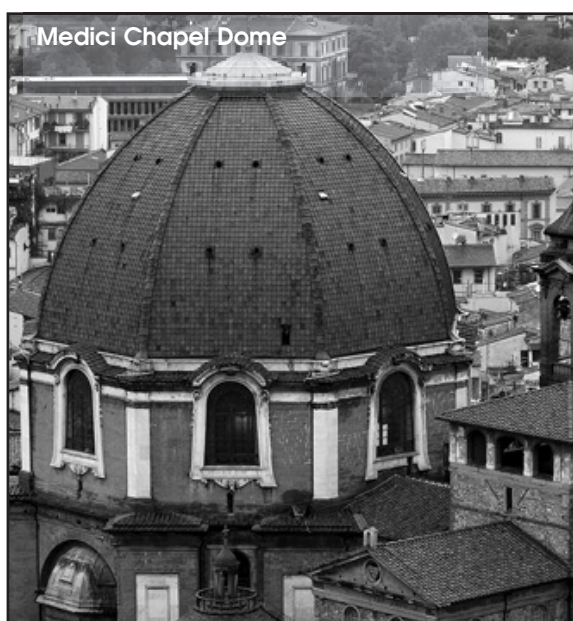
The long delay in the resumption of the building program meant that Brunelleschi didn't live to see the church he'd designed, except perhaps in his imagination. When he died in 1446, he'd completed the plans, but not a single stone had yet been quarried for his project of rebuilding San Lorenzo. Work went on under his assistant, Michelozzo, and continued into the 1470s. One important part of the church that Brunelleschi never designed was the facade, and no clue has ever come to light about his intentions for the

exterior. In spite of Michelangelo's later, ambitious dream for completing the church facade in the 1500s under a new generation of Medici, the front of San Lorenzo remains a shockingly ugly wall of raw masonry.

But don't let the unattractive exterior put you off. Inside, it's a different story. The church may not have been built exactly as Brunelleschi had planned it, but it still gives us a good idea of what the architect had in mind. His modular system appears again, as in the sacristy, but in a more complex form. Architectural historians go on for pages, describing in minute detail the different ratios and proportional interrelations of the parts of the interior of San Lorenzo, but a few examples will suffice here: the nave is exactly twice as tall as the side aisles. The width of the nave equals the height of the nave arcade. Even the linear patterning of the floor emphasizes these relationships, and although not part of Brunelleschi's original plan, it reinforces the modular system. The result of all this mathematical calculation is a supremely harmonious interior that seems to draw the visitor inward, toward the altar.

The ceiling is flat and the round-topped windows high on the outer walls, and round windows over the arches flanking the nave, as well as windows in the dome, are filled with panes of clear glass, allowing abundant natural light to enter the interior. Down each side of the nave runs a series of arches supported on columns — a bow to ancient Roman basilicas and the Early Christian churches built in imitation of them that Brunelleschi had seen during his lengthy stays in Rome. An unusual feature is the use of "impost blocks" — squares of masonry placed on top of the column capitals that separate the columns from the arches they support, giving the impression that the arches are floating above the columns. This lightens what could be a ponderous impression created by the identical rows of columns and arches that extend the length of the nave.

The architect specified gray "pietra serena" (serene stone) for the columns, their ancient Roman-style capitals, and all trim, while every other surface is white. This two-tone system was so influential that it continued to be used in Florence for both public and domestic architecture into the 19th and early 20th centuries. The result in San Lorenzo is an austere but harmonious alternation of gray and white that emphasizes the elegant geometry of the modular system. Here, in a rationally constructed, man-made space that echoes what Brunelleschi believed is God's rationally created universe, the great architect created a whole new definition of sacred space, a most appropriate place to worship a God he considered to be the Great Mathematician in the Sky.



Medici Chapel Dome

TRAVEL TIPS



Michelangelo's Laurentian Library

WHERE IS IT?

San Lorenzo is less than two blocks away from the cathedral. With the baptistery behind you, exit the Piazza del Duomo going north on Borgo San Lorenzo, walk a block and turn left, and there's the church.

WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

Florence is such a small city that just about everything else is nearby! But closest to San Lorenzo itself are various later additions to the church, all related to the ubiquitous Medici family. Without going more than a few steps you can visit Michelangelo's Laurentian Library, added to the church complex in the 1500s, as well as that same artist's majestic and ultimately mysterious Medici Chapel, which, as noted in the main article, forms a kind of second sacristy on the right side of San Lorenzo. To enter the Medici Chapel, however, requires going through the ugliest and most oppressive place in Florence, the "Cappella dei Principi," or Chapel of the Princes, the grotesquely over-decorated burial place of the 17th-century through 18th-century Medici dukes. This is entered from behind the church, in the Piazza Madonna degli Aldobrandini. A block away, at the corner of via de' Gori and via Cavour, is the Palazzo Medici. But if you're tired of looking at art, along the right flank of San Lorenzo, and extending for several blocks, is the Mercato di San Lorenzo, the most famous street market in Florence, where you can find all kinds of Florentine goodies — leather goods, ceramics, scarves and souvenirs.

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RECIPES Culinary crossroads

by Dolores Sennebogen

Le Marche lies on Italy's eastern coast between the Apennine Mountains and the Adriatic Sea. Its cooking is influenced by its neighbors — Emilia Romagna to the north, Abruzzo to the south and Umbria and Tuscany to the west. Menus reflect the same love of truffles, rich meats, squab, rabbit, legumes and grains that are served throughout Central Italy. Restaurants and home cooks along the Adriatic also take advantage of the sea's bounty. Holidays often call for vincisgrassi. One of Italy's richest lasagne, it is layered pasta baked with fresh porcini, chicken giblets, and béchamel sauce. The region's capital is the mountain-locked city of Ascoli Piceno, and a signature dish of Le Marche hails from there. Fried Olive Ascolane are known to surprise visitors who come upon them for the first time. Bite into these golden, crunchy olive nuggets and discover a stuffing of ground meats seasoned with Parmigiano, nutmeg and sometimes cinnamon. They have been described as flavor bombs of local ingenuity and are a labor of love for the industrious cook. Often Marchegiana mothers, daughters, aunts and cousins will get together for a congenial visit to work on this traditional dish, assembly-line style, for an upcoming holiday or special occasion.



OLIVE FRITTE ALL'ASCOLANA (Fried Stuffed Olives)

2 pounds pitted green olives (see note)
1-1/2 pounds ground veal
1/2 pound ground pork
2 slices prosciutto or mortadella,
finely chopped
Butter
2 slices dry bread soaked in milk
1/2 cup grated Parmigiano cheese
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
5-6 eggs, divided
Flour
Bread crumbs
Olive oil

Sauté the meat in some butter until fully cooked. Break up the bread and add it to the meat. Mix in the cheese, nutmeg and 3 eggs. Stuff the cavities of the pitted olives with the filling. Beat the additional eggs. Roll the olives in some flour, dip them in the beaten eggs and then roll them in dry bread crumbs. Fry in hot oil until golden. Drain on paper towels and



serve hot or warm as appetizers to nibble. The olives may be stuffed the day before and refrigerated. Fry when ready to serve.

NOTE ABOUT THE OLIVES: Ascoli Piceno is noted for its large, meaty olives. The olives used for this dish need to be quite large. If you can't find Ascolane olives, use colossal Cerignola, Sicilian or Spanish olives. Try to buy them pitted or purchase an olive pitter from a specialty store or culinary website. Failing that, some home cooks in Le Marche have mastered a technique of cutting around the pit starting from the top in a spiral fashion, much like peeling an apple. They re-form the olive to its original shape and stuff it.

— JCCIA Cuisine & Culture Committee
"An Evening in Le Marche"



BRODETTO DI PESCE (Fish Stew)

3-4 pounds assorted fish (see text)
5 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes or to taste
1 small onion, minced
1/4 cup fresh flat-leaf parsley, minced
1 cup dry white wine
2 cups fresh plum tomatoes, peeled,
seeded and chopped
1 tablespoon tomato paste
Salt and black pepper to taste
1 cup water
Slices of grilled country bread

You may combine whatever non-oily fish and shellfish that are available. The fish should

be firm-fleshed fillets cut into chunks, and any shellfish should be thoroughly cleaned. Some suggestions: monkfish, turbot, red snapper, whiting, squid, shrimp, clams or mussels. Pour the olive oil into a large saucepan over medium heat. Sauté the garlic and red pepper flakes for 2 minutes or until the garlic is golden. Remove the garlic from the pan and discard it. Add the onion and sauté until translucent. Sprinkle in the parsley and add the wine and simmer until it reduces slightly. Add the tomatoes, tomato paste, salt and pepper. Simmer about 10-15 minutes longer. Add the water and heat through. Start adding the cut-up fish at intervals, beginning with the ones that take longest to cook. Add shellfish such as clams or mussels (discard any that do not close to the touch). Add a little extra water if the sauce is too thick, and a little extra tomato paste if it is too thin. You are aiming for a stew and not a soup. Continue cooking until the shellfish open and the fish is opaque throughout, about 5 minutes more. Discard any shellfish that do not open. Rub slices of grilled bread with a clove of cut garlic, if desired, and place each slice in a warmed bowl. Ladle the brodetto over the bread and serve. Place extra bowls on the table for the discarded shells.

— Dolores Sennebogen



AGNELLO A SCOTTADITO (Grilled Lamb Chops)

8-12 small rib lamb chops
1/4 cup olive oil
1 tablespoon finely chopped rosemary
2 cloves garlic, pressed
Salt to taste
Freshly ground black pepper
Fresh lemon

Trim any fat from the chops and wipe them with damp paper towels. Blend the remaining ingredients, except the lemon, into a paste. Arrange the chops in a glass or ceramic dish and rub or brush the oil mixture over them. Cover and refrigerate at least two hours. (May be left overnight.) Thirty minutes before grilling, take the chops out of the fridge. Grill the lamb chops over hot coals for 5 minutes. Turn and cook an additional 5 minutes, or to the desired degree of doneness. They should be pink in the middle. Test with the sharp point of a knife if you are unsure. Place the chops on a warm platter and serve with wedges of lemon.

— Dolores Sennebogen

(See Recipes on Page 53)

LOU&A

(Continued from Page 43)

D’Este has reached heights few historians ever attain, delivering lauded books on Patton, Churchill and other figures of World War II. Yet all the exploration, research and narrative keep him firmly anchored in his roots — and the most evasive military story of all, that concerning his own Italian father. It’s a tale of intrigue and adventure he’s still trying to unravel, as D’Este revealed to Fra Noi.

Fra Noi: Tell us about your family roots; you have quite a pedigree of military history in your family tree.

Carlo D’Este: I grew up a child of World War II and my dad, who was adopted, was from Trieste. During the war, my dad was way too old to serve, so he did his service at Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, Calif. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, and because it was such a military hub — naval bases and military personnel everywhere — I just grew up with a fascination about World War II. When I became a U.S. Army officer in Europe, it gave me a chance to explore some of the things I was fascinated about.

FN: When did it dawn on you that you wanted to write military history?

CD: I went to Normandy and stood at Omaha Beach at sunset, and I thought about what great stories were still there to be told. It was the mid-1970s. We went down at sunset, took our shoes off, and waded into the English Channel — and you realize you’re standing where history was made. It’s so peaceful, you see children playing, and you see remnants of the war that are still left there. And you think: “How did all this history happen?” It left me thinking it was something I might want to try to do.

FN: There’s a tension in writing military history where you want to document things accurately, yet fill in blanks where you recreate a scene in a way that stays faithful to what people were thinking, feeling and doing. How do you walk that line?

CD: It’s a challenge. One of the things we have to do when we write non-fiction is understand that people’s lives and reputations are on the line. You have to try to be as accurate as humanly possible, and search out all the information you can find. Now 100 percent is not humanly possible, and you may miss something or not get it 100 percent right. But my objective from the outset is to be aware of what went on and capture this to the best of my ability.

FN: How did your father come to America? This had something to do with wartime Europe, correct?

CD: I think it was 1927, and he was one of the few foreigners allowed into America because immigration in the 1920s was very highly restrictive. He was a world-class musician, he played the oboe and English horn, and got a musician’s visa that allowed him to come to America. He played in the NBC orchestra with Arturo Toscanini, so that will tell you how good he was. He ended up in New York and that was when he met my mother in the 1930s, a concert singer who had her own radio program on CBS in the 1930s. Just before I was born, they moved to California and he went to work for the San Francisco Orchestra. I was born in Oakland and I can’t play a musical instrument to save my life.

FN: Why did he leave Italy?

CD: It was because of Benito Mussolini and the rise of fascism. He didn’t want to live in Italy because of the conditions he saw rising. And once he came here, he could never go back. He had dual citizenship, but knew if he’d gone back, he’d be conscripted into the Italian army.

FN: It sounded like he had personal reasons for not liking war.

CD: Trieste in 1919 belonged to Austria, so when World War I came along, he was conscripted into the Austrian army and rose to the rank of Captain. They put him in command of a military company and he wound up in Russia. When Russia dropped out of the war, the unit was left stranded. They had

left him with a trunk of gold coins and he had to use them for bribes to get back to home. That was the trigger that caused him to hate war.

FN: It sounds like a great military story to tell.

CD: One of my goals is to go to Trieste and to try to trace something on him, and that’s going to be difficult. He was adopted. I don’t even know if my mother knew the background on my father’s birth father. It’s a little bit of a mystery. I presume he knew the name of his birth father, but there were two things he didn’t talk about: his service in World War I and his biological father. As a kid, it just didn’t occur to me to ask him about the war, and it was one of the great regrets of my life. He was quite gregarious, but that was one area that was pretty much off limits. He saw things that haunted him, and hated everything about war and what it did to people. He saw Mussolini and said, “That’s enough.” He was one of the lucky ones to leave.

FN: So for all the honors and great stories you’ve told about war, this sounds like one epic you’re still chasing down.

CD: (Sighs.) I just wish I knew more. It would’ve been something for us as a family to know — what he experienced and how everything changed for him. I do know this: He carried a pistol with him throughout the war, but it had a broken firing pin, and he would’ve never picked it up in anger and fired it at another human being. Knowing how compassionate he was, I can see that. He knew it was broken, too, and never made an attempt to replace it.

NEWSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 43)

The shows are often constructed as procedural “whodunits,” and Giuntoli hopes even fantasy-averse audiences give it a chance.

“It deals with monsters and fairy tales, but it’s not overly confusing or difficult to follow,” Giuntoli told The Huffington Post. “The fairy tales aren’t really the main focus — it’s really a cop drama. So that was the exciting part for me. It’s like ‘CSI’ meets ‘X-Files.’”

Giuntoli’s performance in the early episodes is surprisingly grounded given the show’s premise, and the actor believably portrays a regular Joe forced to see the world in a frightening new light.

“I was trying to play as real as possible with this,” Giuntoli told Collider. “I wanted everything to be real, and in the pilot, I’m playing it perpetually stunned in a way, and it lightens up over the series.”

Headlining a splashy new TV series on one of the big networks is a tall order for any actor, especially for a relatively unknown talent like Giuntoli.

In fact, Giuntoli never expected he’d end up as an actor.

“I was never one of those people who knew what they wanted to do right away,” Giuntoli told The Huffington Post.

Born in Milwaukee and raised in St. Louis, Giuntoli majored in international business and finance at Indiana University. Like the show he now headlines, the specifics of Giuntoli’s Italian-American back-story are a mystery due to his low initial profile, but his path to stardom is fully accounted for. While working in finance, Giuntoli was approached by casting scouts for the MTV reality competition “Road Rules,” he told The Huffington Post.

Giuntoli participated in the show’s 2003 season, which filmed in the South Pacific, and the competition netted him enough winnings to give his growing interest in acting a reasonable shot.

But Giuntoli was uninterested in drinking MTV’s reality show Kool-Aid, unlike certain other stardom-seeking Italian-Americans — cough, the cast of “Jersey Shore,” cough.

“Fame for fame’s sake is never a good road to go down,” Giuntoli told The

Huffington Post. “For me, it was just a fun experience. I traveled around the world when I was 21 years old — on somebody else’s dime. It doesn’t get any better.”

Giuntoli moved to L.A. and joined the acclaimed Echo Theater Company. He began booking guest spots on network dramas like “Cold Case,” “Grey’s Anatomy” and “Without a Trace,” as well as the cable comedy “Hot in Cleveland.” His role on “Cleveland,” which co-stars Betty White, was one of the performances that caught the attention of a member of “Grimm’s” creative team.

“The director of [‘Grimm’s’] pilot called me in,” Giuntoli told Collider. “I had worked on a pilot called ‘Love Bites’ with him, and the producers I worked with on ‘Hot in Cleveland,’ so they knew me from comedic worlds, and they wanted someone who could be light, too, because [‘Grimm’] is pretty heavy.”

REVIEW

(Continued from Page 43)

Puccini used his new wealth to build a villa at Torre del Lago where he could compose undisturbed. At the best of times he was a slow worker, traveling often to premieres or prestigious revivals of his operas, ever hard to please in the matters of subject and libretto, and continually taking up projects only to abandon them. Puccini legitimized his eight-year relationship with the married woman Elvira Gemignani, with whom he had already had a son, after the death of her husband in 1904. Their union was far from happy, however, and Puccini’s frequent affairs made Elvira jealous and embittered. Her accusations drove one of their maidservants to suicide, whose innocence was proven through her autopsy. The resulting scandal and legal proceedings delayed Puccini’s composition of “La fanciulla del West” (1910).

It was Puccini’s other vice, chain-smoking, that lead to his eventual death. Diagnosed with throat cancer in 1923, Puccini died of a heart attack after emergency surgery in 1924, leaving his final opera, “Turandot,” incomplete. Franco Alfano undertook the opera’s completion, using the 23 pages of chicken scratch left on Puccini’s hospital bedside table to write the final two scenes. However, at its sold-out premiere in 1926, conductor Arturo Toscanini chose to stop the performance where Puccini’s writing ended.

“Puccini: Gianni Schicchi”

Conducted by Giuseppe Patanè

Performed by the Munich Radio Orchestra

The third one-act opera in Puccini’s triple-bill “Il trittico,” “Gianni Schicchi” is a dark comedy about greedy relatives getting tricked out of a wealthy uncle’s inheritance, and the 1988 Eurodisc recording is spectacular in nearly all ways. Italian conductor Giuseppe Patane’s tempi are impeccable, propelling the animated orchestra forward with unwavering momentum but for momentary, purposeful reprieves. Rolando Panerai is both strong as Gianni Schicchi and fantastically comedic while imitating the deceased Uncle Buoso. Helen Donath’s “O mio babbino caro” perfectly balances beauty and insincerity, and Peter Seiffert’s aria “Avete torto” — one of the longest passages Puccini wrote for a tenor — is simply sublime. The CD’s only fault is its lack of division, splitting the opera into only two tracks. But, with a run time of less than an hour, it’s not such a burden to listen all the way through to hear your favorite aria.

Available at www.barnesandnoble.com

INSIGHT

(Continued from Page 45)

would be turned down and have to make another appointment. There are some horror stories, believe me, and over the slightest of issues. Some minutes went by and we

didn’t know how this was going to end. She graciously said that I could have them translated into Italian and send them to her office as soon as possible.

I was discouraged by the additional delay, but relieved that we didn’t have to make another appointment. We were informed that our paperwork would be sent to Italy and the information recorded as soon as the Miami office received the two translated documents. In a surreal twist, Ms. Valore revealed that she came from the very same part of Italy as my grandfather. She also told us that earlier in the week, she had to turn someone down because they didn’t qualify, and that they all cried. She escorted us out of the office and we thanked her, after which I breathed a huge sigh of relief.

After flying home and getting the papers translated, I Fed-Exed them to Miami and within six months I had confirmation from Italy. I was officially an Italian citizen!

I am only half Italian, but on that day I felt 100 percent. The next week, I flew to Miami and obtained my passport. It was the culmination of one wonderful journey, and with EU access to 21 countries, the beginning of another. I’ve never felt closer to my Italian relatives.

Grazie mille, Grandpa!

PERSONAGGI

(Continued from Page 47)

country’s huge debt problem. After all, Monti holds a degree in economics and management from the prestigious Bocconi University and a graduate degree from Yale University, where he studied under Nobel Prize-winning economist James Tobin. After 15 years of teaching in Turin, Monti moved closer to home in 1999, becoming rector of Bocconi. He has been the university’s president since 2004.

Although less known among voters, Monti is actually one of the few figures in Italian politics to enjoy bipartisan support. In 1994, the center-right coalition of the first Berlusconi government appointed Monti to the European Commission, where he held the vital post of commissioner of internal market, financial services and financial integration, customs and taxation. The difficult position was deftly handled by “Super Mario,” as the press started labeling him at the time.

In 1999, the center-left government of Massimo D’Alema confirmed Monti’s appointment to the European Commission, this time as commissioner on competition policy. Through his office, Monti launched numerous legal battles against industrial giants such as General Electric and Microsoft. He was instrumental in blocking the merger of G.E. and Honeywell, and launched an investigation of the virtual monopoly that Microsoft held over the PC world in Europe. That action resulted in a \$1.35 billion fine.

Monti’s tireless work ethic might very well come from his family’s emigrant background. His grandfather, Abramo, moved to Argentina in 1888, along with his four brothers. That year, Abramo, Battista, Genesio, Antonio and Francesco opened a small business producing bottled water, beer and various liqueurs. “They were all looking to make it on the other side of the ocean,” Maurizio Lucca told the ANSA agency. The great-grandson of Genesio and a distant cousin of Mario Monti, Lucca is still running the business today under the name Casa Monti. The company is located in Lujan, the same town just outside Buenos Aires in which the Monti brothers originally settled.

Back in the 19th century, the company’s name was Union Italiana Hermanos Monti, and it grew quickly, becoming the first national distributor for the famous Argentine beer Quilmes. Monti’s father, Giovanni, was born in Argentina, but moved to Italy with Mario’s grandfather in 1907. In the ’90s, Mario Monti visited his Argentine relatives and the places where his grandfather and father once lived. The family has come a long way from the hard eco-

(Continued on the next page)



This recipe requires the use of a rosette iron that comes with a perforated wheel which that screws onto a metal handle. It can be purchased in kitchen specialty stores. Beat the eggs well with the salt and sugar. Add the flour and milk alternately until all of the flour is incorporated into a smooth batter. Stir in the brandy. In a small saucepan heat at least 1-1/2 cups of corn or canola oil to about 375 degrees. Dip the rosette wheel into the hot oil for 20 seconds to heat it. Then shake off the excess oil and dip the wheel into the batter. Immediately dip the coated iron in the oil and fry until the pastry is golden crisp, about 30 to 40 seconds. Lift the iron, letting the excess oil drip into the pot, and use a fork to loosen the pastry. Place it on paper towels to absorb any excess oil. Continue making rosettes until all of the batter is used. You will need to heat the rosette wheel in the hot oil for 10 to 20 seconds each time before dipping it in the batter. Serve the rosettes drizzled with honey or sprinkled with confectioners' sugar (or both).

— adapted from Wilma LaSasso
"Regional Italian Cooking"



COOK'S TIP

When frying dough for rosettes or other Italian pastries, it's important to maintain the oil at the recommended temperature. At lower temperatures, the pastry becomes laden with oil before it becomes golden. If your rosettes are not crisp, the batter is too thick. Add a few drops of milk. Another hint for successful rosettes is to avoid immersing the rosette wheel into the batter completely. If the batter comes up over the top of the wheel, the rosettes will be difficult to remove.



CASTAGNE (Roasted Chestnuts)

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Wipe the chestnuts with a damp cloth. Lay them flat-side down on a cutting board or on a kitchen towel. Use a small sharp knife to cut an X on the top of each chestnut. Don't skip this step. It helps steam to escape while the chestnuts are roasting and keeps them from exploding in the oven. Roast the chestnuts in a baking pan or rimmed cookie sheet for 25 to 30 minutes. They will start to burst open a little. If you roast them while serving a meal, they will be ready to bring to the table warm and ready to peel.

— Dolores Sennebogen



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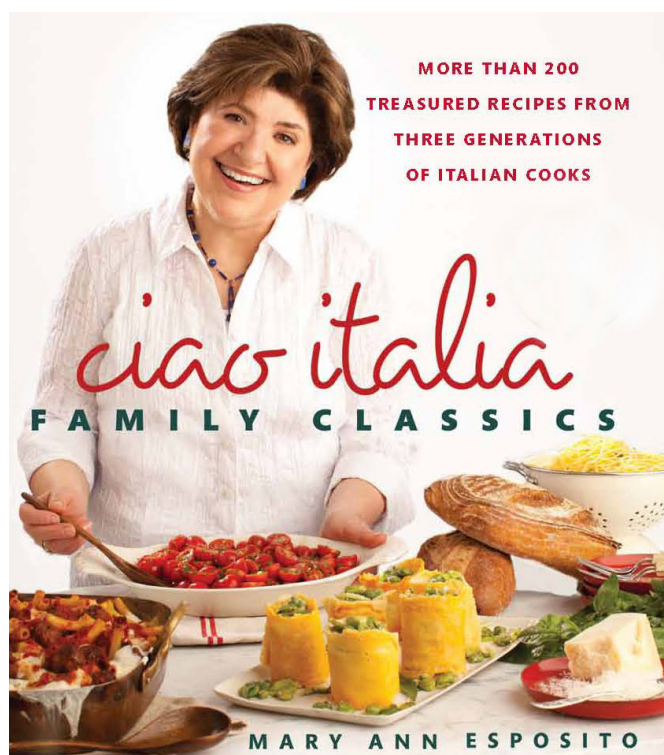
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MARY ANN ESPOSITO AND UNICO



UNICO National is proud to showcase stories and recipes from our very own National Member, Mary Ann Esposito. Mary Ann Esposito is the host of Ciao Italia, the longest running cooking show. We are very excited to welcome Mary Ann Esposito as a contributing member to ComUNICO.

Soup's On!

Cold winter weather demands something good and comforting from the kitchen. With the release of my latest cookbook, Ciao Italia Family Classics (St. Martins Press, NY) you will have so much to choose from. All the recipes are easy to prepare and the ingredients easy to find.

Soups are always welcome and you will find many to satisfy even the most picky of eaters. One of my favorites is a hearty sausage and barley soup; it is a complete meal in a bowl. Team it with an escarole salad and dinner is ready in no time.

For Italians, soup was born out of what were on hand, even leftovers found their way into soup with surprising results.

Here are two soup recipes from my new book for you to try. The first is called passatelli and goes by many other names; passatelli are “noodles” made from bread crumbs, cheese and egg and grated on a cheese grater. They are served in a good chicken broth and many versions exist in Italy.

Meatball soup has always been a family favorite and can easily be made in a soup pot as well as a slow cooker or crock pot. Vary the vegetables with what is in season.

Filling meatball soup is one of my choices for weekend cooking. I have streamlined the process by using already cut up mixed frozen vegetables and prepared broth. The meatballs can be made two days ahead and refrigerated

Zuppa di Polpettine / Meatball Soup

Serves 8-10

2 slices good quality bread, crust removed
1/3 cup milk or ricotta cheese
1/2 cup grated Parmigiano Reggiano or Pecorino cheese plus extra for sprinkling
2 tablespoons minced parsley
1 tablespoon grated lemon zest
Salt to taste
Grinding black pepper
1/4-pound ground chuck
1/4-pound ground pork
1/4-pound ground veal
One 2-pound bag frozen mixed vegetables
One 14 ounce can cannellini beans, drained and well rinsed
2 quarts low sodium canned chicken or beef broth
One 28-ounce can diced plum tomatoes
1-cup water
1-teaspoon celery salt
1 whole bay leaf

Tear the bread into pebble size pieces and place them in a bowl. Pour the milk over the bread or stir in the ricotta cheese. Let the mixture stand for 5 minutes. Stir in the grated cheese, parsley, lemon zest, salt and pepper and mix well. Add the meats and mix with your hands to combine the ingredients well.

Preheat the oven to 350F

Have a bowl of water handy to wet your hands while making the meatballs. Scoop up about 2 teaspoons of the mixture and roll it into a small ball the size of a marble with your hands. Place

the meatballs on a lightly oiled baking sheet. Continue making meatballs and place them on a baking sheet, spacing them so they do not touch one another. Bake them for about 8 minutes or until they begin to brown. Transfer them with a slotted spoon to a soup pot or crock-pot. Stir in the vegetables, cannellini beans and broth. If the tomatoes are whole and not pre-diced, use a clean kitchen scissors to cut the tomatoes into bits right in the can and add them to the soup. Bring the mixture to a boil, add the water celery salt and bay leaf, then lower the heat to simmer and cook covered for 10 minutes.

Correct the seasonings if desired. Remove and discard the bay leaf.

Ladle into soup bowls and top with extra grated cheese.

Variation: add 1 cup cooked small pasta like ditalini or elbows to the soup.

Saving time: keeping a container of grated cheese in the refrigerator eliminates a step in this recipe.

My mother made a coarse type of soup pasta called passatelli that was grated on a cheese grater and then cooked in boiling chicken broth. The pasta had a distinct lemon flavor because of the grated lemon zest that was mixed into the dough. This is a very old recipe with many variations and names.

Passatelli

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons unbleached all purpose flour
3/4 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese
1 cup toasted fresh bread crumbs
Grated zest of 1 medium lemon
1 1/2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
2 large eggs, lightly beaten with a fork
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

8 cups homemade chicken broth

In a bowl, mix the flour, cheese, and bread crumbs together. In another bowl, mix the remaining ingredients, except the broth, together. Add to the flour mixture and mix well with your hands. Gather the dough into a ball; the dough will be quite rough. Wrap it in plastic and refrigerate for at least 6 to 7 hours, or overnight, or until firm enough to grate.

Using the large holes of a stand cheese grater, grate the dough onto a clean towel.

In a large pot, bring the broth to a boil. Add the passatelli and boil for about 3 minutes, or until the pasta floats to the surface. Serve immediately.

Note: Uncooked passatelli freezes very well. Spread the grated uncooked pasta out on a floured towel lined baking sheet and freeze until hard. Transfer to plastic bags. Do not defrost before cooking.

**You can find more of
Mary Ann's recipe's
by visiting her website:
www.ciaoitalia.com**



UNICO NATIONAL OFFICE HOSTS A CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE



Glenn and Terri enjoy some of the many desserts!



Eastern Regional District Governor, Chip Calabro, Joyce O'Hara, UNICO National Bookkeeper and Bob Appaluccio.



Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti and Grandson Bruno.



There was an over-abundance of food...as usual!



The National Office Staff: Joyce, Pat, Sal, Lisa and Patrizia.



Guests enjoying a fabulous feast!



Joyce, Lisa, Andy Manicone, Brooklyn UNICO President, and Patrizia.



Past National Presidents: Frank Cannata, Sal Mangano and Mike D'Arminio take time for a picture.



Time to enjoy the many homemade desserts!



Patty Hirsch, Lyndhurst Chapter President and members of the Kearny Chapter taking time for dessert.



Past National First Ladies, Carol Cannata and Jenny DiMino.



Manny Alfano, Past President Frank Cannata and Brooklyn UNICO President Andy Manicone.

Our Annual Christmas Open House was a HUGE Success!! We were joined by over 60 UNICO members and their families. We also welcomed National President Glenn Pettinato and First Lady Terri Pettinato. Terri brought a huge tray of her homemade cookies..barely a crumb left. We look forward to our next Christmas Open House and hope you can join us!