

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

NOVEMBER 2012 • VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 01



WATERBURY Celebrates 90 Years!



The largest Italian American service organization in the United States



**"Service
above *Self*"**



**PRESIDENT DONNINI
AT SEASIDE'S
COLUMBUS PARADE**
Page 25

**ANDREA BOCELLI
CROSSOVER KING!**
Page 39



**MULTI-TALENTED
CRISTINA
FONTANELLI**
Page 47

RUTHERFORD 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Rutherford Chapter members gather for a picture to celebrate their 30th Anniversary.



Standing from left: Anthony Bengivenga, Plainfields' Chapter; Rick D'Arminio, UNICO National First Vice President; John DiNapoli, UNICO Foundation President; Pat Pelonero, Phil Sergio, Saddle Brook Chapter and Mike Colucci, Plainfields Chapter. Seated from left: David Donnini, UNICO National President; Manuela D'Arminio, Ann Walko, UNICO National Second Vice President and Angela DiNapoli.



Charter Members Thomas Fuscaldo, James Cuzzo and Anthony Bertone are joined by Chapter President Frank Tidona.



From left: Barbara Laborim, Joan Tidona, Mary Ann Re, James Cuzzo and Dolores Gennaro.



UNICO National Past National Presidents: John Alati, Frank Tidona, Joe Coccia, Andre' DiMino and Joe Agresti are joined by UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli.

2013 CALENDAR ORDER



UNICO National 2013 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar

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 information 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.

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Announcing the 2013 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar



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

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ComUNICO

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COVER PHOTOS

MAIN Top: UNICO National President David Donnini and Waterbury Chapter President Joanne D'Angelo accept an Official Proclamation from Connecticut State Senator Richard Blumenthal at the Chapter's 90th Anniversary Celebration.

SIDE BAR TOP: UNICO National President gives the thumbs up at the Seaside Columbus Day Parade. (Page 25)

SIDE BAR BOTTOM: Multi-talented performer Cristina Fontanelli is our featured artist this month. (Page 47)

2012-2013 CALENDAR

UNICO National Open House	November 30 - December 1, 2012	National Office, Fairfield, New Jersey
Eastern Regional Meeting	January 11-12, 2013	Woodlands Inn & Resort, Wilkes Barre, PA
Mid-Year Board Meeting	March 8-10, 2013	Embassy Suites, Las Vegas, Nevada

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Message from National President David Donnini

First of all I would like to say HAPPY BIRTHDAY UNICO NATIONAL! On October 21, 2012, I had the privilege of attending our beloved organization's 90th celebration in Waterbury, Connecticut. As our National Secretary, Francine Nido always says, "The birthplace of UNICO". It was a great event and well attended with many UNICO Chapters in the area, National Officers, and many governmental dignitaries. The committee did an excellent job.

As I stated in my speech at the 90th celebration, I am sure Dr. Vastola had no idea of the magnitude and impact that UNICO would have made on our heritage and in our communities. He would be very proud of every UNICAN.

I could not have thought of a better way to honor the 90th year of UNICO and Dr. Vastola as we did this past month than with the various Columbus Day activities. This is a true testament of making our heritage and culture known throughout this great country. It was great to be able to attend many of the events in October. I visited Hackensack, Seaside Heights, Rutherford, and New York City. The New York City Columbus Day parade is the largest celebration of the Italian heritage in the nation. I would like to thank Ralph Contini, the Columbus Day Chair for all of his efforts. Thank you to all of the Chapters who participated. As I attended these events, I felt a great sense of UNITY. UNITY is the key that will help us to continue to grow and continue to do great charitable work.

I was also honored to represent UNICO National at the Annual Jimmy "V" Classic dinner in New York City. Frank Paolercio, Jimmy "V" Chair and I presented a check for cancer research. Over the past 10 years, UNICO National's Jimmy "V" Foundation has donated \$500,000.

During my last visit at our National Office, I had the chance to review some of the old issues of ComUNICO. Years ago, there were small ads sponsored by Chapters. The ads were on various pages. Well this got me thinking. Why not bring that back? I think it would be another inexpensive way for your Chapter to participate in our publication.

The ads are going to be about the size of a business card. For example, the ad would read, "Compliments of the Los Angeles Chapter, www.launico.com". I did discuss it with our Editor, Pat Pelonero. Pat is currently working on pricing.

I am happy to report that we are all settled in our new office. I would like to thank our Executive Administrator, Sal Benvenuti; our Office Manager, Pat Pelonero; and our National Staff. They have done a tremendous job in setting it up and making sure our day to day business did not skip a beat during the process. Thank you to Past National President, Joe Agresti, for his construction skills. Please mark your calendar for November 30th. We will be having an open house along with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

This year is already flying by so fast. We are working on the location for the Mid-Year meeting and will let everyone know as soon as possible. I am also working on the items I stated in my inaugural address in Marco Island.

Here's to another 90!



Photo Courtesy of UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka.

2013 ComUNICO Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
January, 2013	December 17, 2012
March, 2013	February 11, 2013
May, 2013	April 15, 2013
July, 2013	June 10, 2013
September, 2013	August 12, 2013
November, 2013	October 14, 2013
January, 2014	December 16, 2013

EDITOR'S DESK



Editor's Comments: Pat Pelonero

Let me start by saying that I hope everyone now has power to their homes and a sense of recovery from such a devastating storm that hit the New York Tri-State area. I myself and the UNICO National Office were without power for a week and some of our members even longer. It will take time to return to normal as we know it, but we are strong and resilient and with "Service Above Self" we will help each other overcome all obstacles and rebuild better than ever.

This issue of ComUNICO has taken many different turns in getting set. The postponement of the Eastern Regional Meeting and the New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania Meet the President Dinner, set us off in a new direction. Just when we thought it was all planned out we were hit with Hurricane "Sandy", the lights went out and the paper now had to be revamped. Although there are interesting pictures and stories missing from those events, we were able to complete the issue and we think you will enjoy this issue and get a lot of information needed to guide your Chapters and Districts.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Eastern Regional Meeting January 11th and 12th at the Woodlands Inn, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Please contact the National Office for more information. The new forms are in this issue on page 29.

The National Office will be holding an "Open House" and ribbon cutting ceremony November 30th and December 1st. We hope that many of you will be able to attend and see the new office and enjoy some holiday treats. Our National President David Donnini will be here to share in the festivities.

Let me end by saying I hope all our Members have a wonderful "Thanksgiving", a very "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year". It is hard to believe our next issue will be in 2013.



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from First Vice President Richard D'Arminio

As promised, the first of at least three conference calls will take place on October 24th so by the time you get this issue many of the District Governors and Immediate Past District Governors will already have shared ideas before the November Eastern Regional.

And I will either have spoken to every District Governor or have left a message for a call back as I want this new year to be very Communicative so that we assist those Districts and Chapters who are struggling. This is why I have also included Immediate Past District Governors to lend a helping hand. They do not need a title. They need to assist the new District Governor and others and offer fresh new ideas.

To that end, at the Eastern Regional meeting I plan to ask some District Governors and Immediate Past District Governors to serve on my District Advisory Committee in each region. Perry Russo, District Governor of New Jersey District IV suggested that 6 District Governors and some assistance from Immediate Past District Governors monitor five Districts monthly and report back to me as First Vice President.

Eugene LoIacono, District Governor of New Jersey XI suggested that we form a small committee at the last National Convention that recently concluded so that we really try and get to the bottom of what is working and/or not working in every single District.

Ralph Contini, Immediate Past District Governor of New Jersey District VII also suggested that we separate the successful Districts from those that are struggling and make calls and actual visitations to assist those in need.

All three of these District Governors have been successful as shown by the recent awards that they all received at the Convention. All we ask is that you inform us how we can help and what is working or not working so that we can work as a team and lend a helping hand if possible.

I have come to realize that all of the Vice Presidents cannot do a good job alone. There is no way that Second Vice President Ann Walko can solely work with 127 Chapter Presidents. Although I seemingly have it easier since I oversee 31 District Governors it is extremely difficult to assist everyone without a support team or a specific group of District Governors, and Immediate Past District Governors to assist in mentoring them.

MENTORING was a big topic at the First Eastern Regional District Governor's Meeting held on October 14, 2012 and chaired by Chip Calabro. In order for UNICO to survive we need to make sure that each Chapter and each District has officers that are learning, and ready to move up to the various Chapter Officer positions, and then eventually to the

Districts that you are in.

I look forward to putting all of this together with your fellow District Governor's assistance as we plan to move forward now with the conference calls and the upcoming Eastern Regional meeting.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Second Vice President Ann Walko

The Vice Presidents are off to a great start as we embrace the theme of our President, David Donnini, "That without change there isn't progress" and that we must strive for Unity. We are working together to coordinate our energies to represent a wider constituency.

To accommodate the idea of connectedness, I am using social media to connect to the Chapter Presidents. As of this issue, all Presidents will have been able to hear a message by clicking on a hotlink to receive information via a video presentation. The presentation is a follow-up to the President's packages mailed after the Convention.

Through the use of technology, an e-Newsletter called the Chapter President's Forum has been developed to keep Presidents apprised of latest National developments, tips for increasing membership, leadership tips for conducting meetings, ideas for fund-raisers, an area for noting concerns and other news of interest to Chapters.

Communication is an important aspect of organizations and I have begun to connect with Chapters by attending as many events as possible. It was my pleasure to start off the events tour by attending a Membership Night sponsored by the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter. I enjoyed meeting the members of the Chapter and participating in their Horse Race Fund-raiser. My first report was presented at the Executive Committee Meeting at the new National Office and I attended the New Jersey District X meeting sponsored by the Berkeley Heights-New Providence Chapter.

The Basilone Breakfast sponsored by the Raritan Valley Chapter included an introduction to the actor, John Seda, who portrayed Basilone in the movie *The Pacific*. In the afternoon, I attended a Membership and Retention Seminar and gained a great deal of information to share with Chapters and with our Membership and Retention Chairperson. With the First and Third Vice Presidents, I attended the affair in honor of Joe Cerullo in Hazleton, Pennsylvania and supported the Italian Feast sponsored by the Clark Chapter.

It was my pleasure to participate in the Nutley Chapter Columbus Ceremony and then march in the parade. The rain did not dampen the spirits of the participants! Also enjoyed the Columbus Day Parade in New York and Rutherford Chapter's 30th Anniversary at the Venetian was a lovely affair

and I attended the 90th Anniversary celebration in Waterbury, Connecticut as well as supporting the Westfield Chapter's Wine Tasting Fund-raiser. A beautiful meeting was held by the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission presenting the 9th Annual Congress-"2013: the Year of Italian Culture in the United States: Italians in the Making of America". It was good to connect with the Honorable Marie Garibaldi again and to see Dr. William Connell from Seton Hall. As part of my position duties, I served on the Meet the President Committee and enjoyed being part of the program.

Part of the events tour was attendance at the first District Governor's Meeting in Matamoras, Pennsylvania where I gained an insight into what Districts are accomplishing and also learned of some of the problems that need to be addressed in order to maintain membership. Then it was on to the Kearny Chapter's fund-raiser where I enjoyed dinner and a little shopping followed by supporting the Plainfields' Chapter Anniversary celebration and a fund-raiser sponsored by the Saddle Brook Chapter and I also enjoyed a Heritage Event sponsored by the Westwood Chapter...and there will be more events to attend to last until the end of the year!

A workshop is being coordinated by the Vice Presidents in order to connect the National Officers to the District Governors and the Chapter Presidents and will be presented at the Eastern Regional Meeting in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

I am looking forward to talking with you personally by phone and through e-mail. Keep up the good work in "Service Above Self."

CEDAR GROVE, NJ



The Cedar Grove Chapter held its Second Annual Italian Festival in September. The committee members are pictured from left: Steve DeStefano, Co-Chair; Cheri DiPrenda, Past Chapter President Al Zanga, President Sal Ingallina, Committee Chair Pat DeFrancisc and Immediate Past Chapter President John Borgese. Seated from left: Angie Fusco, Rod DiPrenda, Christina Brindisi, Mike DeFrancisci and Kate Brindisi.



First Vice President Rick D'Arminio attended the event. Pictured from left: Immediate Past Chapter President John Borgese; First Vice President Rick D'Arminio, Chapter President Sal Ingallina and Chapter member Mike DeFrancisci.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro

Hello everyone,

Time is moving at a fast pace for me with our UNICO Organization and I love it. This year's Executive Board is working together to come up with new ideas on maintaining membership, and keeping our Chapters united. We are going to visit any District or Chapter which have concerns that need to be addressed.

As your Third Vice President, my duties are to assist the other Vice Presidents and also help our National President, if called upon. I was assigned by President Donnini to assist Mark McDade, our Membership and Retention Director.

Presently, I am working on forming a new Chapter in Rockaway Township. I just began laying the foundation for its development, but if all goes well and this Chapter is formed, please help support the new Chapter.

Also by the next ComUNICO, I hope to have a four member team which will be addressing the Youth Membership. Specifically, looking at any ideas on how we may recruit them. It is imperative to remember without our future young members joining UNICO, all the work that our Past Presidents have done will be forgotten and eventually UNICO will phase out. We cannot ever let this happen. So please try to bring in a new member to your Chapter. One member per person, and we will double in size. To all the men and women that are members your significant other is a great start. Right there we can generate a nice amount of members.

Many of us have young adults still living with us; sign them up as a youth member! It's only \$12 for the year. As soon as they join, let them become active with us, by co-chairing an event. They will feel good about themselves, and about being a part of UNICO.

This November we have started our membership drive at the Garfield Chapter. President Joe Kovacs, Co-Chair Sam Faltas, Co-Chair Anthony Randazzo and I would like to double our Chapters size. One idea is to invite Past National President André DiMino to one of our meetings and let him show us his Italian Heritage Program. That program has been quite successful in various Chapters with acquiring new members into UNICO.

I want to thank New Jersey I Past District Governor Grace Gynn, New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga Sr., New Jersey District XI Governor Gino Lolocono Jr., Pennsylvania District I Governor Joe Cerullo and the Hazleton Chapter for inviting me to their meetings.

Thank you to our Columbus Day Chairperson, Ralph Contini, great job on the parades this year. Hackensack Chairperson Pat Rugerio and

Past National President Mike D'Arminio, thank you for inviting me to your Hackensack Celebration at the UNICO Park. Also, thank you to Past National President Renato Biribin, Joyce Walker and New Jersey District X for another fun day at the Basilone Parade and Breakfast. To the Greater Ramsey Chapter and my good friend 1st Vice President Rick D'Arminio, thank you for a fun night of eating homemade food at the ambulance corps hall. Finally, to my Garfield Chapter for a very nice wreath ceremony. A job well done guys.

Lastly, I want to thank and congratulate Joe Cerullo, whom I have been friends with for about five years now. This man was honored on October 6, 2012 as the Outstanding Italian American by the Hazleton UNICO Chapter and the Knights of Columbus. Joe has helped so many people and is well deserving of this award. Congratulations Joe! It is an honor to have you as my friend.

God Bless all of us, and God Bless UNICO.

DENVILLE, NJ



The Denville Chapter receives a Proclamation from the Mayor proclaiming October 14 to the 18 Denville UNICO Week. Looking on is New Jersey District XI Governor and Denville Chapter Member Gino Lolocono, Denville Mayor Tom Andes, Vice President Pat Strocchia and Chapter President Joe Cardinale.

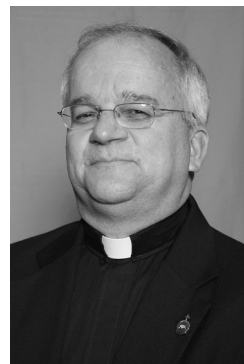


The Denville Chapter celebrates its five year Anniversary.



The Denville Chapter celebrates its five year Anniversary with Charter Members from left: Mark Sabeh, Denise Sabeh, New Jersey District XI Governor Gino Lolocono, Patti Lolocono and Chapter President Joe Cardinale.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



National Chaplain Father Bob Wolfee

There is a story of a hunter in a remote part of Siberia who became lost in a deep forest. Near death from tiredness and exposure, he finally stumbled upon an empty cabin. He spent the night there and by morning was refreshed and fully revived. As he continued his journey, he left behind in the cabin a small portion of rice, some tea, a few matches and some firewood for the next person who might pass there and need warmth and sustenance. Leaving something behind to help someone else in need, probably someone the hunter would never even see or know, was a wonderful way of expressing his thanks for his rescue.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, we are reminded that there is much for which to be thankful. God is the source of all goodness. Every day, each of us has reason to thank God for the many gifts he has given us and for all he has done for us. Unfortunately, sometimes we do not take the time to stop and express our gratitude or we forget to do so. There may be other times when we take for granted the blessings we have been given and even times when we simply are not thankful.

The story of Jesus' miraculous cure of the ten lepers is an example of gratitude and ingratitude at work. Although ten lepers were cured, only the Samaritan leper, a foreigner, took the time to show his gratitude. Considering the political climate of the time, it was surprising that a Samaritan would have even approached Jesus because the Samaritan and the Jewish people did not like each other at all. The Samaritan leper received no more than the others did and yet, he was the only one to express his gratitude. He was the only one who saw and fully understood what had really happened. His faith led him to understand that not only was he healed but also that he had found God's salvation. His return to Jesus was his conversion. He praised God for what Jesus had done for him.

Sometimes, those least likely to be grateful actually are the most grateful. Perhaps it is because they do not feel that God owes them anything. They do not make any claim on his goodness. They see life and its blessings as gifts from God and are thankful for them.

Every day, each of us has reason to be thankful. Are we grateful for what we have, or do we suffer from stinginess and selfishness? How do we show our gratitude, whether to God or to other people? Do people see in us the power and glory of God?

God bless.



SCHOLARSHIP



UNICO National Scholarship Report: Joan Tidona

Dr. Anthony P. Vastola envisioned an Italian American Civic Organization that would benefit society while celebrating our illustrious heritage. Of priority was a commitment to promoting higher education. Today, UNICO continues Dr. Vastola's vision by awarding scholarships to deserving students.

UNICO National offers the following:

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 provide grants valued at \$2,500 each, paid on award, to students attending accredited prelicensure or graduate nursing programs in the United States. Preference is given to applicants demonstrating financial need. A candidate must be a United States citizen. This program is open to nursing students of all ethnicities.

Undergraduate Awards:

Major Don S. Gentile Scholarship

Alphonse A. Miele Scholarship

William C. Davini 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 are encouraged to apply for all four scholarships. To do so requires the original application and three complete copies, including attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because scholarships are judged at different locations.

DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship

The UNICO Foundation will grant two

scholarships, valued at \$1,250 each, for study in Italy. Candidates must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university in the United States, pursuing a degree. The study abroad program must be eligible for credit by the student's college/university.

Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship

The UNICO Foundation will introduce our literary scholarship program this year. Application for the scholarship, valued at \$1,000, will be open to matriculated college students. Terms of submission require the candidate to present in writing, an original short story or essay celebrating their Italian heritage.

Applications, for all programs, are to be acquired from and submitted to National through a local UNICO Chapter. Candidates **MUST** meet the eligibility requirements stated on each of the respective applications. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Participation in the UNICO National Scholarship Program is a privilege afforded all Chapters in good standing. We encourage our members to take full advantage of the opportunity to nominate candidates for these important, valuable and prestigious awards.

MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION



Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade

Italian Heritage Month and Increasing Membership

What did your UNICO Chapter do to enhance your membership and that of UNICO National during October? I know that many Chapters took advantage of our "High Holy Days" to build up membership in a variety of ways. Some worth mentioning are: socials with homemade wine and Italian cheeses as the main attraction; how about that tried and true event "A Pasta Dinner"; or a Gala honoring a local Italian American as your "Person of the Year". How many of you looked into having an Italian Heritage Open House using the power point presentation that PNP Andre' DiMino put together and can be accessed on our website? And, we know you had plenty of UNICO information and applications available for your captive audience. Events such as these, when properly publicized before and after their happening, showcase not only UNICO, but our Italian Heritage and Culture in general. And, it encourages our fellow Italian Americans to want to join our wonderful organization.

Columbus Day Celebrations

Columbus Day Celebrations were certainly occurring everywhere there are Italians to be found. Where I come from, The Columbus Day Association

of Lackawanna County conducts a dinner and honors an Italian American who has distinguished himself in his field and has demonstrated by example community service. This year, Joseph DeAntona joined the long list of honorees. The past president of this organization is Dr. Peter Cognetti and the new president is Ernie DeStefano. All three are members of UNICO National. What an honor for UNICO! Of the 400 in attendance over 100 were UNICANs, all enjoying our Italian Heritage.

Of course there are other ways of celebrating! The laying of wreaths at your statue of Christopher Columbus with the local High School Band providing the music; the presence of a local cleric to provide the spiritual essence of our existence; representation by the Knights of Columbus as an Honor Guard; local government leaders or perhaps a congressman or senator to provide bravado for the love of our Nation; holding a coloring or essay contest with an Italian theme at your local schools; and have you ever approached your civic leaders to make a proclamation declaring October as Italian Heritage and Culture Month coupled with an Italian Flag Raising? Set the example! IF WE DO NOT DO THIS ... WHO WILL?

Columbus Day Parades

Does your community hold a parade honoring Christopher Columbus? Many communities do, especially in the big cities. While UNICANs in Northeast Pennsylvania do not have a parade, the Carbondale, Keystone and Scranton Chapters sent four bus loads to New York City for their Annual Columbus Day Parade and walked with our UNICO Fratelli e Sorelle in the UNICO Division. Then, afterwards, we all headed down to Little Italy or up to Arthur Avenue, where we sat down to a delicious meal at an authentic Italian Ristorante. Once anyone has had the opportunity to do this, they cannot wait for next year's trip.

Membership Drives

If you missed out on taking advantage of using October as a catalyst for your membership drive, "do not despair". Now is the time to start planning for next year's events. If you can't wait, then you can still have an "Italian Heritage/Membership Drive" this year too! Remember, "YOUR" UNICO Officers and UNICO Office Staff are here for you. Whether it is advice or supplies you need, all you have to do is ask!

CHICAGO SOUTH, IL



United States Martial Arts Hall of Fame Black Belts Shihan Ken Keith and UNICO Chicago South member Sensei Joe Fiorentino have volunteered to teach a ten week self defense class at The Westchesterfield Community Center on the Chicago South Side.

"V" FOUNDATION



**"V"
Foundation Chair
Frank Paolercio**

"V" FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

The UNICO 2012 \$50,000 Memorial Grant will be granted to St. Jude Children's Hospital for Pediatric Cancer Research in memory of Memphis Chapter Member John Grisanti. Please consider a donation so that UNICO can complete the funding of this Grant. Send checks payable to the UNICO Foundation earmarked for Cancer Research, mail to our National Office.

Below you will see the research going forward at St. Jude Children's Hospital. The focus of this research is geared to Bone Marrow Transplantation and Stem Cell Research.

Entitled: "Augmenting ExVivo Expanded Cytotoxic Human iNK Cells for Cancer ImmunoTherapy"

Autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (allo-HSCT) is a curative procedure for many cancers. More widespread application of curative allo-HSCT is limited mainly by major immune complications occurring after the transplant, including graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) but results in delayed immune reconstitution, serious post-transplant infections, and loss of graft-versus-tumor (GVT) immune activity. Thus the "holy grail" of allo-HSCT is to develop strategies to separate GVHD from the GVT capacity of the graft immune cells.

A novel strategy which the laboratory is developing to achieve simultaneous GVHD protection and GVT in cancer immunotherapy is the application of regulatory invariant NKT (iNKT) cells constitute 1% of blood T cells in humans. However, these cells exert potent immune effects via rapid and robust production of regulatory cytokines including IL-2, IFN-γ, TNF-α and IL-4. iNKT cells have been shown to play major roles in tumor immunosurveillance and tumor immunoediting, both directly and through augmentation of natural killer (NK) cell cytotoxicity. Humane iNKT cells also express high levels of FC-γ receptors and home to specific solid tumors such as neuroblastomas, supporting addition of iNKT cells to existing antibody-directed immunotherapies of cancer. Unlike CD8 cytolytic T cells or NK cells, iNKT cells recognize the non-polymorphic class I-like molecule CD1d and neither recognize nor are inhibited by class I Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA), making them ideal candidates for use after tumor immune escape. This proposal aims to carefully delineate the effect of a specific activation pathway on the function anti-tumor cytotoxicity of therapeutic human iNKT cells.



GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY



The Greater Binghamton Chapter welcomed Liliana Paolini Hadlick and Camilla Carlini to the Chapter at their October Meeting. From left: Liliana Paolini, Hadlick, Greater Binghamton First Vice President Barbara Wahila and Camilla Carlini.



Professor Beatrice Barbon from Bolzano, Italy was the October Guest Speaker at the Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO. Professor Barbon discussed the student exchange program with Union Endicott High School. From left: Professor Barbon and First Vice President Barbara Wahila.



HILLSBOROUGH, NJ



Members attended the Basilone Parade in Raritan. From left: Steven Saryko, Neil Abitabile, Sherry Ferrera, Jay Torrenzano, Jim Giannetti, Vice President; Anthony Ferrera, Chapter President Jack Genchi, Jon Seda, Actor who played John Basilone in "The Pacific" and Marty Marino Sebastiano, proprietor of the Italian Bakery in Raritan.

GARFIELD, NJ

September and October Meeting Activities

The Garfield New Jersey Chapter kicked off its fall season with 2012 scholarship recipient Matthew Caravello and his family attending the September meeting. Matthew is a Garfield resident who attended St. Joseph Regional High School in Montvale, New Jersey and is now starting his first year at Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey with an interest towards law. Matthew is the grandson of Chapter Treasurer John Caravello.

Our second 2012 scholarship recipient Daniel Mirandi and his family attended the October meeting. Daniel is also a Garfield resident who attended Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, New Jersey. He is starting his first year at Fordham University in New York with an interest in business.

On another note, Assistant Treasurer Vincent Latona and Second Delegate Anthony Randazzo mentioned that their Annual Cannibal Night and Golf Outing were very successful events that raised funds for various Chapter charities. The Chapter will host its third trip to Atlantic City on October 13th as an additional fund-raiser.

The Chapter voted to donate \$500 to the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation for Spinal Cord Injury, another example of the Chapter providing "Service Above Self."



Matthew Caravello with family is congratulated by UNICO National's Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Chapter President Joseph Kovacs and Chapter Treasurer John Caravello.



Daniel Mirandi with family is congratulated by UNICO National's Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Chapter President Joseph Kovacs and Chapter Executive Vice President Allan Focarino.

The DEADLINE for the January Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, December 17, 2012. Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: comunico@unico.org.

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

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

The Atlantic City Chapter held another successful Golf Tournament. Over 70 golfers participated in this year's event held on Columbus Day at the Mays Landing Country Club. The tournament was a best ball/scramble format, bracketed by lunch and dinner to which family members were invited. The purpose of our tournament was to raise funds to assist long time member Tom Cetrone, who is suffering from a debilitating illness. Tom is the epitome of the "Service Above Self" motto having distinguished himself over the years as a selfless and giving man.

Our Chapter is seeking to expand its membership not only by conducting a membership drive, but also by being more visible at regional and national conferences. Several members will be in attendance at the Eastern Regional Meeting and the "Meet the President" event. Our President, Andrea Longo attended the National Convention in Marco Island and returned to us with ideas, energy and enthusiasm for our Chapter. We are also looking to work with the Philadelphia Chapters to share ideas for growth and enjoy one another's fellowship.

Upcoming events for our Chapter include a fund-raising raffle and our Annual Family Christmas Party to be held at the Smithville Inn in Galloway. The kids meet Santa and receive a gift from Santa's bounty. Never forgetting that Atlantic City UNICO exists to serve others, each member donates new clothing articles for the local mission.

A nice feature has been added to our monthly meetings. Members conduct research on a different region of Italy and report their findings about that region including facts on its culture, foods, people and geography. The lush region of Campania was shared at last month's meeting. We look forward to learning more about our fascinating Italian heritage at future meetings.

Finally, from all Atlantic City UNICO members, we extend to all a fond "Buon Ringraziamento!!!!

HAPPY VALLEY, PA



The UNICO Happy Valley Chapter marched in the 2012 Penn State Homecoming Parade in front of hundreds of spectators on Friday, October 5th. Shown here with the Italian Student Society the group received loud cheers and applause while chanting and singing Italian tunes!

Thanksgiving

LYNDHURST, NJ

The Lyndhurst Chapter of UNICO held their first meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 at Lassoni Restaurant, North Arlington, New Jersey. We welcomed two new Youth Members. We also celebrated our Chapter Achievement Patch for our Banner that was awarded to us. We are super excited for this year as we have planned to take part in the First Annual Columbus Day Feast in Lyndhurst. We will be doing a wreath laying and then having a table at the Feast. We are also planning a Lia Sophia Fund-raiser for Friday, November 30, 2012 and our Annual Spring Scholarship Pasta Dinner.



Standing from left: President Mark Fiume, Treasurer Carmela Somma, Member Al Somma and Delegate Damien Hirsch. Seated from left: Youth Member Carmine Lombardi, Member Phil Garbarini, Member Kay Garbarini and Secretary Mary Eaudola.



The Lyndhurst Chapter of UNICO provided the Wreath for the Lyndhurst Columbus Day Wreath Laying and Italian Festival held on Saturday October 6, 2012. From left: Youth Member Carmine Lombardi, Kay Garbarini, New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch, Treasurer Carmela Somma, and Chapter President Mark Fiume.

NEW JERSEY GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie hosted a breakfast at the Governor's mansion at historic Drumthwacket in Princeton, New Jersey on October 2. The breakfast was in honor of Italian Heritage Month and Columbus Day. Officers of New Jersey Italian American Service Organizations such as

UNICO National, Sons of Italy, The New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission and various others were in attendance. The Governor, who was raised in an Italian American household spoke of the great contributions made to our country by the hard work of Italian Immigrants and his personal experience of the positive values instilled on to him by his mother whose parents immigrated from Sicily.



Anthony Bengivenga of The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO and Joe Gironda, President of The Brick Chapter of UNICO at the Governor's desk in the Governor's Mansion at Drumthwacket in Princeton, New Jersey.



Anthony Bengivenga, Immediate Past President of The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO and John De-Andrea, current President of the Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO at the Governor's desk in the Governor's Mansion at Drumthwacket in Princeton, New Jersey.



First row from left: Joe Gironda, Angelo Bonanno, Linda Gail and John Alati and Judy Di-Blasio. Second row: Anthony Malfitano, Gino LoIacono, John DiNapoli and Grace Gynn. Third row: Dominick Nicastro, Joe Cardinale, Al Branchi and Perry Russo.



MENTAL HEALTH



Mental Health Check Presentation to the Arc of Philadelphia, September 26, 2012 in the amount of \$2,000 for the School to Community Program. Pictured left: Gloria Cerullo, Hazleton Chapter Member; Ken Oakes, Arc Director; Joe Cerullo, UNICO Foundation Trustee; Nofre Vaquer, Arc Director; Nick Quercetti, Past National President and Arc Director; Mark McDade, UNICO National Membership and Retention Director; Barbara Lipari Laborim, UNICO National Mental Health Chair; Bruce Hulick, Executive Director, Arc of Philadelphia; Michele McDade, National Mental Health Committee Member; Patti Mecca, Marketing and Development, Arc and Paul W. Berenato, Arc Board President.



Sculptures created by Arc clients and on display in the Arc lobby. Pictured from left: Gloria Cerullo, Joe Cerullo, Barbara Lipari Laborim, Michele McDade and Mark McDade.



Mental Health Check Presentation to the FOCUS Center for Autism, Canton, Connecticut in the amount of \$4,200. The award will be used to purchase a portable SMART Board and an iPad2 for their Clinical Educational Support Program. Pictured from left: Marcia Bok, President FOCUS Board; Celeste Pandolfi, UNICO National Mental Health Committee; Mario Giovannucci, UNICO Foundation Trustee; Kim and Debra Grehn, FOCUS Board; FOCUS students, Donna Swanson, FOCUS Executive Director; Rita Barredo, FOCUS Treasurer and UNICO Torrington Connecticut Chapter Member, and Barbara Lipari Laborim, UNICO National Mental Health Chair.



Mental Health Committee Members at work during the 90th UNICO Convention in Marco Island, Florida. Seated from left: Joan Tidona, National Scholarship Director; Michele McDade, and Celeste Pandolfi. Standing from left: Tom Carlucci, Robert Tarte and Ron Giometti.

FARMINGTON, CT

The Seventh Annual Unionville Festival took place on September 30th. The Festival brings together all the non-profit organizations, many businesses, and community organizations for one afternoon. The Farmington Chapter of UNICO once again had a booth selling Italian Ices in the food court. Participating in the Festival provides an opportunity for fund-raising as well as a way to tell people about UNICO.



From left: Bob McNally, Ralph Arcari, President Farmington Chapter of UNICO; Bruno Macaro, Farmington Chapter of UNICO Event Chairperson and Ray Lavendier.



Warren Roberts, Isabella Dolce and Frank Dolce.

The guest speaker at the October meeting of the Farmington Chapter of UNICO was Quintino Cianfaglione, the Cavaliere elected to represent some 650,000 Italians in Connecticut and parts of New York. Cavaliere Cianfaglione is the Presi-

dent of COMITES, the Council of Italians Living Abroad.



From left: Quintino Cianfaglione and Geno Avenoso.

GREATER HARTFORD, CT

Greater Hartford Chapter UNICO was once again a prominent participant in the Hartford Columbus Day parade held on Sunday October 7th, which for the second year in a row featured a Chapter member as one of the parade honoree's. Antonio Faienza, owner of Universal Tile Import of Hartford, Connecticut was one of three parade nominees this year. Antonio was honored for his contributions to the Italian American community and for his successes as an Italian American businessman. Prior to the parade the Holy Mass was celebrated in Italian. Many school bands, numerous Italian American organizations including Greater Hartford UNICO, Italian American Hartford Policemen, Firefighters and various floats of Italian American businesses gathered on the northern end of Franklin Avenue and marched to the south end to Columbus Park where there stands a statue of Christopher Columbus. At that point the American and Italian National Anthems were performed and the parade honorees and local dignitaries, retired State Senator Billy Ciotto and current Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman along with national dignitary United States Senator Richard Blumenthal were honored with various citations and plaques.



Greater Hartford Chapter UNICO flag bearers/walkers Antonio Faienza, Dan Falotico, Sebastian Testa, Anthony Milluzzo and Paul Rizza.



From left: Retired State Senator Billy Ciotto; United States Senator Richard Blumenthal; Parade Honoree, Greater Hartford Chapter UNICO member and owner of Universal Tile Import in Hartford Connecticut, Antonio Faienza and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman.

CLARK, NJ



New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga installs new members Lorraine Luban, Anne Venturino, Jill Curran and Natalie Belverio.



Clark UNICO Chapter held their Annual UNICO Bowl, the ALJ Clark Crusaders vs. the Hillside Comets on Friday, September 21. The Clark Chapter hosted a dinner pre-game for both Hillside and Clark. The Crusaders led the team to victory (8th year in a row) against Hillside. A Pre-game photo with both towns features from left: Clark UNICO Chapter President Ralph Bernardo, Sam Liff, George Abruzzo, Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Vice President Greg Menza, Hillside Mayor Joe Menza, Hillside BOE Angela Menza, Hillside Superintendent Frank Deo, Henry Varriano, Dave Panetta and the Crusader Mascot.



Victory for the Clark Crusaders. Post game trophy presentation on the field with both Clark and Hillside awarding the trophy to the Clark Crusaders for the 8th straight year.



Hillside UNICO Chapter President Angelo Bonanno and Clark UNICO Chapter President Ralph Bernardo pose for a friendly photo holding the trophy pre-game.

The Clark Chapter of UNICO held their 6th Annual Italian American Feast. The event was held for three days during the Columbus Day weekend. The feast consisted of many favorite Italian foods including sausage, pizza, zeppole, eggplant, and much more. There were game trailers, rides, craft vendors and a 3D Flat Screen television was raffled off. Clark residents were entertained by Brother John Brown Band on Friday night and Sounds of the Street doo-wop band on Saturday night.

The proceeds raised from last year's feast enabled us to donate over \$23,000 to academic and sport scholarship awards to our high school students, underprivileged and handicap children, charities, community and civic activities just to name a few.

We are very proud to have brought the event to the township of Clark again this year. We thank the many volunteers that helped and the residents who came out and supported us. A great fun time was had by all!



From left: Joe Manasia, Maureen Manasia, President Ralph Bernardo and Vice President Greg Menza.



Terri and Frank Mazzella.



From left: Bob Spinella, Vera Abruzzo, Jo Hearon and our oldest member Angie Spinella (96).



The Clark UNICO Chapter members pose for a photo at the Basilone Parade in Raritan. From left: Vera Abruzzo, George Abruzzo, Bill Hearon, President Ralph Bernardo, Vice President Greg Menza, New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, Henry Varriano and Josephine Hearon.

MONTCLAIR, NJ



At the October meeting, The Montclair Chapter installed two new members. Pictured: New Jersey District IV Governor Perry Russo installs Alex Ballas and Chiara D'Agostino.



As part of the Cultural program, The Montclair Chapter recently had Maria Mazzotti Gillan read some of her poetry from her childhood growing up in Paterson, New Jersey. Maria, a prolific writer, has recently published her latest book and is preparing for a soon to be released documentary. Pictured from left: Marie Rose Baddarocco, Cultural Program Chairwoman and Maria Mazzotti Gillan signing a copy of her book for Stephen Ruccio, Chapter member.

If you would like to see a book reviewed, please contact the UNICO National Office at 973-808-0035 or comunico@unico.org for consideration!

HERITAGE AND CULTURE



**Heritage
and Culture
Chair
Sal Mangano**

Halloween Italian Style

Just a few decades ago Halloween in Italy was merely the name of an American holiday, a sort of Carnevale. Little by little Halloween's popularity has grown, probably due to the influence of American movies, television, and the arrival of fast food chains like McDonald's. It has become a real celebrated holiday, even though it does not have a real connection to Italy. All Saints Day is celebrated on November 1 in Italy. It is a Holy Day of Obligation when people typically have the day off and go to Mass.

November 2 is the day dedicated to the remembrance of the dead, a holy day during which people visit cemeteries bringing flowers and candles to honor dead relatives and friends. It is a day dedicated to special celebrations by the Church as well. In some parts of Italy children find presents brought during the night by the dead.

In all the Italian regions in the days between October 31st and the day of Saint Martin, November 11, there has been the folkloristic custom to celebrate the combination of life and death with traditions expressing the strong link between those still alive and those who are no longer of this earth. All these customs have the expression of the strong link with life and with families in common, and the fact that these traditions often involve children, is a clear way of marking the idea of continuity, of regeneration and hope.

Until the first half of the 20th Century, this period of the year was the only occasion for children to receive presents, that were usually brought by "the dead". Over time, Christmas and the Epiphany became more widespread and more popular among the younger generations. Many Sicilian Americans remember when, as a child in Sicily, their parents told them to behave well, so the good souls of the dead would bring many presents. On the night between the 1st and the 2nd of November, the children went to bed hoping that the dead relatives would remember them, while the parents and other members of the family were hiding toys and sweets in secret places around the house. There was a song that was sung by Sicilian children. In translation they sang "Holy souls, holy souls, I am one, and you are many. While I am in this world of troubles, bring me lots of presents from dead people". On the morning after, once the children had found the presents, the whole family prepared to visit the cemetery. It was not a sad day, after all there was the joy of the "contact" never lost, going beyond death, the consciousness that there was a strong connection between the worlds of the dead and the living, two world united by the power of love.

In every Italian region there are celebrations to remember the dead. The tradition of the pumpkin

is not only typically Anglo Saxon, in fact it can also be found in the Italian tradition. In Veneto, for example, pumpkins are emptied, painted and a candle symbolizing resurrection is put inside them. In Friuli, especially in the area near Pordenone, the pumpkins prepared in this way are put along the roads to light the path for the dead. In Puglia, every family adorns their own pumpkin and puts it on display in the windows of their house. In Lombardia pumpkins are filled with wine, so that the dead can drink it during the night between the 31st of October and the 1st of November, before returning to the kingdom of afterlife.

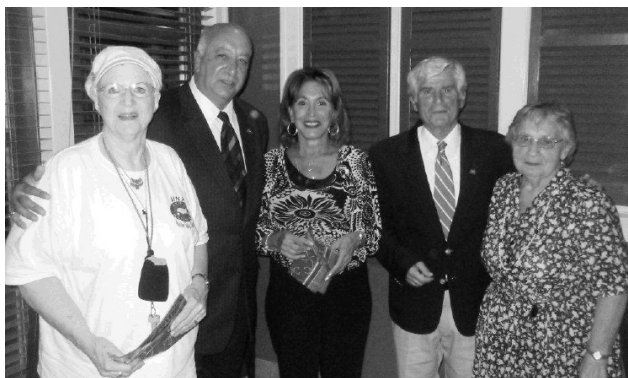
The traditions also include typical dishes prepared during this time and handed down from generation to generation. In Romagna, a region well known for its cooking, the "piada dei morti", a very tasty round flatbread filled with nuts, almonds and raisins and the red wine of Romagna, the Sangiovese, is prepared. Another sweet prepared during this time in Romagna is the "fava dei morti", a little biscuit made of almonds.

In Sicily the typical dishes for this time of year is the "pupi 'i zuccuru", a sweet bread shaped like little dolls, and the "dead bones", biscuits having the shape of bones that are particularly hard to bite. Very peculiar is the "frutta marturana", which is marzipan, shaped into real fruits with an inviting scent.

The rituals all over Italy are almost the same: in Puglia the families prepare the "cavazette di murte" (socks of the dead) and, during the night the dead relatives fill them with special sweets. In Sicily, near Siracusa, children prepare the table for the dead and leave a shoe to be filled with presents and sweets. The "trick or treat" question seems another tradition in common between Italy and the United States. In fact, in Abruzzo there was the habit of going from house to house asking for offers for the souls of the dead and generally sweets and dried fruits were handed out. In general these are all traditions that give an almost friendly idea of death: the dead bring presents, walk for a night in the roads of villages or cities, enter into the house to have a dinner during this special night, and are felt closer than ever.

Gathered from various Internet sites. Researched and submitted by Salvatore, J. Mangano, PNP, 2012-2013 UNICO NATIONAL Italian Heritage and Culture Chair.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X



New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga and UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro present UNICO scarves to Raritan Valley Members Jinx Del Nero, Barbara Anuario and Joyce Walker.

BERWICK, PA



On Sunday, October 7th, the Berwick Chapter of UNICO National co-sponsored the Annual Columbus Day Celebration and Parade which featured a speech by Chris DiMattio, Past National President. Organizing the parade was Steve Romeo, Past President of the Chapter. Pictured from left: Dan McDann, Chris DiMattio, Katherine Mentrikoski, and Matt Prosseda, Chapter President.

SAN ANTONIO, TX



San Antonio Chapter President Rose Marie Arabia presents a wreath at the Columbus Statue.



Deputy District Governor Bill Kelly and Joe Monaco join Rose Marie and District Governor Tony Arabia in the ceremony.

BERKELEY HEIGHT/ NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ

The Berkeley Heights/New Providence Chapter recently took a Bus Trip to the Sands Casino in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. On our trip were Joe Franchino, President; Anna Piscopo our Treasurer and many other members and friends. We left New Providence at 4:00 pm and returned at 11:30 pm, tickets were \$30 and people received \$20 slot play and \$5 food voucher. Everyone had a great time and are looking forward to our next trip on December 8, 2012.



Chapter President Joseph Franchino sells raffle tickets on the recent bus ride.

MONTVILLE, NJ

Montville UNICO had its first San Gennaro Festival in September celebrating Italian heritage, fun and food. The three day event was a great success!



From left: Larry Casha, Michele and Gene Maddalena and John Sebastiano prepare for the San Gennaro Feast.



From left: Nick Conturso, Vito Ferrante, Mickey D'Addato at one of the games.



Russ Pisano is having some fun with the child playing the "Cow Game" and Vivian Cleffi enjoys working the wheel game.



Rich Giordano at one of the game.



Our "core" group of Montville members.



Rita Catanzariti and Kathy Suppa are pictured selling tickets to the rides.



From left: Paul Henke, UNICO National President David Donnini, Montville Chapter President Michele Maddalena, UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka and Gene Maddalena.

BERGEN COUNTY, NJ FLAG RAISING

Bergen County, New Jersey held it's Third Annual Italian Flag-Raising event on September 28th, where Bergen County Executive, Kathleen A. Donovan proclaimed the day Italian Heritage Day in celebration of the Columbus Day Parade of North Jersey. The keynote speaker for this year's event was Clelia Di Rienzo, Deputy Consul of Italy in Newark. Commemoration presentations and proclamations were bestowed by The County Executive and the freeholders on the Columbus Day Parade of North Jersey Committee for the work they have done in sponsoring the parade. Ralph Contini, UNICO National Columbus Day Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Columbus Day Parade of North Jersey addressed the crowd. Contini stated "This Annual Italian flag raising ceremony serves as a model for other counties in New Jersey and the country to follow and the kick off to October as "Italian Heritage Month" in New Jersey. It also highlights the Columbus Day Parade of North Jersey as well as other Columbus Celebrations throughout Bergen County and New Jersey".



Bergen County honors the Columbus Day Parade of North Jersey. From left: John D. Mitchell, Maura DeNicola, Kathleen A. Donovan, Lauren Zisa, Ralph Contini, Michael Melfi and Steve LoIacono.



Ralph Contini addresses the crowd on the importance of establishing and continuing events such as this on a state and country wide level.



From left: Michael Melfi, Kathleen A. Donovan, Clelia DiRienzo, Lauren Zisa and Ralph Contini hold the proclamation naming September 28th as Italian Heritage Day in Bergen County along with Maura DeNicola.

HAZLETON, PA

Columbus Day: Outstanding Italian American of the Hazleton Area 2012

The Hazleton Chapter of UNICO, in conjunction with the Reverend Maurice Raymond Knights of Columbus, held their Annual Columbus Day testimonial dinner on Friday, October 5. The recipient of the award as the Outstanding Italian American of the Hazleton Area for 2012 is UNICO member and Pennsylvania I District Governor, Joe Cerullo.

Joe was honored for his many years of service, not only to UNICO but to the entire community. Nearly 100 people turned out to pay tribute and thank Joe for all he has done and continues to do to help others. In addition to friends and family, guests included Past National President Chris DiMattio, National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio, Second Vice President Ann Walko, Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Membership and Retention Director Marco McDade, United States Representative and Hazleton Chapter member Lou Barletta and Pennsylvania State Representative Tarah Toohil, as well as members of various Pennsylvania and New Jersey Chapters. Entertainment was provided by Danny Farole, the 80 year old Italian troubadour, who enchanted the crowd with his renditions of Italian songs.

The event was held at Capriotti's Palazzo. Immediately preceding the dinner, representatives from both organizations participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Christopher Columbus near downtown Hazleton.



From left: Past National President Chris DiMattio, Joe Cerullo, Honoree; Rick D'Arminio, UNICO National First Vice President; Ann Walko, UNICO National Second Vice President and Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National Third Vice President.



From left: Charles Pedri, Knights of Columbus; Ron Jazowski, Knights of Columbus; Tony Persico, Joe Cerullo, Dan DeMelfi, President of Hazleton Chapter and United States Congressman Lou Barletta.



United States Congressman and Member of Hazleton Chapter, Lou Barletta makes presentation to Joe Cerullo (left).

UNICO AND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY

The Reverend Maurice Raymond Knights of Columbus and the Pope Benedict XV Assembly, together with the UNICO Chapter Hazleton, have revitalized the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Columbus statue in honor of Christopher Columbus for Columbus Day. Present at the ceremony on October 5, 2012 was Honor Guard Commander Ray Slezak, Al Donati, Past Grand Knight Charles R. Pedri, UNICO President Dan DeMelfi, Grand Knight Ron Jazowski, PFN Tom Dalesandro and Al Olshefski.

NJ ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

Officers of UNICO National attend the 9th Annual Congress of the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission which was held on Saturday, October 6 at Rutgers University in New Brunswick New Jersey. This year's theme was "2013: The Year of Italian Culture in the United States: Italians in the Making of America." The state sponsored congress was attended by New Jersey State Officials, officials of the Italian government and officials of various National Italian American organizations such as UNICO National, NIAF, Sons of Italy as well as New Jersey educators.



From left: Jimmy Gambacorta, Commissioner of the Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage of Culture; Mary Teresa Morrison, UNICO Maryland District I Governor; John DeAndrea, President of Plainfields Chapter UNICO; Ann Walko, UNICO National 2nd Vice President and Anthony Bengivena, Anti-Bias Committee Member of UNICO National.

MARIN, CA

The Marin Chapter of UNICO held its Annual Awards Banquet, October 10 at Marin Joe's in Corte Madera. Awardees included St. Rafael Church, Italian Community Service Agency, Marin Medical Reserve Corps Foundation, St. Anselm School, Marin Catholic High School, Michael Basso Memorial Foundation, St. Patrick's Church, San Domenico School, Hospice of the Bay, Whistlestop, St. Hilary Scholarship Fund and St. Vincent de Paul.

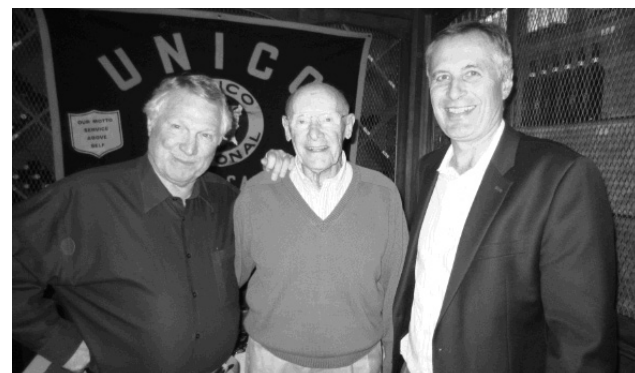
The organization meets monthly at Marin Joe's with the long-time support of owner Romano Della Santina. For information about the Chapter contact President Ron Benjamin at (415) 435-5355.



President Ron Benjamin and Marin Joe's owner Romano Della Santina.



Treasurer Bill Asiano and Carolyn Biasotti of St. Hilary's.



From left: President Ron Benjamin, Treasurer Bill Asiano and Marin Joe's Manager Ralph Della Santina.



Treasurer Bill Asiano and Christine Erlach of the Marin Medical Reserve Corps.

MERRIMACK VALLEY, MA

UNICO Merrimack Valley Golf Event Raises Money for St. Ann's Home

UNICO of Merrimack Valley celebrating its 23rd year as a Chapter of UNICO National recently announced that it has raised and distributed over \$450,000 to local charities.

A charity golf tournament was held at the Haverhill County Club on Sept. 24th as the Chapter's Annual and only fund-raiser. The event raised another \$28,000.

The co-chairmen of the event Larry Ardito and Al Torrisi and their golf committee worked tirelessly to make this event a success. According to Ardito, "the weather couldn't have been more cooperative, since we enjoyed a perfect 75-degree summer day. What a spectacular way to raise money for a worthy cause and have fun too".

According to Al Torrisi, "we distributed over \$35,000 to organizations and individuals this past year alone. Some of the local charities include: Lazarus House, Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, COR Unum, Bellesini Academy, Esperanza Academy, Ironstone Farm, Essex Art Center, Professional Center for Child Development, Family Services, Lawrence History Center and Foster Kids of Merrimack Valley, in addition to St. Ann's Home."

"While we do have a great time playing golf, especially on such a beautiful day, it's only through the generosity, dedication and hard work from the golfers, members, volunteers and sponsors that really make the difference between success and failure. This is our only fund-raiser, and it's very important to our club and to the benefactors of our efforts, that this event continues to raise the money we need to support the community."

UNICO Merrimack Valley had pledged \$60,000 over the past three years for the St. Ann's Home capital campaign. Through a matching grant from the Peter Lynch Foundation, the total amount that was received by St. Ann's Home was \$150,000. St. Ann's Home has been providing services to disadvantaged children since 1925.

In order to continue to support area organizations caring for the needs of others, UNICO Merrimack Valley conducts its annual golf outing to raise money. All of the money raised goes to scholarships and community service projects within the Merrimack Valley. We look forward to the continuation of this mission and to the impact that this effort has on the lives of others.



The winning team with the lowest net scores is from left: Paul O'Connor, Mike Macauliffe and Frank Coccioletto, team captain. Frank Depiano was also a member of the winning team.

KEYSTONE, PA

The Keystone Chapter of UNICO National held their September meeting at LaCucina in Dunmore. Chapter member Louis Palazzi, Jr. kept the attendees attention piqued as he spoke on who many consider to be the "Greatest Italian American". He is Amadeo Giannini, who is credited with, amongst many other accomplishments, starting the Bank of Italy, which he later named the Bank of America. Also, Installations were held for new members.



Standing from left to right are: Inductee and speaker Louis Palazzi, Jr., and new members Lenore Mills and Josh Bryer; Chapter Membership Director Cathy Bianchi; and Chapter President Mark E. McDade.

In honor of Italian Heritage and Culture and the contributions that Italians have made through the centuries, the Keystone Chapter approached the Dunmore Borough Council for that acknowledgment and they subsequently presented to the Keystone Chapter of UNICO National a Proclamation declaring October as Italian Heritage and Culture Month in the Borough of Dunmore at their Council Meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012. The proclamation acknowledged all the contributions Italians have made in every walk of life locally and nationally. The Keystone Chapter of UNICO National was pleased to accept this proclamation on behalf of all people with Italian lineage.



Front row from left: Chapter Members Lenore Mills, Marie Lalli and Mary Rose Malia. Back row from left: Dunmore Council and Keystone Chapter Members Carol Scrimalli and Paul Nardozi, Keystone Chapter President Mark E. McDade, Keystone Board Chairman Peter Noto, Chapter Members Mary Mack, 2nd Vice President James Mack, Treasurer Val Riggi, Sergeant at Arms Ray Tropeano, Tom Carlucci, Santo Cancelleri, Michele McDade, and Marie Scaringi and Dunmore Borough Council Solicitor Thomas Cummings Jr., Esquire.

The "Le Sorelle" Committee of the Keystone Chapter volunteered to bake for and operate the Bake Sale Tent at Saint Joseph's Festival. The members that baked and serviced the stand raised \$1156.



From left: Bake Sale Chairman Michele McDade, President and CEO of Saint Joseph's Center Sister Mary Alice Jacquinet, Keystone Chapter President Mark E. McDade, Mary Rose Malia, Carmela Iannetta, Marie Lalli, Co-Chair Mary Mack, Ray Tropeano, Tillie and Pat Tarantini, Co-Chair Mary DePalma and Val Riggi.



From left: Frani Shannon, Cathy Bianchi, Mary Rinaldi, Lenore Latarewicz, Grace Berardi, Shirley Siragusa, Cesira Berardelli, Marilyn Vitali and Marie Scaringi.



Front row from left Katherine Barnansky, Michele McDade and Mikhail Barnansky. Back row from left: Betty Cook, Carolyn Simonetti, Loree Jannicelli, Theresa and Ray Tropeano, Ann Marie Carter and Frances Marrazzo.

The Keystone Chapter of UNICO recently began its first Italian Language class. The class meets at The Dunmore Community Center on Tuesday evenings. Chapter Member Richard Roani is the class instructor.



Seated from left: Sharon Gombita, Mary DePalma, Marie Lalli, Josephine Bonanno, instructor Richard Roani, Jean Migliorato, Sandy Graziano, Sallie Noto and Frani Shannon. Standing from left: Italian Class Secretary Gloria Rizzo, Michael Collins, Mark E. McDade, Sandy Collins, Louis Palazzi Jr., Mary Rose Malia, Dolores Mecca, Anthony Palladino, Cherie' Mecca, Danielle Palazzi, Donald Migliorato, Ann Summa, Sheryl Lynn Sochoka, Marguerite Ruggiero, Lori Baress, Peter Noto, Tom Carlucci and Greg Betti.

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter of UNICO National opened the 2012-2013 year by distributing donations to local charities at its September meeting. \$250 was donated each to Multiple Sclerosis, Autism Awareness, Prostate Cancer Research, Nutley Public Library, Nutley Family Service Bureau and Nutley Thriving Survivors. Special Young Adults received a donation of \$600. In addition, the 2012-2013 budget was presented, and subsequently approved at the October meeting. Items of note in the first two months include:

- Nutley UNICO defeats the Nutley Irish-American Club in a charity softball game, 13-10.
- The Annual Golf Outing earned close to \$8,000 under the chairmanship of Michael Cocco.
- New members sworn in were; Joe Cavallo, Paul Russo, Greg Palma, Carmen Lore and Ben Costa in September, and Anthony Cassie, Nicholas DiGiacomo, Tom Pucci, Peter Lazzaro and Debbie Bellucci in October.

Nutley acknowledged October, Italian Heritage Month, with a special Wreath Laying ceremony at the Columbus statue in front of Nutley Town Hall. This was followed by members marching in the Annual Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade. Those in attendance at the Wreath Laying ceremony were treated to a vocal performance of "O Sole Mio" by renowned singer and PBS host Cristina Fontanelli. In attendance were UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch.

The Nutley Chapter was honored to welcome Giovanni Longo, Francesco Maddelena and Alfonso Porcelli, Carabinieri da Calabria, to its ceremony and the local parade. They also proudly marched with numerous Nutley UNICANs in the New York Parade. Several Nutley UNICANs accompanied the officers to the World Trade Center site to view the memorial being developed during their stay.

Upcoming activities include the Italian Movie Night on October 30, the final stages of wine making that includes 25 members, and our special November dinner meeting in which we honor all of our members who are veterans.



From left: Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade honorees Mary Perrotta, Nutley Woman of the Year and Sabino Battaglia, Nutley Man of the Year are joined by visiting Carabinieri, UNICO National Second Vice President, Ann Walko, Nutley UNICO First Vice President Phyllis Coldebella, Nutley President Anthony Malfitano and New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch at the Nutley UNICO Wreath Laying Ceremony.

PITTSFIELD, MA

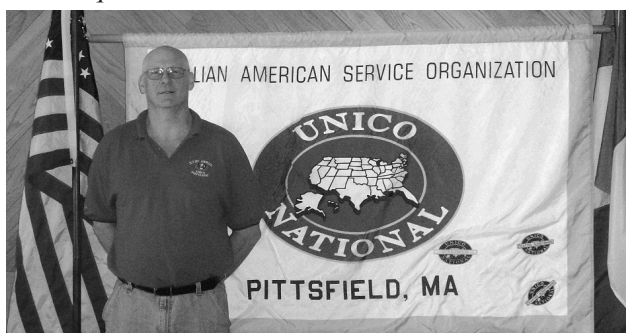
Pittsfield Chapter Columbus Day Celebration

The Pittsfield Chapter celebrated Columbus Day by holding its eleventh annual "Taste of Italy" dinner at the ITAM Lodge on Monday, October 8. The ITAM Lodge is situated on the southern shore of scenic Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield. The event was chaired by Rick Gregory who is also on the board of directors. Rick was supported by many Chapter volunteers who worked all day in the kitchen to make this event a success as it usually is. The event was attended by 150 people who were not only treated to a gourmet, multi course Italian meal but were also serenaded by an Italian duet that, not only sang popular Italian songs, but played the accordion and mandolin as well.

The "Taste of Italy" offerings were preceded by a platter of antipasto at each table as well as salad and bread with olive oil. The meal included Italian spiced baked chicken, roast pork, polenta, egg plant parmigiana, risotto, sausage with peppers and onions and penne pasta with either marinara sauce or olive oil and garlic. Dessert consisted of a big plate of Italian cookies on each table. Proceeds from this event go into the scholarship and general charities accounts.



Some of the hard working volunteers pause for a photo from left: Mario Rizzardi, Bill Hover, John Bonacquisti, Dan DiSantis and Bruno Lovato.



Rick Gregory, the "Taste of Italy" Chairman, has done another outstanding job overseeing and coordinating this very successful event.



Italian serenaders going from table to table playing the accordion and mandolin and singing favorite Italian songs.

WAYNE, NJ



Wayne UNICO had its Second Annual Golf Outing on September 24th which was a big success!!! It was held at the Bergen County Golf Course in Rivervale, New Jersey and there was a great turnout. 100 golfers showed up to the event to support Phillip's Fund, which was set up as a scholarship in honor of a young man who passed away unexpectedly last Christmas at the age of 18, and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Wayne. There were 50/50's, door prizes, and raffles, including a 47" flat screen television, among others. Pictured from left: UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio, David Feinstein, Dennis DeBenedetto, and New Jersey District IV Governor Perry Russo.

WILKES BARRE, PA



Wilkes Barre Mayor Tom Leighton recently presented a proclamation to the Wilkes Barre Chapter of UNICO. From left: Dominick Ortolani, Joe Donnini, Chapter President Joseph Pierangeli, Wilkes Barre Mayor Thomas Leighton, Carmen Magistro and Judge Fred Pierantoni.

SPARTA, NJ



From left: Sparta Chapter President Gary D'Uva, New Members Glenn Vetrano, John Fierro, Jack Mazzuocollo, Bob Lombardo, Allen Perugino, Ken Carafello and New Jersey District IV Governor Perry Russo.

UNICO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations and welcome to UNICO National, the largest Italian American Service Organization. The National Office Staff looks forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

We apologize in advance for anyone missed, or names misspelled. If you notice a new member missing or name misspelled, please notify the National Office.

SEPTEMBER

- AVON**
Gina Mongillo
Diane Zelazny
- DENVILLE**
J. Richard Filippone
- GARFIELD**
Dominick Nicastro, Jr.
- GREATER BINGHAMTON**
Liliana Paolini Hadlick
- GREATER RAMSEY**
Alison Lee Maglio
- HACKENSACK**
Josephine Puglisi
Virginia Wall
- HAZLETON**
Gloria Ann Cerullo
Joseph Littiere
- KANSAS CITY**
Brett Bagnaschi
Tony Castelluccio
- KEYSTONE**
Joshua Bryer
William Anthony Marchese
Anthony Marrone
- NUTLEY**
Anthony Cassie
Nicholas DiGiacomo
Peter Lazzaro
Thomas Pucci
- ORANGE/WEST ORANGE**
Patty Fabiano
- POINT PLEASANT BEACH**
Anthony Aragon
Jamilah Basharani
Ashley Bottino
Mackenzie Donald
Jack Fiorino
Kaitlyn Ghidella
Matthew Grieci
Mark Jurkowski
Allison Kreutzer
Andrew Matter
Tom Moretti
- DONNA PAPA**
Faith Ratshin
Daniel Richiuso
Mike Salvatore
Mario Simione
Tony Vergari
Paul Viggiano
Kerianne Volger
Louise Wallack
- SAN DIEGO**
Giovanna Casola
- WETHERSFIELD**
John Codianni



OCTOBER

- BERKELEY HEIGHTS/NEW PROVIDENCE**
Carol Greaney
- BRICK**
Carol Mancuso
Nicola Stranieri
- BRIDGEPORT**
Anthony Julian, Jr.
- BROOKHAVEN**
Penny Bartell Schlachter
- CEDAR GROVE**
Jack Andonian
Nicole Brindisi
- CHICAGO WEST SUBURBAN**
Giuseppe Zerillo
- GARFIELD**
James Clark
David Gray
- GREATER HARTFORD**
Concetta DiLoreto
- GREATER RAMSEY**
Janine Neeson
- ISLIP/SMITHTOWN**
Sandra Brown
Stanley Brown
- LIVINGSTON**
Frederick Picini
Joan Picini
Connie Stevenson
Marguerita Ventrice
- LONGMEADOW**
Kimberly Marie Barbato
Adam Provost
- MEDIA**
James Sandone, Jr.
- MONTCLAIR**
Alexander Ballas
Chiara D'Agostino
- ORANGE/WEST ORANGE**
Ron Charles
- PASSAIC VALLEY**
Vincent Cerniglia
Celina Poggiogalle
- PITTSFIELD**
Patrick Anello
Frank Dignard
Frank DiPierro
Christine Gregory
Scott Miller
George Rinaldi
- POINT PLEASANT BEACH**
Anthony Lombardo
- SOUTHINGTON**
Thomas DelSanto, Jr.

SECAUCUS, NJ

The UNICO Youth Group was out in full force to support The Secaucus Chapter of UNICO's Second Annual 5K run held recently on Meadowlands Parkway. The Youth group produced two winners in their age group, Samantha Nesheiwat and Elijah Agostini.



From left are runners and volunteers: Michelle Malcolm, Adviser; Iqra Ahmed, Amanda Emerger, Aman Ramnani, Eric Quitiquit, Gabriela Francisco, Katelyn Cutola, Ally Gomez, Jenny Gomez, Claudia Pan, Kush Shah, Abu Ahmed, Samantha Vogel, Samantha Nesheiwat, and Sangay Sherpa. Special thanks to the Race Coordinator, Lauren Dowd Cerullo and her Committee.

BAYONNE, NJ



Bayonne Chapter members and family enjoyed the day on board the Cooley's Anemia float. The float was sponsored by long time UNICO member, Frank LoRe.



Madeline LoRe Grand Marshal.

TORRINGTON, CT

PETER PINO ITALIAN MAYOR of the DAY

Peter Pino was born in 1922 in Asti, Italy. He was educated in Art School in Northern Italy. His artwork has been commissioned in Italy, France, Venezuela, Argentina and the United States.

Peter Pino arrived in the United States on October 12, 1954. He worked as a cover designer for a New York company "Divagando". He moved to Torrington and worked for the Torin Manufacturing Company. In 1956, he left Torin and started his own business, Peter Pino Advertising and Art Service.

Peter Pino, a well-known Litchfield County Artist and sign painter has restored many religious statues throughout Connecticut. The high quality of Mr. Pino's workmanship is well known and recognized by all.

Painting signs for advertising purposes in the field of commerce represented Mr. Pino's main work in Torrington. However his most challenging work has been the painting of murals in churches, halls, theaters, and statuary. Among the works that have given Mr. Pino international recognition is the trademark appearing on every bottle of Asti Spumante, the emblem representing Saint Secondo, the patron saint of Asti. Mr. Pino designed the logo for the coins and mugs for the 250th Anniversary of the City of Torrington. He also restored the murals on the inside walls of the Venetian Restaurant in Torrington, along with designing the backdrops for the Miss Connecticut Pageant; he designed the scenery and the backdrops for the Torrington Civic Theater. In 1969 he continued his wonderful art work with a hand crafted Nativity that was displayed for all to see on Main Street in downtown Torrington. In 1977, Peter painted a 10 foot mural of Christ on the wall above the Altar of Saint Joseph Church in Winsted.

The Columbus Day Celebration was held at Columbus Square with the laying of the wreath. Followed by a ceremony at Torrington City Hall, that included the raising of the Italian Flag, signing of Proclamations by the Italian Mayor of the Day in the Mayor's office followed by entertainment and refreshments in the auditorium. This year's entertainment was the Nutmeg Ballet Dancers, the Amici Singers, and Italian music for listening pleasure. The public was invited to attend and celebrate this very special day with Peter Pino. Governor Danell Malloy issued a Proclamation declaring October Italian American Heritage Month in the State of Connecticut.



From left: Mayor Ryan Bingham, Dr. Paolo Pino, Maria Pino, Italian Mayor of the Day Peter Pino, State Representative Michele Cook, Torrington Chapter President Robert Summa.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

On Friday evening, September 24, 2012, the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO sponsored our yearly dinner for the Saddle Brook High School Football Team at the High School gym. Seventy people were in attendance. Those attending the dinner were members of the Football team and their coaches and some UNICO Members.



Members of the football team are pictured with from left: Joe Nasello, Chapter President; Joy Ebel, Secretary; Ed Ebel, Treasurer; John Cappello, Sergeant-at-Arms; Flo Mazzer, Past President and Andy Cimiluca, Chapter Counsel.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



UNICO District X participates in the Sergeant John Basilone Veterans Memorial Parade honoring the Medal of Honor and Navy Cross recipient.



Raritan Valley Chapter holding its Membership Drive at the Raritan RiverFest.



At the Sergeant John Basilone Honoree Breakfast the Raritan Valley Chapter honored actor Jon Seda who portrayed Basilone in the movie "The Pacific" and four Medal Recipients Dominic Porcaro (deceased – represented by his son Robert), Harry Havens, Andy Martin and Vic Nazario.

BOOK REVIEW



Special Review By Tony Arabia

ITALY: EUROPE'S MOST SEDUCTIVE COUNTRY

Since 1979, International Living Magazine has included several advantages for its readers. I discovered this FREE special report on the Internet about Italy which is an enticing introduction to the land and culture of our ancestors.

Jackie Flynn, the magazine's publisher, introduces the comprehensive item with:

"Who wouldn't want to live in Italy: Europe's most intriguing and seductive country? Just think of its warmth, style and wonderful food... its excitable people and their zest for life... its art treasures, and the architectural glories of its magnificent past." The Report is essentially a booklet that covers dozens of topics such as living and traveling in Italy. It begins with "Even if you've never been there, Italy is one of those places that tugs at the heartstrings. And once you have been there, you're always looking for reasons to go back." For those UNICANs who have never traveled in Italy, you will find this Special Report to be a valuable introduction. Look for it FREE in International Living on the Internet. You will enjoy it!

To get the report go to www.InternationalLiving-magazine.com and click on Free Reports.



Italy: Europe's Most Seductive Country



WETHERSFIELD, CT

At a recent general meeting of the Wethersfield UNICO, the membership heartily endorsed and elected Nicholas D'Eramo as our new Chapter President for the year 2012-2013. Mr. D'Eramo, an eclectic sports-loving, jovial entrepreneur, has taken on duties, in the years leading to this, which made it clear to the membership that his organizational and business services will be put to good use in promoting further growth of UNICO in the our town and state.

Wethersfield UNICAN Michael Fortunato reported on bocce: "Our 7th season culminated with our tournament on Sunday, September 23rd, attended by approximately 50 bocce lovers including 20 players."

The tournament was held at Mill Woods Park in Wethersfield, where in 2005, the Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO raised the funds for and built two regulation sized bocce courts for all to use.

This year, the first place trophy was awarded to "Team Pratalani," which defeated our Wethersfield UNICO's "Ball Busters," (last year's champions) in the finals. Net proceeds from the tournament are for the benefit of the Jimmy "V" Cancer Foundation.

The tournament included a delicious lunch of sausage and peppers and other good food prepared by UNICO cooks. Our bocce season begins mid June and goes through the end of September; all games are played on Thursday night.

UNICO's CornFest event Chairman Jody DiNatalie reports: "The Wethersfield Chapter, sold over 1440 slices of fresh pizza at our town's annual CornFest. This anticipated event was again a great success. I thank all of our UNICO members who made this a meaningful community service each year. Our organization especially thanks "Village Pizza of Wethersfield" for creating the on-demand pizza for all the participants. For 33 years, the Wethersfield Chapter, has happily participated in this Chamber of Commerce event. This has allowed us to raise funds for community services and projects such as scholarships for notable high school seniors who show academic merit."



Mr. D'Eramo accepts our Mallet of the President from our Immediate Past President Pelino Silvestri.



In front from left: Albert, Marino, Anthony Martino, Frank Polna, Nicholas Follacchio, Chapter President Nicholas D'Eramo, Jody Dinatalie, George D'eSopo, Salvatore LaRosa, Mark Console, Anthony Santucci, Marco Maio, Anthony Dignoti.

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

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

Point Pleasant Beach Chapter Installs Eight New Members

Due to a highly successful membership campaign this past summer, Point Pleasant added additional members to its fast growing Chapter. Starting with 35 members in 2005, the Point Pleasant Chapter now has over 118 members, which include 29 Youth Members and an Aces Chapter. In August the Chapter had an Open House Membership Night which included Italian Heritage, reports on the National Convention and fun horse races to attract prospective members. Guests that night were UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and members of the Plainfields Chapter along with UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro and his wife Alina. Over 80 people attended, seven of which signed up that evening.

A few weeks later, the Chapter ran a UNICO Booth at The Seafood Festival in Point Pleasant Beach. Headed by Chairperson Marissa Gynn-Ricafort, many passersby stopped to chat and take UNICO brochures as well as a chance on Italian basket donated by Joe Leone and Nick Scarpella. Teenagers from ACES also ran a children's game at the Booth, with profits going to their charity projects. Two more new members signed up after visiting the booth that Day.

At the September meeting, UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio and his wife Manuela were on hand to install all the new members in a lovely dinner ceremony. In December, the Chapter will host a special holiday dinner to install their 12 new Youth members when they are home from college.



Point Pleasant Beach New Members and their Sponsors from left: Donna and Vin Papa, Louise Wallack with UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio, Donna Grassano, Paul Viggiano, Bernadette Grabowski, Anthony Aragon, Victor Damato, Jack Fiorino, Mario Simone, Tom Moretti, Grace Gynn, New Jersey District I Governor Alan Floria and President Debbie Vaccaro.



UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio discusses impressive membership growth with Point Pleasant Beach President Debbie Vaccaro, Grace Gynn and New Jersey District I Governor Alan Floria.

DARIEN, CT



The Darien Chapter celebrated Columbus Day with a Heritage Dinner at the Piedmont Club in Darien, Connecticut. Front row from left: Tony Romano and Francis Geitz. Back row from left: Richard Sagnelli, Nick DeMaio, Joe Lasko III and Tom Bria.

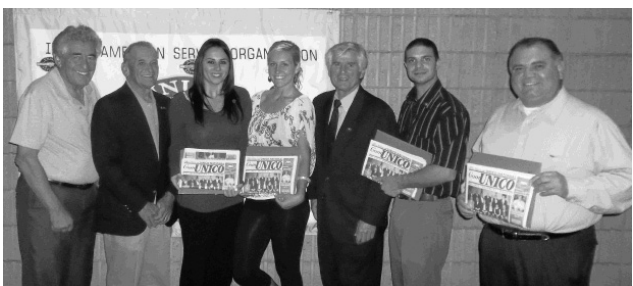
PLAINFIELDS', NJ

PLAINFIELDS' UNICO SWEARS IN NEW MEMBER

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO recently swore in four new members at its monthly meeting at Giovanna's in Plainfield. Their sponsors were also on hand to witness the swearing in.



From left: Chapter President John DeAndrea, Past National President Renato Biribin, new member Stephanie Bartfalvi, Debbie Boyle and her daughter new member Megan Boyle, Plainfields' UNICO Sergeant at Arms Mike Colucci, new member Mike DiMonte, new member Giuseppe Razzano, Plainfields' UNICO member Suzi Leonardis, and New Jersey District X Governor and Plainfields' UNICO member Robert Bengivenga.



From left: Past National President Renato Biribin, Plainfields' UNICO President John DeAndrea, new member Stephanie Bartfalvi, new member Megan Boyle, New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, new member Mike DiMonte, and new member Giuseppe Razzano.

Members of Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO meet and chat with actor Jon Seda at the Annual Sergeant John Basilone Day Memorial Breakfast Ceremony held in Raritan New Jersey on Sunday Sept 23. Jon Seda played the part of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone, who was the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart for his heroic actions in the Battle of Guadalcanal and was killed on the first day of the Battle of Iwo Jima. The Raritan Valley Chapter of UNICO was the host of the Memorial Breakfast Ceremony in Raritan prior to the Annual John Basilone Parade.



From left: Mike Colucci, Sergeant-at-Arms of Plainfields Chapter; Deanna DeMarco, Jon Seda, Dr. M. Ann Walko, UNICO National Second Vice President and Anthony Bengivenga, Immediate Past President of Plainfields Chapter UNICO.

RAMAPO AQUAMASTERS TO WEAR UNICO LOGO FOR COMPETITION

Members of Plainfields' UNICO presented Ramapo Aquamasters swimmer Amy Bengivenga-Johnson with UNICO shirts. The team will proudly wear the UNICO logo throughout the United States Synchronized Swimming Master's Nationals in Sarasota, Florida, this October.



From left: UNICO Past National President Renato Biribin, Amy Bengivenga-Johnson, who swims competitively with the Ramapo Aquamasters, her father, New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, and Plainfields' UNICO President John DeAndrea.

Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO Officers joined with UNICO National Officers and dignitaries at the Rutherford Chapter's 30th Anniversary banquet at the Venetian. The Plainfields' Chapter was instrumental in supporting the newly chartered Rutherford Chapter of UNICO in 1982 and at that time presented the Rutherford Chapter's President with their first wooden gavel with a brass inscription with both Chapters names. The gavel was

exhibited at the banquet along with other memorabilia and scrap books. During the evening ceremonies, Cavalier Mary Ann Re, Ph.D. was the recipient of the 2012 "Mille Grazie Award" for her outstanding role in promoting Italian Culture. Cavalier Re is a member of UNICO National and she is also the Director of the Coccia Institute based at Montclair University, as well as past Director of the New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission.



Standing from left: Mary Ann Re, Anthony Bengivenga, Past President of Plainfields' Chapter UNICO; Rick D'Arminio, UNICO National First Vice President; John DiNapoli, President of the UNICO National Foundation and Mike Colucci, Sergeant-at-Arms of Plainfields Chapter. Seated from left: David Donnini, UNICO National President; Manuela D'Arminio, Ann Walko, UNICO National Second Vice President and Angela DiNapoli.



Anthony Bengivenga, Past President of Plainfields Chapter of UNICO congratulates Dr. Mary Ann Re at the Mille Grazie Award Ceremony.



From left: New Jersey District I Immediate Past District Governor Grace Gynn, UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko, Point Pleasant Beach Chapter President Debra Vaccaro, Sergeant-at-Arms Dominick Fiumano and Plainfields' Chapter Past President Anthony Bengivenga.



NEW JERSEY DISTRICT XI

BOCCE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

New Jersey District XI just completed its Annual UNICO National Bocce Series in order to raise funds and awareness for Cancer Research.

This Annual event included 22 four person teams in a double elimination tournament. During the day at registration, teams were welcomed to coffee, bagels and buns along with free give-aways. The tournament began with the team from the Scranton Chapter defending its title from 2011. During the games a picnic was included with foods ranging from Tripe, Eggplant Parmigiano, Sausage and Peppers, multiple pasta dishes, hot dogs, sausage and hamburgers on the grill. Zeppole were made fresh along with cakes and pastries. A face painter for the children was provided.

This year's winning team was from the Orange/West Orange Chapter. In attendance was David Donnini our National President from Los Angeles and Michael Veselka our Executive Vice President from Chicago. Other Past National Presidents and National Officers were in attendance.

UNICO and our committee thanks all for participating, our teams, sponsors, donors and restaurants for their support, dollars and time.



UNICO National President David Donnini with Orange/West Orange President Ken Broderick in the background.



The winning team is pictured with the Event Chair Frank Paolercio from left: Team Captain Carmine Campanile, David Campanile, Fred Grecco, Joseph Calderone and Orange/West Orange President Ken Broderick.

UNION, NJ

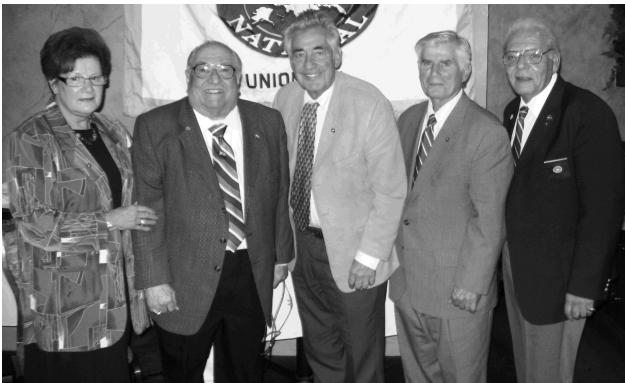
UNION UNICO HONORS CARMEN SCHIALFA FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Union Chapter honored Chapter Member Carmen Schialfa for 50 years of service to the Chapter.

Carmen, an Italian American who worked at his father's store and later opened his own business became a member of the Union Chapter in 1962. He served as Chapter President and New Jersey District X Governor. Carmen continues to serve the Chapter today.

Honoring him was the New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga and UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko. Many Chapter Members returned for this special occasion including Carmen's son who spoke about the UNICO Family and what it meant to him growing up being a member of UNICO. Carmen's wife Marie also accompanied the accolades.

An overwhelmed and moved Carmen spoke briefly and thanked everyone for attending.



From left: UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko, Honoree Carmen Scialfa, Past National President Renato Biribin, New Jersey District X Governor Bengivenga and Union UNICO President Joe Almeida.



From left: Union UNICO President Joe Almeida, Carmen Scialfa and UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko.



UNION UNICO HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR DINNER DANCE

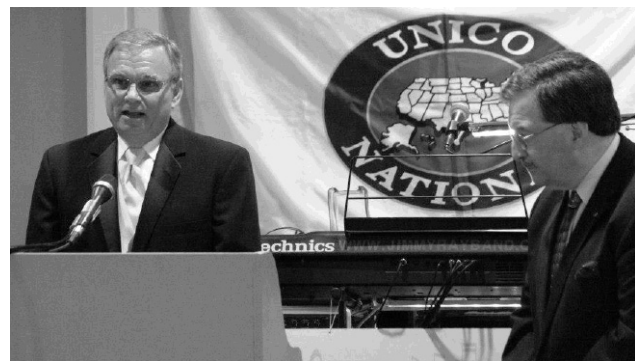
The Union Chapter held its Annual Humanitarian Award Dinner Dance recently. The award known as the Richard Galante Humanitarian Award is a prestigious award given to a member of the community who exhibits the quality of Service Above Self in our community.

Named after Richard J. Galante, former Member and President of the Union Chapter, the award is in its thirteenth year running. This year's recipient was Robert Johnsen, a Union resident, veteran, business owner whom is always there giving a hand to those who may need it. Robert can be seen at all civic and township organized community events helping. Robert is also the Past Commander of the VFW and is currently serving as the liaison with the Veteran's Alliance Organization and chairman of the Memorial Day Parade Committee.

Over 200 guests attended the event and proclamations from the Senate and Assembly of the State of New Jersey, County of Union and the Township of Union were presented to the honoree.



From left: Union Unico President Joseph Almeida, 2012 Humanitarian Award Recipient Bob Johnsen and Galante Family representative Richard Galante.



Humanitarian Award Recipient Bob Johnsen and Richard Galante, Sr.



Assemblyman Joseph Cryan presenting Bob Johnsen the New Jersey State Assembly and Senate Proclamation.

KEARNY, NJ

KEARNY CHAPTER VISITS ATLANTIC CITY

On Sunday, September 23, 2012, the Kearny Chapter sponsored its fall fund-raising bus trip to the Trump Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City. It was a cool, but sunny morning as trip participants gathered in the parking lot of the Kearny Federal Savings Bank for a bit of "coffee and ..." before boarding the bus. Bingo, a 50-50 raffle and coffee and donuts served on the bus made the ride to Atlantic City more enjoyable. Once the trip arrived in Atlantic City, everyone enjoyed a full day of gaming, walking on the famous Atlantic City Boardwalk and the nearby factory outlet stores. For some on the trip, it was truly a lucky day as they came home with big winnings. The ride home was quiet as the "in-flight" movie wouldn't play. Everyone had a great time on the trip, especially those lucky winners.



Kearny Chapter members gather before boarding the bus to Atlantic City from left: Denise Ficeto, Jean Sansone, Celeste Pandolfi, Ida Nigro, Pearl Yaszczemski, Alice Belfiore, Joe Sgalia, Dot Sgalia, Lou Pandolfi and Judy Hyde.



Kearny Chapter Vice President Joe Sgalia "calling" the bingo numbers on the way to Atlantic City.

Kearny Chapter Celebrates Italian Heritage Day

On Sunday, October 7, the Kearny Chapter celebrated Italian Heritage Day. The event was held at the Henrietta Benstead Senior Center. Members of the public were invited to share in the celebration of October as Italian American Heritage

Month in New Jersey. The event featured Italian food and desserts which were generously provided by Bensi of North Arlington, Arlington Pizza and Birardi Imports, LLC. Dr. Richard Sorrentino sang Italian folk songs and Theresa Trucillo talked about making various types of Italian cookies. Chapter President Lou Pandolfi spoke about the rules and history of bocce. Past National President André DiMino discussed the Italian culture in the United States and also spoke about the history of UNICO. Joe Sgalia, Kearny Chapter Vice President chaired the event and also gave a mini Italian language lesson. At the conclusion of the event, attendees were invited to enjoy playing bocce on a scaled down bocce court set up outside.



Kearny UNICO Vice President Joe Sgalia introduces member Theresa Trucillo who spoke about making various types of delicious cookies.



Richard Sorrentino sang Italian folk songs.



Jeanne Murtha, Ida Nigro, Tom Murtha and Lou Pandolfi enjoy a game of bocce.



Members and guests enjoyed the delicious Italian food and desserts.



One of the many display tables at the event.



Seated from left: Theresa Trucillo, Jean Sansone, Alice Belfiore and Pearl Yaszczemski. Standing from left: Judy Hyde, Gerry Ficeto, Ida Nigro, André DiMino, Past President of UNICO National, Joann Mitchell, Celeste Pandolfi, Joe Sgalia and Lou Pandolfi.

LACKAWANNA, PA FLAG RAISING

The Keystone Chapter approached its three Lackawanna County Commissioners for a proclamation naming October as Italian Heritage and Culture month. In the process, Keystone also got them to conduct an Italian Flag Raising in conjunction with the Proclamation. The results were the Italian Flag Raising with over 10 Italian organizations from Lackawanna County including members of the Scranton Chapter attending and each receiving a copy of the Proclamation. Pictured at the Flag Raising on Friday, October 12th are the representatives of the various Italian Organizations and Commissioners Corey O'Brien, Patrick O'Malley, a UNICAN and James Wansacz. Next year's date is already on the calendar. This is something that all Chapters can do annually, as a means of preserving our Heritage and Culture and, through local publication, as a vehicle for bringing in new members!



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UNICO NATIONAL CELEBRATES



Past National President Andre' DiMino greets the crowd as fellow UNICO Members enjoy a ride on the UNICO National Float during the New York City Parade.



From left: Renato Biribin, Joe Agresti, Glenn Pettinato, Dominick Nicastro, Ralph Contini, David Donnini, Rick D'Arminio, Ann Walko, Chris DiMatteo, and Andre' DiMino.



The UNICO National float led several Chapters up the Boulevard in Seaside Heights, during the 21st Annual Ocean County Columbus Day Parade. From left: Joe, Ann and David Donnini, Dominick Nicastro, Ralph Contini, Criss Mangano, Sal Benvenuti, Jane and John Morano, Pat Pelonero, Debbie Benvenuti, John and Linda Gail Alati and Sal Mangano. Front row: Lisa Pizzella and Gerard Liberto.



Point Pleasant Beach Members march in the rain at the Seaside Parade. From left: Dominick Fiumano, Madonna Clayton and Evelyn Cottone.



UNICO National Columbus Day Chairman Ralph Contini and UNICO National President David Donnini are pictured on the float.



Anthony Sclafani and Ken Moglia of the Brick Chapter are joined by visiting Italian Policemen Antonio Barbacci and Andrea Menghini.



UNICO Members sharing a great night out at the Belleville and Nutley Columbus Day Dinner where Paul Alongi, Past National President, was honored as the Grand Marshal for the October 7, 2012 parade. Pictured at the dinner were National Member Ralph Torracco flanked by Passaic Valley Chapter Members Jane and John Morano.



The Bridgeport Chapter participated in the Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, October 7. The 2012 parade was dedicated to the remembrance of those who lost their lives 25 years ago in the L'Ambiance Plaza building collapse and also honored the cancer support and education services of the Swim Across the Sound, besides celebrating the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus. Joining Chapter members Perry and Angela Vincenzi, Mario Bartoli and Louis Gallucci in the parade march were members of the Trumbull High School Italian Club.



Members of the Kearny Chapter place a wreath at the Christopher Columbus Monument. From left: Judy Hyde, Councilwoman Susan McCurrie, Kearny Mayor Alberto Santos, Joseph Sgalia, Alice Belfiore, Celeste Pandolfi and Lou Pandolfi.



COLUMBUS DAY



Nutley UNICANs march with President Anthony Malfitano, Parade Coordinator Ralph Contini and visiting Carabinieri, Alfonso Porcelli, Giovanni Longo and Francesco Maddalena in the New York Columbus Day Parade.



Waterbury UNICO celebrated Waterbury Italian Mayor for the Day/Columbus Day Celebration on Friday, October 5, 2012. Nick Rinaldi was honored as Honorary "Mayor for the Day" for his service to the Italian Community. Nick and his wife Mary Lou attend mass with Waterbury UNICO family and friends.



From left: Giuseppe Pampania, Connecticut District I Governor; Francine Nido, National Secretary; Mary Lou and Mayor Nick Rinaldi and Dr. Joanne D'Angelo, Waterbury UNICO President.



The Fifth Annual Columbus Day Parade of North Jersey traveled through the streets of Hackensack before a larger-than-ever crowd of spectators who lined Main Street. From left: Hackensack Chapter President Albert Ferrante, UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio, Past National President Michael D'Arminio, UNICO National Columbus Day Chairman Ralph Contini and UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro.



From left: Frank Putrino, New Jersey IX Past District Governor; Richard D'Arminio, UNICO National First Vice President; Joseph Iula, Paramus Treasurer; Ralph Spataro, Westwood President; Mike Morena, Paramus President; Andre' DiMino, Past National President; Gerry Heytink, New Jersey District IX Governor; Laurie Morena, Susan James, George James and Joe Bolognese.



UNICO National President David Donnini gives the thumbs up at the Seaside Parade even though it was a rainy day!



UNICO National President David Donnini is joined by his parents Joe and Ann Donnini at the Seaside Parade.



A visiting Carabinieri greets UNICO National Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti.



Rocco Testa waves to the crowd during the parade in New York City.

Convention
Chair:
Paul Domico
ppdomico@gmail.
com

Vice Chair:
John Alati
jmalati@aol.com

Ad Journal
Chair:
Joe Agresti
agresti@unico.org

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UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2013

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Tuesday, July 30, 2013

To

Sunday, August 4, 2013

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The Facts
Room Rate - \$159.00 per night
Registration - \$100 per person
Meal Package - \$275 pp

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JULY 30, 2013
TO
AUGUST 4, 2013
Catch a Wave

Join your fellow UNICANS from
across the country at the beautiful

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OUR UNICO NATIONAL OFFICE AT
1-973-808-0035

OUR STORY

Remembering Nonie

The steam rising off the small teacup warms my face and melts away the sharp chill of fall. The sweet, smooth liquid warms my throat as I sip the coffee from the teacup that once belonged to Nonie, my paternal great-grandmother. As my fingers glide gently over the surface of the glassy porcelain, the familiar texture causes my mind to wander to a time when a cup of coffee was more than a way to keep warm and calm the stresses of a cold October's day. At the first taste, I am immediately transported to a setting that now exists only in my memory.

As I enter my Nonie's kitchen, I am welcomed by the familiar sour-sweet aroma of simmering marinara sauce that so often permeates the air of her small, two-family urban home. My Nonie is standing at the stove, stirring the contents of the large, metallic sauce pot that sits atop the front burner, as she usually is when my father and I arrive on Sunday mornings. To the left of the sauce pot is a napkin-lined bowl containing an abundance of freshly fried meatballs. Though momentarily crisp, the meatballs will soon be immersed in the sauce to become the perfect complement to this afternoon's linguini dinner.

My Nonie is a small woman, not very tall, so she has to stand on her tiptoes to stir the sauce. Despite her diminutive appearance, my Nonie is larger than life. If you look deep into her brown eyes, you can see the strength within. A crisp white, neatly tied apron covers the front of her pink and blue, floral print Sunday dress. Her blue-grey hair is neatly curled and her black healed, lace-up shoes are polished to a shine.

For more than sixty years, my Nonie has lived on Fremont Street in what is referred to as the "South End" of Springfield. The South End is different than most places in the city. It is a small Italian neighborhood where most people lived their entire lives and where each family has some connection to one another.

In the cramped backyards of each home, including my Nonie's, tomato plants and yellow marigolds are planted in small, precious sections of earth in the predominantly cement city ground. Her entire backyard is covered by an umbrella of grape vines, supported by black iron bars forming a grid overhead. The sharp and distinct scent of almost-ripe grapes penetrates the air of the neighborhood. Soon, the grapes will turn and Papa, my great-grandfather, will use them to make wine in the large winepress housed in their dank, dark basement.

Today is a typical Sunday. My father and I drove to the South End to attend the 9:00 AM Mass at Mount Carmel Church. After Mass, we stop, as we always do, at *Albano's Market*, the neighborhood corner store, to buy some fresh fruit for my Nonie and Papa and some lemon Italian ice for me. Although we don't buy much, they obviously appreciate our effort more than the produce, which they always seem to have more than enough of anyway.

Our weekly visits with my Nonie and Papa usually last for an hour, during which we eat meatballs and provolone cheese, and share our experiences of the past week. Most weeks, Dad and I leave together to spend a leisurely afternoon at home with my mother and baby brother, CJ. Some weeks, however, Dad leaves me at Nonie's to spend

the afternoon with her and her friends. This is one of those weeks.

When she turns away from the stove as we enter the kitchen, I let go of my father's hand and run to embrace her. There is something about my Nonie's hug that is different from my mother's or father's. Hers is perfect- not too hard, but not too soft either. Nonie walks me to the large oak table, which is covered by a delicate white lace tablecloth beneath a layer of clear plastic. Seated around the table are my Nonie's neighborhood friends, Antoinette, Carmella, Nannine, and Joanne. They are all Italian women who, after emigrating from the same small town in Italy, have spent their entire lives in this neighborhood. Like my Nonie, each woman, except the younger Joanne, has hair of a different shade of grey.

They speak in a language that I hear only at my Nonie's. While I can't understand everything that they are saying, some words are familiar, like *bambina*, which means baby girl in Italian. That's how I know they are talking about me.

I notice the porcelain dish at the center of the table and the small teacups and saucers placed neatly at each person's seat. I smile when I see this because it means that I am not too late for this Sunday ritual. I see my father as he motions to my Nonie, who goes to him as she always does. He whispers something to her and they both look in my direction. I can't hear exactly what he is saying, but I'm sure that he has just reminded her, as he always does, not to allow me to drink coffee. I don't quite understand why; he never really explained it, but he is insistent about it.

"Now be a good girl for Nonie; Daddy will be back later for dinner with Mommy and CJ," my father says while kissing Nonie on the cheek and saying his good-byes to the ladies. I smile and nod, and he turns and leaves. I love my father, but I'm always glad when he leaves on Sundays because this is my special time alone with my Nonie, without the interference of my parents and definitely without my baby brother monopolizing everyone's attention.

I take my seat as usual at the large, round table; it's the one closest to my Nonie's. As she comes to take her seat at the table, she brings with her an ornate coffeepot decorated with a yellowy-gold floral pattern, which she gently places in front of her place setting. She passes me a plate of Italian *cannolis*, *pizzelles*, and other such morsels. I greedily take two *cannoles* before passing the plate on to the next person. Then she starts to pour the coffee. She first serves each of the women, who have been chatting away amongst themselves since we arrived. I wait anxiously as I watch her fill each cup. She then turns to me as she motions for my teacup. I smile, partly with anticipation, but mostly with defiance, as she pours the contents of the coffeepot into the small cup. She returns it to its place in front of me as she sits down.

I wrap my hands around the warm cup as the women pass the sugar bowl and the creamer around the table. When the two finally arrive in front of me, I jump at the chance to sweeten my beverage with four large teaspoons of sugar. I also add a large quantity of milk to soften the dark color of this forbidden liquid. I don't care much for the taste of coffee, but it's the experience of having coffee with my Nonie that makes it special.

The metallic clatter of spoons surrounds me as the women all stir their drinks, and I sit, kicking my feet excitedly beneath the table. Sipping the coffee from my cup, I cannot help but feel

important, well beyond the normal importance of a child of five. That's what I like about my Nonie and her friends; they treat me like I am one of them. When I am with them, I feel like I am a member of a forbidden or secret club, like I am part of something special.

As they finish their coffee, the women continue to converse in the same familiar, yet exotic, language. Sometimes they laugh at one of the women's antics. When they do, I laugh too, not because I understand what they are saying, but because I want to fit in. I just enjoy listening to the sounds and imagining what the words might mean.

Before I know it, my cup is empty and the table is covered with porcelain dishes holding only crumbs. Eventually, my Nonie clears the table and puts the dishes in the sink, signaling the end of the morning's festivities. One by one, the women leave, each kissing the cheeks of the others before saying their final good-byes. After they have all left, my Nonie and I retire the adjacent living room after washing and putting away the dishes. For the next half hour, my Nonie will knit and I will watch television.

It's almost dinner time and I know that my family will be arriving soon. I don't mind, though. My Nonie's linguini with marinara sauce is spectacular, and I don't mind sharing that with my family. Coffee with my Nonie and her friends on Sunday mornings is different.

As I look into the small teacup, I can see the image of a young woman, with the familiar big brown eyes of my great-grandmother. The image is a subtle reminder of who I am. Nearly a century ago, my great-grandparents stepped off a boat at Ellis Island, unsure of what they would find in America. They settled in the remote South End, isolated by their language and customs. Along with their fellow immigrants, they endured and assimilated. They willingly learned the English language and adopted American culture.

Although they eventually became U.S. citizens, they never forgot who they were or where they came from. Each July, they proudly marched through the South End streets with their friends and neighbors to celebrate the religious feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. During this three-day festival, the entire local Italian community gathered together to honor the Madonna by affixing currency and praying to her statute. They celebrated their heritage by playing Italian music, including the Italian national anthem, and eating fried dough and other Italian dishes.

Throughout their lives, my Nonie and Papa, along with their neighbors, spoke both Italian and English, ate the traditional foods of their homeland, and decorated their home consistent with their European background. They maintained their Italian heritage with quiet dignity in their new American home.

As I finish the coffee, I cannot help but remember sitting at the large oak table, sipping coffee with my Nonie and her friends. I still drink my coffee the same way, with milk and way too much sugar, and my father still insists that it isn't good for me. But, those Sunday mornings in the South End were about more than coffee. As I sat at that table with my Nonie and her friends, I was connected to their past, to where I came from. I will never forget what I gained by being there. My Italian heritage was and always will be in my blood, but because of my Nonie, it will also remain forever in my heart.

By Stefanie Santaniello

LIVINGSTON, NJ

COLUMBUS CELEBRATION IS TRIPLE HEADER AT LIVINGSTON

Livingston UNICO celebrated Columbus Day with three separate events and a dinner celebration as a joint effort with local service organization. The first was a Heritage Presentation at the September Monthly Meeting followed by two contests for the local students. The High School Art class was asked to submit posters that represented Columbus and his voyages; and, awards were given to 5th grade students who best portrayed the strength, courage and conviction demonstrated by Columbus.

Two awards were presented by Ralph Celebre, Membership Chair and Past President, and the current President Al Branchi.



From left: Franca Aurilia, Al Branchi, Neil Aurilia, Guest Speaker, Dr. F. DiGregorio; Joan and Fred Picini, Marguerita Ventrice and Connie Stevenson.



Livingston President Al Branchi and Past President Ralph Celebre are joined by the Livingston School Art Supervisor, Student Award Winners and their Art Instructor.



Seven Fifth Graders from the Livingston School System receive their Columbus Day Essay Contest Awards from Past President Ralph Celebre.

PHILADELPHIA, PA



Giuseppe Cifoni, Chapter Treasurer; John Ferrara, Chapter President; Alicia Vitarelli News Anchor Channel 6 and Ben Ferrara, Past President.



From left: Ben Ferrara, Anthony Gagliardi, John Ferrara, Giuseppe Cifoni, Mark Maggi, Mike Iannuzzi, Donald Sabitini, and Rocco Rugnetta. Bottom Row: Brian Sitangia and Michael Sgro.



From left: Anthony Gagliardi, Ben Ferrara, Past President; John Ferrara, Chapter President; Mark Maggi, Alicia Vitarelli, Channel 6 News Anchor; Pete Ciarrocci and Giuseppe Cifoni.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

On Saturday October 6, 2012, the Saddle Brook UNICO gathered for the annual Columbus Day Ceremony. The Chapter made the following donations at the event:

- 1) A \$200 donation to the UNICO Angels, a special needs children's soccer team.
- 2) A \$500 donation to the Saddle Brook PTA to be used for their annual Tricky Tray.

The Chapter also received a Proclamation from Mayor Karen Chamberlain proclaiming October Italian Heritage Month in Saddle Brook.



From left: John Cappello, Joy Ebel, Ed Ebel, Marilyn Nasello, Chapter President Joe Nasello, Carl Esposito, Sue Sym, Tom Liquori, Andrew Cimiluca, Joyce Brendel and Ed Donofrio.



Mayor Chamberlain presents President Joseph Nasello with the Proclamation.



PTA members and President Nasello.



President Nasello and coaches of the UNICO Angels.



Happy Thanksgiving!



UNICO NATIONAL EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

January 11-12, 2013

WOODLANDS INN & RESORT
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All reservations must be accompanied by the first night's room deposit or guaranteed with a major credit card for the reservation to be processed and confirmed. Deposits are refundable up through day of arrival.

All reservations must be received at the Woodlands Inn & Resort by Friday, December 14, 2012.

Reservations received after this date will be charged at a higher rate no exceptions.

Room Rates: \$95.00 + taxes Thursday
\$109.00 + taxes Friday and Saturday

The rate will include a complimentary beverage coupon per room. A \$10.00 voucher per person for Mohegan Sun Casino-(based on valid program) and hotel and casino discount coupons. Members staying Thursday will be entitled to complimentary breakfast Friday, a voucher will be included with your packet for Saturday Breakfast

Mohegan Sun Casino is within minutes of the hotel and the hotel offers a free shuttle service to and from the Casino.



UNICO NATIONAL EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING REGISTRATION

January 11-12, 2013

THE WOODLANDS INN
1073 Highway 315
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702

Name _____ Nickname _____
Spouse's Name (non-member only), if attending _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-Mail: _____
Children Attending - Names and Ages _____
Chapter _____ Office _____ District _____

(i.e. National Officer, District Governor, Chapter President, Delegate)

FEES AND CHARGES UNICO MEMBERS GUESTS CHILDREN

Meals included in this charge: \$65.00 \$65.00 \$65.00

Breakfast Voucher (Restaurant)
Dinner/Dance Saturday Evening

Registration (members only) \$35.00

Total with registration \$100.00 \$65.00

Total amount of check enclosed or to be charged: _____

Make check payable to: UNICO NATIONAL,
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cards, (please circle)

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Completed forms should be mailed or facsimiles no later than **January 4, 2013** to: **UNICO National**
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LOS ANGELES, CA



Pictured from left: Giulio Zavolta, Deanna M. Donnini, Los Angeles Chapter President; Mr. and Mrs. Balboa; UNICO National President David Donnini and Rick Carver.

BOOK REVIEW



The Feast of St. Gerard Maiella, CSsR: A Century of Devotion at St. Lucy's, Newark, New Jersey

By Reverend Thomas D. Nicastro
Reviewed by Fran DePalma-Iozzi

The feast of Saint Gerard Maiella (born in 1726 and died in 1755 at the age of 29) has been celebrated at St. Lucy's Church in Newark, New Jersey for 113 years. The tradition was brought to Newark (or Nevarca, as it was called by the Italian immigrants) with the wave of Italian immigration that began in the 1880s. The story of this migration and the role of the feast is told in this book by Reverend Thomas D. Nicastro.

For me, the importance of this book lies in its historical recreation of the lives of the Italians who settled in Newark's First Ward. According to Nicastro, "The United States census of 1870 recorded 29 Italians in Newark and 257 throughout the state. (But by)...1900, 10,000 Italians made their home in Newark."

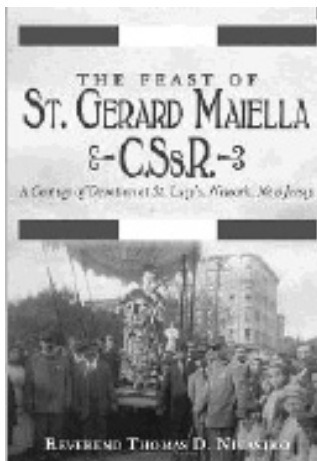
Some of the history that was most valuable to me was:

- The story of Father Joseph Perotti, the first pastor of St. Lucy's, who was so generous to the people that, when he died, all he possessed were the clothes on his back and 50 cents.
- The beautifully created hanging baskets of flowers, ribbons and money, "often lowered by a cord "from the tenement buildings during the procession of the statue through the streets, these, from the poorest of the poor, living in cold water

flats that would eventually be condemned. These baskets were then carried through the streets "by young girls dressed as angels."

- The "Gold Box", wherein immigrants would deposit their jewelry as a donation. "It could be any piece of gold jewelry, a necklace, gold earrings or a gold watch chain."
- The story of the Columbus Housing Projects, which was authorized by Mayor Addonizio. The book inspired me to search for more information on the internet.

Interestingly, I finished reading the book on October 16, the saint's birthday and my husband and I went down to the feast where we met Reverend Nicastro, a charming man. I recommend the book as a valuable documentary of our heritage.



EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR



A Message From Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti

We were just settling into our new office and had finally worked out some of the glitches when Hurricane Sandy hit the northeast. New Jersey, especially the shore areas, took a direct hit from the storm. Many of us, including the National Office were without power for at least one week. While the storm caused many disruptions and inconveniences for many of us, we were spared the brunt of the storm that devastated the shore areas in New York, New Jersey, and Staten Island.

As we start to get back to "normal" (whatever that is), please be aware of some of the events and items that are approaching:

Dues: Your second half National dues are payable by November 30, 2012. Please review your Chapter Roster and make all necessary corrections (adds, drops, addresses, e-mails, etc) to your roster. If you need any help with the dues billing or the procedure for making corrections, please contact the office and we will be glad to assist you.

IRS Tax Filing: If your Chapter is on a fiscal June 30 year end, your 990 is due by November 15. If you have any questions about your filing requirements, please contact me and I

will be glad to assist you in the filing of your 990. If your gross receipts are under \$50,000 for the year, you must file online using a 990-N (Postcard). Again, if you contact me, I will be glad to file the 990-N for your Chapter.

Revoked Tax Exempt Status: If your Chapter's tax exempt status was automatically revoked by the IRS for failure to file a 990 for three consecutive years, you have until December 31, 2012 to file for retroactive reinstatement. If you have any questions, regarding reapplying for tax exempt status, please contact me.

Insurance: In order to reduce the costs of insurance to the local Chapters, the National Office is currently looking into a group insurance policy. We will make information available as soon as there is a policy in place.



And now UNICO National is holding an open house to celebrate the move and hold an official ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome us into our new home. All UNICO Members and friends are invited to join the National Office Staff and tour the Office on Friday, November 30, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and on Saturday, December 1, 2012 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. UNICO National President David Donnini will be here along with the National Office Staff to welcome you. Please join us for refreshments and friendship!



The UNICO National Office Staff is always on hand to assist Members! You can reach them as follows:

Sal Benvenuti sbenvenuti@unico.org

Pat Pelonero ppelonero@unico.org

Lisa Adubato ladubato@unico.org

Sue Anzelmo sanzelmo@unico.org

Stephanie Figurelli sfigurelli@unico.org

Joyce O'Hara johara@unico.org

You can also reach us Monday through Friday in the National Office at 973-808-0035

Our New Address is:

UNICO National
271 Rte 46 West, Suite F-103
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Northeast was recently devastated by Super Storm Sandy. Members throughout the region experienced tremendous losses. A Disaster Relief Fund has been established by the UNICO Foundation to assist members in need. The National Office is accepting donations via mail, telephone and PayPal.



UNICO National Disaster Relief

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Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Payment Type:

☐ CASH

☐ CHECK-Made Payable to **UNICO Foundation**. Earmarked for 'Disaster Relief Fund'

☐ CREDIT CARD

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Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Security Code: _____

Please return your donation and this completed form to:

UNICO National

Fairfield Commons

271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F-103

Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

Thank you for your contribution! Please remember to include your name and address so that we may send you an acknowledgement letter for your tax records.



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☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

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PS Form 3526, August 2012 (Page 2 of 3)



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From left: Joe Catenaro, John Alati and Joe Agresti making this year's wine.



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JOAN BENEDICT STEIGER: Don't let her standout portrayal of "Queen of Mean" Leona Helmsley fool you, this Italian-American thespian has a heart of gold.

LOU&A

by Louis R. Carlozo

Class act

As a veteran actress, Joan Benedict Steiger has a career that dates back to "Candid Camera" and includes movies with Don Knotts. Yet she's still stretching, earning acclaim in recent years for a solo show where she portrayed real estate magnate Leona Helmsley, the "Queen of Mean."

And while Hollywood is a notoriously difficult place to sustain a relationship, Steiger can boast that she's loved three men to the end. She was married to leading stage actor John Myhers for 30 years and Oscar-winning actor Rod Steiger for the final years of his life. Following his passing in 2002, Joan partnered with actor Jeremy Slate until his passing in 2006. Tragically, all three men died of cancer. (Her solo show "The Loves of My Life" is based on her life story.)

Yet Steiger maintains the same radiance that set her apart as a child growing up in Brooklyn, N.Y. Truly, hers has been an

(See Lou&A on Page 44)

NEWSMAKERS Reinventing Rossellini

by Jim Distasio

For celebrities, retirement is a fluid, sometimes elusive pursuit.

Frank Sinatra officially hung up his fedora in 1971, only to keep on performing for another 20-plus years. Actor Gene Hackman retired in 2004 and has found a second act away from the cameras as a historical fiction author. And the late, great Johnny Carson said goodbye to "The Tonight Show" in 1992, and save for a handful of public appearances, completely disappeared from the spotlight until his death seven years later.

So when a luminary like Isabella Rossellini tells a reporter from the Financial Times, "Basically, I am retired," you have to take the proclamation with a grain of salt. Sure, the

60-year-old actress/model/filmmaker may be shifting her primary focus away from the visible trappings of fame, but all signs point to a woman refusing to slow down.

If anything, Rossellini appears to be using retirement as an opportunity for reinvention. The past few years have found Rossellini getting in touch with her agrarian Italian roots by eschewing the big city for the country, learning about farming and animal care services, and even going back to college.

It's a 180-degree turn from a woman who rose to prominence first as the scion of actress Ingrid Bergman and film director Roberto Rossellini, then as the effortlessly elegant face of the

(See Newsmakers on Page 44)



ISABELLA ROSSELLINI: Recently retired from Hollywood, the actress, model and filmmaker has turned her attention to more agrarian pursuits.

REVIEW Musical medley

Let's catch up with some of our favorite musicians, who prove that hard work and dedication really do pay off.

DAN TEDESCO

A true road warrior, Dan has just returned from a 150-show tour that spanned 27 states. He recently launched his own music channel, "The Dan Tedesco Music Channel" (DTMC), where you can enjoy his passion for rock and roll 24/7 with streaming music, videos, live show footage and exclusive content.

Tedesco is back in the recording studio at Shangri-la Productions in Lexington, Ky., to produce a documentary in addition to his new album, "Death in the Valley." Both are scheduled for a February release. A special congratulatory note to Dan and Kelsi, who tied the knot on Sept. 29.



CHRISTINA PERRI

Christina has been one busy girl. After landing a record deal with Atlantic and recovering from vocal cord surgery, Perri's second single, "A Thousand Years," went platinum.

Promoting her debut album, "Lovestrong," Perri also embarked on a world tour. She followed it up with a North American tour opening for Jason Mraz. She also recorded her new single, "Distance," and its video with Mraz.

Listen for "A Thousand Years (part 2)" on the upcoming soundtrack of the final "Twilight" film. Perri is back in the studio recording her second album, scheduled to be released this spring.

TONY LUCCA

Following his success as a finalist on the second season of "The Voice" earlier this year, Tony Lucca was signed to Adam Levine's label, 222 Records. Since

(See Review on Page 44)

LIBRI Pazzo about Palio

by Judith Anne Testa

Even though most people, if they develop a serious obsession, go to a shrink, Robert Rodi went to Siena. In this appealing and humorous memoir, the author describes and reflects on his obsession with Siena's obsession: the famous bareback horserace known as the Palio. But Rodi's ambition extended well beyond repeated attendance at this annual semi-insane August spectacle — he wanted to be a full-fledged part of it by becoming a member of one of Siena's 17 "contrade," the insular, rivalrous neighborhoods within the city that function almost like independent towns.

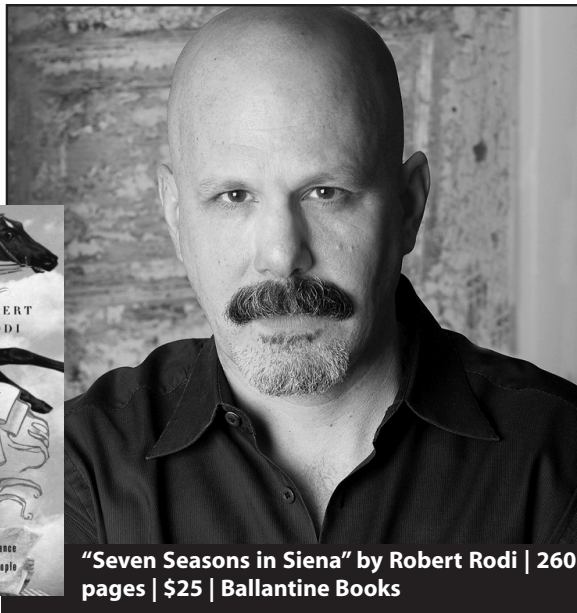
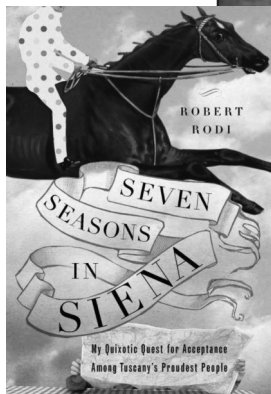
Each contrada has an insignia, and each year 10 of them enter a horse and rider in the Palio. Rodi chose the neighborhood called the "Bruco," or Caterpillar. These contrade are so tightly closed that Italians from other cities and even Sieneese from other neighborhoods can't penetrate them, so what chance would a foreigner have? But few if any foreigners have Rodi's nerve, patience, persistence and, above all, his humility. The author mentions an American man who many years earlier had made himself a part of one of the Sieneese contrade, but he was the only one until Robert Rodi came along. Rodi's eagerness to fit in and become a member of the Caterpillar contrada is somehow touching, despite the

light, humorous (and occasionally hilarious) tone of the author's writing. He's like a big, awkward new kid at a junior high school, trying his best to become part of the "cool" in-crowd.

Don't expect to find out much of anything about Siena's art and architecture — this isn't a guidebook to the city, and Rodi is cheerfully oblivious to the cultural attractions that draw most tourists to this remarkably unchanged chunk of medieval Italy. Nonetheless, Rodi's detailed descriptions of how Siena looks, feels, smells, tastes and behaves during the time leading up to the Palio, during the collective madness of the actual race and during its equally intense

aftermath is superb. And it probably wasn't all that different half a millennium ago. In his single-minded concentration on this one facet of Sieneese life, Rodi captures an essential aspect of Siena that most visitors miss.

Despite limited knowledge of the Italian language and an appearance that would never allow him to blend into the Sieneese scenery — aside from being an American, Rodi is tall, pale, bald, mustachioed and openly gay — he doggedly pursued his goal. He remained impervious to slights and embarrassments. Year after year, he returned to Siena at Palio time, and he slowly wormed his way into the closed world of his chosen contrada. He did, however, have the essential help of his friend and Bruco member Dario Castagno, and I'm not sure Rodi would have succeeded in his quest without Castagno's assistance and presence. But Rodi kept showing up, and he did whatever anyone asked him to do, including laboring in blistering August heat slicing hundreds of loaves of bread on one occasion and opening as many bottles of wine on another — food for the enormous pre- and post-Palio feasts sponsored by his contrada. Gradually, over the years, contrada members began to recognize him and even, cautiously, to accept him as one of their own. In the end, Rodi receives a touching reward for his devotion, but you'll have to read the book to learn what it is.



"Seven Seasons in Siena" by Robert Rodi | 260 pages | \$25 | Ballantine Books



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SPORTS Brains and brawn

by Elena Ferrarin

Indianapolis Colts offensive left tackle Anthony Castonzo, 24, says that while football is first and foremost a team sport, his role definitely carries an extra layer of responsibility.

"You're protecting the quarterback, that's your job. I recognize that responsibility, I embrace it. You've just got to take it for what it is, because I worked really hard to get where I'm at," he says.

Castonzo grew up in Hawthorn Woods in north suburban Chicago and spent a semester at Fork Union Military Academy in Virginia after graduating from Lake Zurich High School.

At Boston College — where he majored in biochemistry with a math minor, and earned a Rhodes Scholarship nomination — he set a school record with 54 starts on the offensive line while allowing only one sack as team captain his senior year. He was selected by the Colts in the first round of the 2011 NFL draft.

Castonzo started playing tackle football at age 6, following in the footsteps of his father, Bill Castonzo, an offensive lineman at the University of Illinois, and his older brother, Bill Jr., a quarterback at Drake University. "I always loved the game," he says.

A good tackle primarily needs to be quick and agile, Castonzo says.

"It's a ton of technique, actually. The best guys are the guys who can place their hands in the right spot, have their body in their right posture," he explains. "It's all about knowing how to use your leverage, and being smart about plays."

Being big and strong also helps, says Castonzo, who is 6 feet 7 inches tall and 315 pounds. However, he pointed out, his weight gain

was planned and methodical, at about 20 pounds per year in college. "I wanted to do it very gradually so I could maintain my athleticism. I didn't want to get big and slow," he says.

Castonzo's first NFL season was by no means ideal, marred by an ankle injury that sidelined him for four games last year.

"I hadn't missed a game since high school. It was difficult. It was a freak accident. I rolled my ankle in a weird way. Having to be in the training room, then having to come back and play on a bum ankle, knowing I needed surgery, it was chal-



ANTHONY CASTONZO: Intelligent, skilled and passionate about his position, he takes the task of guarding the quarterback's blind side extremely seriously.

lenging to play like that. But it was a good thing to have in my rookie year because it taught me a lot."

Castonzo says he's the kind of athlete who commits 100 percent to his goals.

"In high school, I'd have basketball practice until 7 p.m., then I'd be weightlifting until 9 p.m. and then come back home. I'd be doing that on a Friday night, when everyone else was out to party," he says.

"I'm two different people. When I'm on the football field, in football, I'm extremely intense. I'm a hairpin trigger, I'm ready to ... 'boom!' ready to go. I'm very serious in everything that I do in football. But outside, I'm very fun-loving, kind of goofy."

Supporting charities has become an important part of his life, Castonzo says. He hosted his first charity event in October through Kids' Voice of Indiana, and looks forward to doing many more.

"I want to help kids," he says. "I had a really good childhood, with my parents giving me a lot of opportunities. I had a lot of opportunities to reach my full potential. Whether it's because of an illness or a family situation, it breaks my heart to see kids not having opportunities."

Castonzo, who lives in suburban Indianapolis, says he likes to cook — he makes a mean salmon with grilled vegetables — and is always on the prowl for good restaurants. "I'm really into food. I try to find good stuff to eat around Indianapolis. I'm not afraid to drive 45 minutes to an hour to get a good meal," he says.

So what's his favorite restaurant? "My mom's kitchen," he says with a laugh.

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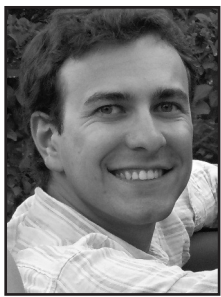
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by Nicola Orichuia



Heading downhill fast

Last year, while tens of thousands of Romans were enduring one of the worst snowstorms in the city's recent history, a visionary few were mapping out how to transform adversity into opportunity. The Italian Skiing Federation recently came up with the contrarian notion of hosting a portion of the World Skiing Cup in the Eternal City, where snow rarely falls and even more rarely accumulates. With a keen eye for the dramatic, the federation hoped to organize the event within the confines of one of Rome's most iconic landmarks: the Circus Maximus.

Under the auspices of organized skiing, so-called City Events have been hosted since the 1980s, attaining new heights of popularity in 2011 when the World Skiing Cup staged a nighttime slalom in Munich. The unexpected success of the event led to another in Moscow. Aside from having hosted similar events in the past, the two cities differ from Rome in one other significant way: They're actually cold.

But the Italian Skiing Federation was undeterred. On Oct. 18, a delegation of organizers and technicians visited the elongated grassy area that once held one of the Roman Empire's most majestic chariot race tracks. The group agreed that a skiing event there was possible. To make it work, organizers would have to retrofit the Circus Maximus with a 200-foot-tall slalom capable of supporting one ton of weight per square meter. As for the snow, it would be produced

(See *Circo Italia* on Page 45)

PERSONAGGI Crossover king

by Nicola Orichuia

Pure talent is hard to come by these days, with vocal synthesizers and digital trickery reducing pop music to an endless stream of perfect-sounding yet soul-numbing pabulum. Perhaps that's why someone like Andrea Bocelli has continued to grow in popularity since bursting onto the world stage in the early 1990s. The Italian tenor has given audiences around the globe the chance to listen to an unadulterated lyrical voice, whether he is delving into pop, opera or any musical point in between.

Bocelli has been a whirlwind of activity lately. From concerts promoting his albums to volunteer work with

his foundation, the artist is never idle. He is currently touring some of the biggest stages in America after releasing the album "Opera" earlier this year. After touching down on the West Coast in November, the tenor has been moving eastward, with performances at Chicago's Allstate Arena on Dec. 2 and at Brooklyn's Barclays Center on Dec. 5. The album, released under the Sugar Music label, is a return to Bocelli's roots — a collection of operatic classics that includes "Recitar! — Vesti la giubba" from "Pagliacci" and "La donna è mobile" from "Rigoletto."

(See *Personaggi* on Page 44)



ANDREA BOCELLI: Adept at opera, pop and all musical points in between, he recently added philanthropy to his remarkable list of accomplishments.

CINEMA Italian export

by Jeannine Guilyard

Francesca Neri is Italian-born but known to audiences around world, having starred opposite some of the biggest names in the moviemaking business.

Born in the northern Italian city of Trento in 1964, Neri knew at a young age she wanted to pursue a career in cinema, so she moved to Rome, where she studied acting at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia.

Shortly after signing on at the famous film school, she met the talented director Giuseppe Piccioni, who gave Neri her first major role in a motion picture, which also served as Piccioni's directorial debut.

She embraced her role as Laura in Piccioni's 1987 coming-of-age film, "Il grande blek," contributing hugely to its success. The film was screened at the Berlin Film Festival, and won the De Sica Award for the best new Italian film that year as well as the Nastro d'Argento, a prestigious award given each year by Sindacato Nazionale dei Giornalisti



FRANCESCA NERI: Launching her career in Italy, her beauty, eloquence and class have earned her countless roles and repeated acclaim around the world.

Cinematografici Italiani, the association of Italian film critics.

Neri went on to work with several European directors in the 1990s, including Wilma Labate, Carlos Saura and Pedro Almodóvar, building a solid foundation of credible, articulate roles that earned the admiration of critics and audiences alike.

Then in 2001, she took on a role that would change the course of her career. Shot on location in Italy and the United States, "Hannibal," director Ridley Scott's sequel to "The Silence of the Lambs," gave American audiences their first in-depth look at the stunning actress.

Neri played the role of Allegra Pazzi, the beautiful, cultured wife of Inspector Rinaldo Pazzi, played by fellow Italian Giancarlo Giannini. Neri brought an eloquence to the film that even had charms to sooth the savage

(See *Cinema* on Page 45)

VIAGGIO Witness to history

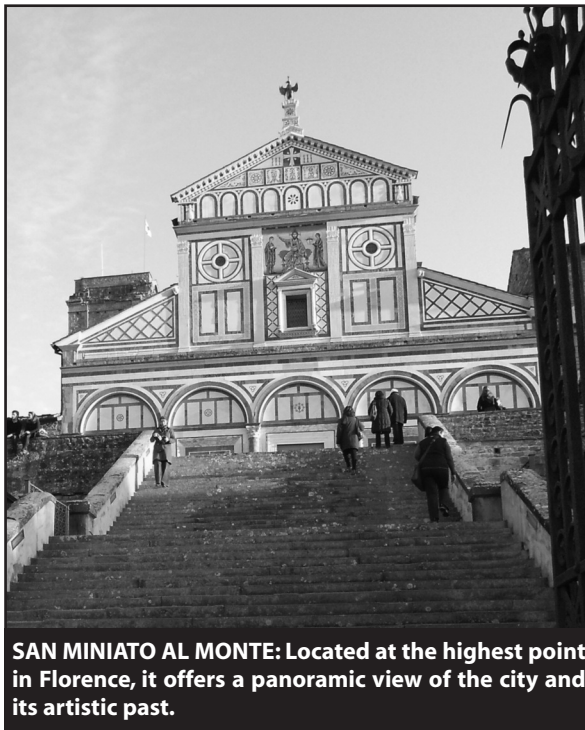
by Judith Anne Testa

On a hilltop at the highest point above Florence stands one of the most beautiful and historic churches in Italy: San Miniato al Monte. With the exception of the cathedral baptistery, which may date back to the 5th century and which also is considered a church, S. Miniato is the oldest religious foundation in Florence. Begun in the year 1013, it's now exactly 1,000 years old. Considering its great age, it remains in an excellent state of preservation.

The church is dedicated to a semi-legendary figure. S. Miniato is said to have been an Armenian prince who served in the Roman army under the emperor Decius, around 250 A.D. When he became a Christian and began evangelizing in Florentia (the Roman name for Florence), the emperor condemned him to be executed "ad bestias" — devoured by wild animals in a local arena — but the beasts refused to attack him. The emperor then ordered Miniato beheaded, but the saint is alleged to have picked up his head, put it back on his neck, crossed the Arno, climbed up the hill and expired on the spot where the present church stands. A small chapel existed on the site by the 8th century.

Bishop Ildebrando founded the present church in 1013 as a way of enclosing and protecting the grave of S. Miniato, and at the same time the Holy Roman Emperor Henry II ordered the construction of the adjoining Benedictine monastery, among the first important religious houses in Tuscany. Work continued for 200 years, and it was completed in the early 1200s. This venerable church also contains some artistic gems from the Renaissance period that fit in nicely, and even the restoration work conducted on the interior in the later 1800s didn't spoil its beauty.

The facade is visible from many points in Florence, and it's especially beautiful when lit by the rays of the setting sun. Decorated with geometric designs in white Carrara marble and dark green marble from Prato, it bears some resemblance to the exterior of the baptistery, but the design is much more complex. Because the church is in the form of a Roman basilica, with a high central nave flanked by



SAN MINIATO AL MONTE: Located at the highest point in Florence, it offers a panoramic view of the city and its artistic past.

lower side aisles, there was the problem of how to create a harmonious facade that integrates both parts of the building. The unknown architect came up with such a superb solution that the front of S. Miniato influenced the design of church facades all over Italy for centuries afterward. The lower level is united by five identical arches, three of which contain entrances into the church. Above the nave there's an ingenious variation on an ancient Roman temple front. Arches just below the triangular pediment at the top repeat the motif of arches seen on the lower level. The "door" to this little temple is actually a pedimented window. To unite this temple with the lower level, the architect designed triangles on each side that conceal the aisle roofs, and that suggest still another pediment hidden behind the temple-shape on the top level. The facade of S. Miniato inspired Alberti's 15th-century facade of S. Maria Novella as well as the facades of S. Croce and the cathedral, both completed in the 19th century.

The mosaic at the upper center of the

facade, showing Christ between the Virgin Mary and S. Miniato, dates from the beginning of the 1200s. The final touch is the gilded bronze eagle that crowns the facade. In the eagle's talons is a bale of cloth. The latter phase of the construction of the facade was financed by the Calimala, the Florentine guild of cloth merchants, whose symbol was a cloth-clutching eagle.

A curious feature or, more accurately, an absent feature, is the bell tower. The original one collapsed in 1499 and a new one begun in 1518, but it was never completed. Instead, its foundations were used as military fortifications during the siege of 1529, when defenders of the Florentine republic tried to hold off forces intent on restoring the Medici family to power. At the suggestion of Michelangelo, who also worked on other fortifications for the defense of the doomed republic, the base of the bell tower, cushioned by mattresses and bales of wool, was used as an emplacement for cannons. Today, these battered fragments easily can be mistaken for the remains of ancient Roman fortifications.

Despite additions in subsequent centuries, the 11th-century interior of S. Miniato remains remarkably true to its early origins. Columns of green and white marble, many of them from Roman temples in the city and all of them topped with ancient Roman capitals, uphold the arcades and side walls of the nave. Decorated with geometric patterns in dark green marble, they echo the patterning on the facade. Only the very topmost part of the walls and the wooden roof are 19th-century restorations. Unusual for such interventions — which are all too often heavy-handed and obvious — these elements blend in unobtrusively with the original portions below.

Much of the pavement of the side aisles and the nave is given over to tomb slabs — many of them worn smooth by a thousand years of tramping feet — but down the center of the nave runs a series of exquisite marble panels inset with intricate designs in darker stone and apparently intended to look like a long rug. Completed in 1207, these panels contain many abstract motifs, as well as signs of the zodiac and a variety of animal forms.

Visitors who reach the far end of the nave are often confused by what they encounter. Instead of a conventional altar, one sees a tall tabernacle with a curved roof held up by columns that appear to be smaller versions of those that support the nave arcade. But this structure isn't contemporary with the construction of the church — it's a Renaissance addition. Commissioned by Piero di Cosimo de' Medici (father of Lorenzo il Magnifico), it's called the Chapel of the Crucifix, and it was designed in 1447 to hold a crucifix that's supposed to have inclined its head in approval to Giovanni Gualberto, an 11th-century nobleman who had forgiven and pardoned the murderer of his brother. A man of that time and social class would have been much more likely to avenge his brother by killing his murderer and thus



starting one of those endless cycles of vengeful violence that characterized medieval Florence. Little wonder the Church later declared Gualberto a saint! The crucifix is no longer in the tabernacle; it's been moved to the church of S. Trinita.

On either side of the Chapel of the Crucifix, one set of stairways leads down to the crypt and another set, in the side aisles, leads up to the level of the pulpit and a second altar, which is actually the main altar of the church, despite its semi-hidden location. In the half-dome of the apse is a magnificent mosaic of the late 1200s, showing Christ enthroned between the Virgin Mary and S. Miniato, accompanied by symbols of the Four Evangelists.

The most famous feature of this ancient church is a relatively modern one: the Chapel of the Cardinal of Portugal, built into the north (left) wall in 1460. Unlike many chapels from the early Renaissance, which underwent radical changes in later centuries, this one still looks exactly as it did when it was completed in the 1470s. The cardinal whose tomb the chapel contains was a member of the Portuguese royal family; he was known in Italy as Giacomo di Lusitania (James of Portugal). Made a cardinal at 22, he died in Florence in 1459 at age 25. His most notable achievement, according to certain contemporaries, was that he'd managed to preserve his virginity. The inscription on his sarcophagus makes indirect mention of this evidently astonishing fact.

The chaste young cardinal had expressed a wish to be buried in S. Miniato, and soon immense sums of money came pouring in for his funerary chapel. He had a lot of rich relatives: one of his cousins was King Alfonso V of Portugal; his cousin Eleonora was the wife of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick III, and his aunt Isabella was the duchess of Burgundy, the wealthiest state in Europe. All of them contributed generously. The executor of the cardinal's will, Bishop Alvaro da Silves, administered the project, and his role receives recognition in the inscription over the chapel's entrance.

The interior of the chapel is a jewel box of Renaissance artistry that smoothly integrates an unusually large variety of media: architecture, sculpture, fresco, panel painting, glazed terra-cotta and multi-colored marble. In the wrong hands this multi-medium extravaganza in such a small area could have resulted in a garish, overcrowded space, but instead the final product is a beautifully proportioned showcase for some of the best work of one architect, three painters and four sculptors, along with members of their workshops. The chapel's unity is clearly the result of careful planning and cooperation by the teams involved in building and decorating it. The inlaid marble floor patterns reflect those in the pavement of the much older church, and

this pattern of circles is echoed in the chapel's enameled terra-cotta dome, the work of the Florence's leading sculptor in that medium: Luca della Robbia.

The interior is a perfect square, with arches on three walls that match the open archway of the entrance. The architect was probably Antonio Manetti, a pupil of Brunelleschi, with architectural details carved by Giovanni and Bernardo Rossellino. The back wall contains the cardinal's marble tomb, the work of Antonio Rossellino, the best known of the Rossellino brothers. Considering that it's a funerary monument, the tomb is remarkably lively — dynamic rather than dead-looking. The base

features boy angels holding cornucopias, a pair of unicorns (symbols of chastity) holding up a flower garland and a skull wearing a friendly smile. Sculpted white marble curtains appear to have been momentarily drawn aside to reveal the tomb, where the effigy of the handsome young cardinal lies on a bier above a coffin imitated from an ancient Roman sarcophagus. Baby angels frolic at the cardinal's head and feet, and two larger angels seem to have just alighted above on either side. Against a background of dark red marble two more angels come fly-

ing in, holding a marble wreath containing an image of the Virgin and Child. Mother and Son gaze down at the cardinal, looking as if they expect him to awaken at any moment. The whole ensemble appears as if it's resting briefly, before moving off or floating up to heaven.

The left wall of the chapel displays a panel painting by Antonio and Piero del Pollaiuolo of saints Vincent, James (the cardinal's name-saint) and Eustace. (The painting in the chapel is a copy; the original is in the Uffizi Museum.) Coordinating with the white marble curtains that flank the cardinal's tomb and its dark red backdrop, fresco paintings by the same artists show angels pulling back a set of dark red curtains to reveal the painting, which is placed above the chapel's altar.

The painting of the Annunciation on the right wall is by yet another artist: Alesso Baldovinetti. For unknown reasons, it's an unusual combination of two media: fresco and panel painting. The lower portion, painted on a wooden panel, presents the event against a background that looks like dark-toned marble panels. The half-circle-shaped portion above abruptly takes us outdoors, as it shows cypress trees and a blue sky. At upper left, the Holy Spirit descends toward Mary in the form of golden rays from a cloud.

When you leave this church and its rich accumulation of so many centuries of art, you can enjoy a spectacular view of Florence, the city that produced the remarkable architects, artists and artisans whose work makes S. Miniato such a treasure house.



TRAVEL TIPS



WHERE IS IT?

The name S. Miniato "al Monte" is a clue that reaching this church on foot can be challenging. Although the hill on which it stands doesn't quite qualify as a mountain, it's a high hill and a very long climb from the city center. Bring a map, as the roads can be confusing. If the walk seems too daunting, there's the number 12 bus, which can be boarded near the church of S. Maria Novella and the train station. The stop is located by the east exit from the station, in Piazza Adua. The trip can take as long as 30 minutes, depending on traffic conditions. Once you're on the bus, keep an eye open for the stop "Galilei 07"; the S. Miniato stop will be the next one. Or you can take a cab.

WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

The monastery adjoining the church is still in use, and so it's not open to the public. However, the Olivetan monks there make liqueurs, honey and various herbal concoctions that they sell from a little shop next door to the church. On the same hill there's also a good-sized 19th-century cemetery called the Porte Sante, surrounded by what were originally defensive walls built in the 1500s. Among the people buried there is Carlo Collodi, the creator of Pinocchio.

If you happen to visit the church in the late afternoon, you'll have the pleasure of seeing it in use, and you can listen to the beautiful Gregorian chant performed daily by the monks.

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RECIPES Making holiday magic

by Dolores Sennebogen

The approach of December makes me wish for a brief vacation from the 21st century, a step back (for just a spell) to visit the Christmases of my childhood. The 1950s were a simpler time, and the yuletide spirit seemed less hectic, less mercenary and infinitely more satisfying. Growing up in Chicago, I looked forward to the dreamlike holiday windows of the State Street stores that were designed to beguile the city's children. A trip to the Loop during the weeks before Christmas was sure to include lunch at the Heather House on the eighth floor of Carson Pirie Scott or in Marshall Field's Walnut Room, which showcased a Christmas tree as mesmerizing as Santa Claus himself.

The happy feeling of the season continued at home where presents were hidden in closets and the decorations were unearthed from the basement. We erected a fragrant fir tree and gave the nativity scene a place of honor beneath it. True Christmas magic was taking shape in the kitchen. Mom planned the Feast of the Seven Fishes for Christmas Eve and a bountiful banquet for Christmas Day. But well before December 25th we got to help bake (and sample) dozens of traditional Italian Christmas cookies that were once-a-year treats. In that gentler era, I recall holiday visits from *cumare* and *cumpare* who appeared, sometimes unannounced, to sit awhile and exchange Christmas wishes. Mom was ready to offer them trays of homemade cookies, a cup of coffee or a little wine.

Despite quantum lifestyle changes since that time to our more frenetic holidays, I still enjoy offering cookies to anyone who visits my home during the Christmas season.

Buon Natale a tutti.



BISCOTTI DI NATALE

(Christmas Cookies)

1 stick butter or margarine
2/3 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
3 eggs
1/2 teaspoon anise seed
1/2 teaspoon each: almond extract,
vanilla extract, lemon extract
2-1/4 cups flour
2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/3 cup chopped toasted almonds
1/4 cup chopped candied fruit
Icing (recipe follows)

In a mixer, cream the butter or margarine. Add the sugar and salt and mix until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Add the anise seed and the extracts. Turn the mixer to slow speed and add 1 cup of flour and the baking powder. Mix until blended. Slowly add another cup of the flour and blend well with a spoon. Mix the nuts and candied fruit with the remaining 1/4 cup of flour and add to the mixture. Cover the dough and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Grease a 15-1/2-inch-by-10-inch cookie sheet. Form 3 parallel loaves lengthwise on the pan. Do this by dropping overlapping teaspoons of the dough the length of the pan. Flatten the surface and sides of the loaves with a knife blade. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for about 25 minutes, or until golden. Cool for about 15 minutes.

Icing and Decoration

1 cup confectioners' sugar
1 tablespoon cocoa
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon butter
1/2 teaspoon anise extract
Multicolored candy shots

Sift confectioners' sugar together with the cocoa. Heat the milk with the butter and add to the cocoa mixture,

together with the anise extract. Mix until smooth, then spread over the cookie loaves and sprinkle with the candy shots. Let stand for about 10 minutes. Cut into diagonal slices using a very sharp knife. After 30 minutes, store in tightly covered cookie tins.

— Ann Sorrentino

CORNETTI

(Almond Cookies)

2-1/2 cups ground almonds
1 cup white cornmeal
1 cup flour
2 cups sugar
1 tablespoon orange zest
5 large egg whites, room temperature
1 teaspoon vanilla
1-1/4 to 1-1/2 cups
confectioners' sugar, divided

Beat ground almonds, cornmeal, flour, sugar, orange zest, egg whites and vanilla in an electric mixer until the mixture comes together and forms a dough. Divide the dough into three. Sift 1 cup of the confectioners' sugar onto a work surface. Roll the dough on the sugar, forming 10-inch logs. Chill the 3 logs, uncovered, in a pan in refrigerator overnight.

Cut each log into 8 pieces (or more, if you want smaller cookies) and form each piece into a crescent tapered at the ends. Put them one inch apart on baking sheets that have been lightly buttered or lined with parchment paper. Leave the cookies at room temperature for 2 hours. Then bake in preheated 450-degree oven for 6 to 8 minutes until they are lightly golden. Remove to cooling racks. While still slightly warm, roll them in the remaining confectioners' sugar.

— adapted from Mia Stainsby

TETU

(Chocolate Drop Cookies)

4 cups flour
1-3/4 cups plus 4 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon cloves
3/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon allspice
1 teaspoon baking soda
6 tablespoons cocoa
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup milk
1 stick margarine
1/2 cup nuts (optional)

Sift the dry ingredients together. Heat the milk until very warm but not boiling, and melt the shortening in the milk. Let it cool and add to the dry ingredients. Add the nuts if desired. Roll in 1-inch balls and bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for about 12 minutes. Frost with the following.

(See Recipes on Page 45)



LOU&A

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(Continued from Page 35)

enchanted life, marked by time in Rome and Paris, then training with legendary acting coaches before her stage and TV career kicked off.

Steiger's Italian roots come from both sides of her family, and behind the stage version of the Queen of Mean, there's a principessa with a golden heart and talent to match. Fra Noi spoke to Steiger about her career, life and a legacy that owes much to her vibrant Italian lineage.

Fra Noi: Tell us about your Italian roots.

Joan Benedict Steiger: My birth name is Joan Canizaro, and I'm Italian on both sides, back to 14th century on my mother's side. My father's parents were from Milan and Palermo. My mother's father was born in Naples, and I think my mother's mother was from there, too. When my mother was first married, I lived in my grandfather's house off Prospect Park in Brooklyn. I had seven uncles who were very young at the time, and at one time or another they all lived there. It was like "Eloise at the Plaza."

FN: It sounds like your childhood offered a great springboard for getting into the arts.

JBS: I started dance lessons at 7 with tap and ballet, and when I was 9, my mother decided she wanted to send me to Rome to continue my lessons. So I became a member of the Rome Opera Ballet School, but tap dancing was always my real forte. I lived with my mother's relatives, and I didn't speak any Italian, so I had a private tutor who taught me the language. I spent a year and a half in Rome, and then we went to Paris for a year. Then we lived in Long Island.

FN: What happened once you returned to America?

JBS: I went to what is now Hofstra University — it was Hofstra College then — and when I was 17, my mother told my father that I wanted to be an actress. I had fabulous teachers in Stella Adler and Robert Lewis, who founded the Actor's Studio. I also studied with Betty Cashman. Her studios were at Carnegie Hall. You'd get in the open-caged elevators and you'd pass one floor and there would be singing, and on another floor people would whiz by dancing. It was so much fun!

FN: Early on, you experienced success on "Candid Camera," but you also found love with Myhers. Tell us about the Chicago connection to that.

JBS: John Myhers had returned from 12 years in Italy. He had a magnificent singing voice and spoke fluent Italian. We were in Chicago when he proposed to me. This was 1962, and John was in the touring company of "The Sound of Music." We were married in between the matinee and the evening performance, and had our reception at the Italian Village, which was directly across from the Shubert Theatre.

I was in my early 20s, and John was older than I was, about 8 or 9 years older. We were married for 30 years, and he got cancer of the tongue. It took away his whole career. It was horrible. At the time, I was very busy working on TV: "The Hulk," "Days of Our Lives," "General Hospital," everything.

FN: How did you then meet and marry Rod Steiger?

JBS: Four years after John passed away, I got a call from Rod. We had dated when we were young, but we were both so busy working. Then he called, and it was love all over again. We got married, did three years of traveling and had a beautiful 15-room place in Malibu that overlooked the Pacific Ocean. We appeared in two films together, "A Month of Sundays" and "The Flying Dutchman." But then he got pancreatic cancer. He passed away in 2002.

FN: Love came again with Jeremy Slate, but he passed away from cancer as well. How did you overcome so much loss from cancer?

JBS: I'll tell you, I've been in every hospital in the Los Angeles area. I've slept in all of them, and I've been through all the different

stages of illness. But with all my men, they wanted me to be with them every single day. There was always so much to talk about, and they were so appreciative of my talent.

FN: Not that your talent is a thing of the past!

JBS: Last year I won the Los Angeles Theater Festival Award for all the plays I've done all over the years. I still tap dance three times a week, and the one-woman show I did as Leona Helmsley was very rewarding.

FN: Tell us about that. Was it hard, as such a classy lady, to portray such a meanie?

JBS: It took me about six months to learn the role because I couldn't leave the stage for an hour and 20 minutes. But it's my favorite role I've done on the stage.

There were things people didn't know about her. She was one of the first to start the co-ops in New York City, and she worked with nothing but men, so she had to toughen up. She had only one son, who was in the business with her, and he had asked her if he could go on vacation. She asked him to do this one deal for her, and so he went to Florida and died. His heart just exploded and it was devastating to her; she felt so much to blame for it. She also had a wonderful love with Harry; she'd made her millions before she met him.

FN: What are you working on now?

JBS: I'm doing 10 Web episodes of a comedy called "Rita, Moby and Tippy." I'm Rita, the off-the-wall grandmother. It's about a dysfunctional family, and their whole aim in life is to get on this quiz show and win prizes.

FN: You described acting, and theater in particular, as like church. What do you mean by that?

JBS: Just before I go on stage and it's five minutes before show time, I'll look out from backstage. It's quiet and it's just — I can't explain it. The stage is fabulous because when you're out there, hundreds of people are glued to your every word. Rod said the greatest thing an actor can leave another person with is a memory. And I just love that. I just love the theater.

NEWSMAKERS

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(Continued from Page 35)

international beauty juggernaut Lancome in the 1980s, and perhaps most famously in Hollywood as a lauded actress in edgy films like "Blue Velvet" and "Fearless."

But times change, and Rossellini has witnessed firsthand the seismic shifts taking place in her industry.

"The red carpet has become like a parallel business," Rossellini told the Financial Times. "The next day, there are TV programs and magazines, and it's all 'Do you like the dress or not like the dress' and 'Did she look fat?' To keep borrowing dresses and jewelry is like a full-time job. And you have to be a fantasy, which you can never be, so you always feel depressed."

Rossellini speaks from experience. In 1995, after more than a decade of service, she was very publicly dropped as the spokesmodel for Lancome. It was widely reported that Rossellini, then age 43, was fired due to her age, but the actress has a different take.

"They fired me because I was strong," she told the Daily Mail a decade ago.

Rossellini has not given up on modeling, despite the industry's historic aversion toward the natural aging process. She recently was the celebrity face for her own line of breathtakingly expensive handbags from Italian jewelry giant Bulgari, which was promoted in a splashy photo campaign shot by famed photog Annie Leibovitz.

Despite still being featured on the pages of glossy fashion magazines, Rossellini has always maintained a healthy skepticism about a star's role in public life. Perhaps it was her short-lived marriage to filmmaking legend Martin Scorsese that began in the late 1970s, or her family's royalty-meets-

rock star status in Hollywood that provided the life experiences necessary to so effortlessly navigate the media circus.

"To be an icon is a big job — it's beyond acting. And sometimes it pays and sometimes it doesn't," Rossellini told the Financial Times. "I remember when we were doing 'Blue Velvet,' Dennis Hopper was just out of rehab. We hadn't seen him in a very long time, and we all said, 'Oh, it's so great to see you, you are such an icon,' and he said, 'Icon, icon: Who will pay my bills?'"

By all accounts, Rossellini is having no troubles paying her bills. She still dabbles in the occasional bit of movie work. But the bulk of her film and television appearances these days eschew probing the human experience in favor of examining man's relationship with nature.

She co-directed a series of short films in 2008 called "Green Porno," in which she, in costume, reenacted the mating rituals of various animals, and also directed a documentary program for the Discovery Channel on urban animals. This fascination with the animal kingdom propelled Rossellini into a new challenge — getting her degree in animal studies at New York University. If all goes well, Rossellini will complete her studies in spring 2013.

"I wanted to make films about biology, and I thought I needed more information," Rossellini told the Financial Times about heading back to school.

This interest in communing with nature is a change-of-pace for a woman who spent much of her life in the metropolises of her childhood city of Rome and her adopted home of New York City.

Five years ago, Rossellini said goodbye to the Big Apple and settled for the country life in Bellport, Long Island, but the actress has no plans on living there quietly.

Her most recent passion is training seeing-eye dogs in her home for the Guide Dog Foundation. Rossellini works with the furry assistants before they are ready to lead and are adopted by their owners.

She's also purchased 30 acres in the area and is navigating the municipal red tape necessary to transform it into a working farm. The farm, which she has already staffed, isn't spacious enough for large livestock, but Rossellini plans to keep chickens and grow fruits and vegetables there.

She is fully embracing the farm-to-table concept, which gets consumers closer to food producers in local communities. It may be a nouvelle approach for some city-dwellers, but the Italians have been doing it for centuries.

"You know, when I grew up in Italy in the 1950s it was still very agricultural," Rossellini told the Financial Times. "Food was very important, produce was very important. Everyone made their own olive oil. It took me a long time after I moved here to understand that Americans are much further away from their food. I mean, when I was a child I knew the lamb before I ate the lamb at Easter — even if they didn't tell me it was the same lamb."

When asked about the shift in career — from model to actress to filmmaker to farmer — Rossellini likes to say she's now just an artisan — a person judged on the quality of her work, not on her looks or personality.

In fact, she has a great role model in how to pursue a career as both a semi-retired celebrity and a food giant — Paul Newman.

"I went to this big supermarket the other day, and there were all these Paul Newman products on a shelf, with different pictures of him: a Mexican Paul Newman, an Italian Paul Newman, a French Paul Newman," Rossellini told the Financial Times. "It was so silly but, you know, his daughter, who is the one behind it, really crafted an impressive empire. I always buy the lemonade and the dog food because it's all organic, but not the vinaigrette because, well ... I'm Italian."

REVIEW

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(Continued from Page 35)

the competition, Lucca has been on tour — he proudly refers to it as his victory lap. He's currently on the second leg with more than three-dozen cities to cover.

In between gigs, Lucca fits in trips to the studio to work on his fifth full-length

album. Expect a release in late spring or early summer.

JOE PUG

Props to Pug (Pugliese) — he was my first interview and I was his second back at the 2009 Lollapalooza music fest. He's literally traveled miles since. After relocating from Chicago to Austin, Texas, Pug was signed to Nashville's indie label Lightning Rod Records.

He's also had a few releases, including "Live at Lincoln Hall," recorded at the Chicago venue last year, and the critically acclaimed "The Great Despiser," released in the spring. Since then, Pug has been on tour in North America and the U.K., with stops at SXSW and the Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival. Pug also squeezed in a European tour, opening for the legendary Steve Earle.

REVIEW

A Very Merry Perri Christmas

by Christina Perri

Christina Perri's new album is a special six-song holiday EP.

The album's single, "Something About December," is a delightfully heartfelt holiday tune that immediately sucks you in ("Lights around the tree, Mom is whistling, Takes me back again, There's something about December ...")

The other tracks are Christmas classics made current by Perri's enchanting vocals and modern rock spin. Included are The Carpenters' "Merry Christmas Darling," Charles Brown's "Please Come Home for Christmas," and John Lennon and Yoko Ono's "Happy Xmas (War is Over)," featuring Michelle Branch, LP, Bushwalla and Martin Johnson of Boys Like Girls. "Ave Maria" is the artist's tribute to her Italian heritage, as is my favorite track on the CD, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" — it would make Frank Sinatra proud.

"I've wanted to make 'A Very Merry Perri Christmas' my whole life. Christmas is so big in my family, and I've been singing these songs since I was 3 years old," Perri explains on her website. "This EP is a collection of my all-time favorite Christmas songs, plus one original, 'Something About December,' which my brother and I wrote about finding Christmas wherever you are in the world, because it lives in your heart."

Available at www.christinaperri.com.

PERSONAGGI

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(Continued from Page 39)

Born on the family farm of Lajatico among the vineyards in the countryside of Pisa, Bocelli was encouraged to sing by his parents at a very young age. He began studying and playing piano at the age of 6, then took up the flute and the saxophone, although his voice would ultimately prove to be his greatest instrument and the key to success. Under the early guidance of Maestro Luciano Bettarini and later Franco Corelli, the artist developed into a young yet mature tenor, all while studying law at the University in Pisa and occasionally performing in bars to earn a living.

Bocelli is perhaps the most famous artist discovered by former singer and longtime talent scout Caterina Caselli. With her Sugar Music label, Caselli gave Bocelli his first real opportunities on the big stage. "I don't think one decides to become a singer," Bocelli once said. "It is decided for you by the reactions of the people around you." The reactions to his first performance at the Sanremo Music Festival certainly boded well. In 1994, he left audiences speechless with "Il mare calmo della sera" (The Calm Sea at Night), winning the Best Newcomer Award. That same year, he performed in Verdi's "Macbeth" in the role of Macduff, and then for Christmas he sang before Pope John Paul II. And that was just for starters.

Perhaps his most famous song is the 1996 hit "Con te partirò" (I Will Leave With You). Recognized in all corners of the world, the song was also arranged as a duet to be sung in English with Sarah Brightman, under the title "Time to Say Goodbye." The single skyrocketed on music charts around

(Continued on the next page)

RECIPES

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(Continued from Page 43)

Frosting

1 cup confectioners' sugar
Milk
1 teaspoon anise or vanilla extract

Mix confectioners' sugar with enough milk to make the icing spreadable. Mix in anise or vanilla extract and frost the cookies.

— adapted from Angela Giunta

TURDILLI

(Fried Wine Cookies)

4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup pure olive oil
3/4 cup Marsala, sweet sherry
or other sweet wine such as Vin Santo
2 large eggs
4 to 6 cups corn or canola oil,
for deep-frying
About 2 cups honey
2 tablespoons water
Nuts or sprinkles (optional)

Sift together the flour, nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice, baking powder and salt, and set aside. In the bowl of a standing mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, mix together the olive oil, wine and eggs until well blended. Add the dry ingredients all at once and mix on low speed until the mixture forms a cohesive mass. Scrape the dough onto a very lightly floured board. Knead lightly until smooth. Shape the dough into a ball, flatten and place in a bowl. Dust the top lightly with flour, cover with a towel or plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to overnight to allow the dough to relax.

If necessary, lightly dust your work surface again with flour. Cut the dough into 6 or 8 pieces. Roll each piece into a rope 1/2-inch in diameter. Cut the ropes into 1/2-inch pieces. Shape into "gnocchi" with a gnocchi board, butter paddle or on the backside of the tines of a fork. The deeper the grooves on the cookies, the better as they puff up as they fry. The ridges, unless deep, tend to disappear. Heat the oil in a deep-fryer or deep pan to 350 to 375 degrees.

Fry the cookies in batches until puffed and medium to dark brown, about 1-1/2 minutes. Try to maintain the correct temperature of the oil. Each batch should include enough cookies to cover the surface of the oil. Any fewer and the oil gets too hot and browns the cookies before they are cooked through. If you add too many and crowd the pan, it cools the oil. If they seem to be getting too greasy before they are golden, then the oil isn't hot enough. Stir the cookies while they fry so they do not stick together. The number of cookies you add to the oil and the amount of oil will change the timing. The cookies first turn light gold, then a light brown and finally almost a light milk chocolate color. Remove just as they get to this color or a little before. Drain on paper towels.

Mix the honey with the water, simmer for 2 minutes and then remove from the heat. While the turdilli are still hot, put them in a large shallow dish and pour the warmed honey over them. Toss the cookies several times as they cool. If the cookies absorb all the honey, add more — they should be fully saturated. Serve in a pretty bowl (with optional nuts or sprinkles) or store in a covered container. They will keep for about 1 week.

— adapted from
Michael Chiarello

SALAME AL CIOCCOLATO

(Chocolate Salami)

1/2 cup slivered almonds
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
Two 5-inch-long plain biscotti,
coarsely crushed
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
One 12-ounce bag high-quality semisweet chocolate chips
1/4 cup brewed coffee
1 teaspoon grated orange zest
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar

Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spread the almonds, walnuts and crushed biscotti in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake until the nuts are lightly toasted, 6 to 8 minutes. Cool completely.

Cut the butter into 1/2-inch pieces. Put the butter and chocolate in a heat-proof medium bowl and place the bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Stir until the chocolate has melted and the mixture is smooth, about 6 minutes. Stir in the coffee until smooth. Add the almonds, walnuts, biscotti pieces and orange zest, and stir until combined. Cover the bowl and refrigerate until firm but moldable, 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

Divide the chocolate mixture in half. Place half of the mixture in the center of an 18-inch-long piece of plastic wrap. Using a spatula, form the mixture into a log about 7 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. Roll up the log in the plastic and twist the ends to seal. Roll back and forth on a work surface a few times to make the log evenly round. Repeat with the remaining chocolate mixture. Refrigerate the logs until firm, at least 1 hour.

Spread the confectioners' sugar on a dinner plate. Remove the plastic wrap from the logs and roll them in the sugar until coated. Using a pastry brush, brush away the excess sugar. Let the logs sit at room temperature for 15 minutes. Use a sharp serrated knife to cut the logs into 1/2-inch-thick slices.

— adapted from Giada De Laurentiis

BISCOTTINI DELICATI

(Lacey Cookies)

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup margarine, softened
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 cup all-purpose flour
1-1/2 cups quick-cooking rolled oats
Confectioners' sugar

Beat butter and margarine until creamy. Add sugar and beat well. Gradually add the flour and rolled oats. Mix well. Chill. Shape into small balls, using 1 to 1-1/2 teaspoons of dough. Place 3 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten with the bottom of a glass that has been buttered and dipped in flour. You will need to re-flour the glass for each cookie or the dough will stick.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes, just until the edges are golden. Cool slightly before removing to cooling racks. Sprinkle generously with powdered sugar. Sprinkle with additional powdered sugar at serving time. If you plan to freeze these, do not add the powdered sugar until you have defrosted them completely.

— Dolores Sennebogen



the globe, even setting a record in Germany as the best selling single of all time.

Bocelli's ability to shift effortlessly from classical to contemporary makes him one of the most admired artists of today. He has wowed opera house crowds with bravura performances in "Tosca," "La Bohème" and "Il Trovatore," and delighted PBS audiences with a 2009 Christmas that included pop standards like "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and a truly adorable rendition of "Jingle Bells" alongside the Muppets.

But it is in the operatic world that Bocelli is most at home. In recent years, the tenor has sung and recorded performances of Ruggero Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" and Pietro Mascagni's "Cavalleria Rusticana," while also taking on the demanding lead role in "Andrea Chénier" by Umberto Giordano. Bocelli's two musical worlds were brilliantly merged into one concert in 2011, when he performed live in New York City's Central Park. In the album from that concert, listeners can find the aforementioned operatic pieces, as well as "The Prayer" (sung with Céline Dion), "New York, New York" and the Italian classic "Volare." His success in recent years earned him the 2012 designation of International Artist of the Year at the Classic Brit Awards.

While his success seems to know no bounds, Bocelli's private life has had many ups and downs. Born with poor eyesight, he lost his vision completely at the age of 12 after a soccer accident. Early in his career, when he was still relatively unknown, Bocelli met his wife, Enrica Cenzatti, and the two married on June 27, 1992. From the marriage came two children: Amos, born in 1995, and Matteo, born two years later. In 2000, Bocelli suffered through the loss of his father, Sandro, and two years later his marriage spun out of control, ending in separation that lead to a relationship with his current partner and manager, Veronica Berti.

Perhaps as result of these personal challenges, or simply because he doesn't need to prove himself anymore, Bocelli has recently devoted a good portion of his time to philanthropy and charitable work. In 2011, the Andrea Bocelli Foundation was launched with initiatives geared toward empowering people in developing countries. At the heart of the foundation are Bocelli's five Cs: Courage, Care, Concreteness, Competence and Cooperation. "I strongly believe that love does justice," says Bocelli. "And it is for this simple reason that we are all responsible for building a better world. Since love energizes faith, the opposite must also be true. The amazing lives we have been gifted offer us the privilege, opportunity, and responsibility to give the less fortunate a better future and opportunities."

Bocelli's heart, though, will always belong to Italy, and it showed in a special way after the terrible earthquakes in Abruzzo (2009) and in Emilia-Romagna (2012). In both cases, the tenor held benefit concerts, including a performance in Brescia's Teatro Grande, with all proceeds going toward the reconstruction of a kindergarten in the town of Mirandola in the province of Modena.

Bocelli's heart and passion are huge, as were Luciano Pavarotti's, whose equally huge shoes Bocelli has been called upon to fill. So far he has proven himself up to the challenge.

CIRCO ITALIA

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(Continued from Page 39)

in a nearby hangar and distributed across the man-made slope.

"It's a truly fascinating project," said Italian Skiing Federation President Flavio Roda. "It has the federation's support. To host a City Event in Italy would be a success for our sport and for winter sports in general. Now we must work to finalize the project and make it happen."

The International Skiing Federation's chief race director, Günter Hujara, shared Roda's enthusiasm. "There is no better place in the world than the Circus Maximus to host a City Event," he said. "We'll need to verify the technical feasibility of the project, but I'm positive and confident it will work out." The Rome event even earned the sup-

port of Alberto Tomba, known as "La Bomba" — the last great champion Italy has produced in the world of downhill skiing. "After 30 years from the 1984 City Event in Milan, where I won, Rome is a great idea," he said.

But the dream shared by Tomba and the two federations hit a wall fairly quickly. With the bitter taste of the city's disastrous handling of the previous winter's snowstorm still on his tongue, Mayor Gianni Alemanno was less than wholehearted in his support. "I'm ruling out the Circus Maximus as a possible venue for a Skiing World Cup City Event," said the mayor, though he didn't rule out the project completely. "I guarantee my availability to find another more suitable venue."

Why not the Circus Maximus? "I don't think it's a good idea to hold a competition within one of the city's most valuable historical areas," Alemanno fussed, somehow forgetting the concerts and other large-scale public events that have been held there under his watch. In 2011, he allowed half a million fans to pack the expansive field for a Lady Gaga concert, and in 2012, he permitted tens of thousands of Romans to gather in front of giant screens to watch Italy play in the European soccer championship final.

To host a skiing event in Rome could mean big bucks for the cash-strapped city council coffers. Other cities around the world, including New York City and Quebec, are looking into it. The soonest that Italy's capital could stage such an event would be the 2014 or 2015 skiing seasons. If the crazy weather patterns of the last few years persist, Rome might not even need fake snow.

CINEMA

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(Continued from Page 39)

Hannibal the Cannibal. The grace with which she carries herself and delivers her lines mesmerized audiences the world over, and even appeared to have the same effect on her fellow cast members.

She brought her own signature class to the role, making her the perfect person to play the sophisticated wife of a simple inspector. Despite their difference, there is a comfortable, light-hearted connection between Neri and her onscreen husband that makes it a true pleasure to watch this pair of talented thespians share the screen. The film broke box office records in the United States, Australia, Canada and the UK.

Her role in "Hannibal" wasn't her first on the far side of the Atlantic, and it wouldn't be her last. Back in 1990, she had a bit part in the box office disappointment "Captain America," and in 2002, she had the unique thrill of working opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Collateral Damage." Her star turn in the latter offered a new challenge to Neri, who embraced the role of action hero with fierce abandon, revealing a brand new range of talent in the process.

During the last decade, Neri has worked mostly in Italy with top directors and actors. Her highest profile role was in Pupi Avati's 2008 drama, "Il papà di Giovanna." The story is about a father's love and support for his daughter under the direst of circumstances. Neri plays a wife and mother who struggles to hold her family together. Her performance opposite Italy's beloved character actor Silvio Orlando is beautiful and intense, as the couple faces tragedy and heartbreaking choices in the midst of an Italy ravaged by World War II. The film won a slew of awards in 2008 and 2009, including a Best Actress Award for Francesca Neri.

In 2012, Francesca Neri married her longtime boyfriend, actor Claudio Amendola, with whom she has a son. She is currently working with director Paolo Genovese and A-list actors Sergio Castellitto, Marco Giallini and Claudia Gerini on "Una famiglia perfetta," which is slated for a 2013 release.

Several of Neri's films are available through Amazon, including "Hannibal"; "Collateral Damage"; Pedro Almodóvar's "Live Flesh"; and "Outrage," co-starring Antonio Banderas.



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CRISTINA FONTANELLI

Cristina Fontanelli has become a well known personality through her recordings, her appearances on television, radio, in concert, nightclubs, and opera, and through her acting debut on network television. Her most recent accomplishment is as PBS Host for Andrea Bocelli's historic free concert in Central Park also starring Celine Dion, David Foster and Tony Bennett; for the "Il Volo" Spring 2012 Special; Vienna Boys Choir and Qi Gong PBS Specials. She is the voice of "Domino's Pizza" on their current national radio commercial, is the voice of "Nonna" on the beloved PBS Chef Lidia Bastianich's Christmas Special and has appeared on CBS Weekend in interview, performance and co-hosting roles for the past two years. Cristina's beautiful soprano voice has taken her to the White House as part of President Clinton's holiday celebration and on January 20, 2005 Cristina was invited to open the ceremonies at the Stars and Stripes Inaugural Ball for President George W. Bush. Cristina received her "Lifetime Achievement Award in the Arts" from the Order Sons of Italy in America. Cristina is a proud member of the three top performing unions; SAG, AFTRA and EQUITY and has been named one of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts most notable alumni. Recent appearances include the opening ceremonies for the prestigious Hamptons Classic Horseshow, singing the National Anthem on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., for the testimony by fashion-icon Giorgio Gucci, her annual appearance at Feinsteins at the Regency Hotel, singing Happy Birthday to Mickey Rooney for his 90th birthday celebration at Feinsteins, the historic Breakers Hotel honoring Connie Francis, the Palm Beach Opera, the National Italian American Foundation's Washington, DC Gala Dinner, the National Arts Club NYC honoring Patrice Munsel, performances in San Diego with Giada DiLaurentis and Hollywood, California for Jimmy Kimmel, the PBS Gala at Times Square Discover.



Ms. Fontanelli was born in Brooklyn, New York of Italian heriage and is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. She has also attended the Julliard School in New York.

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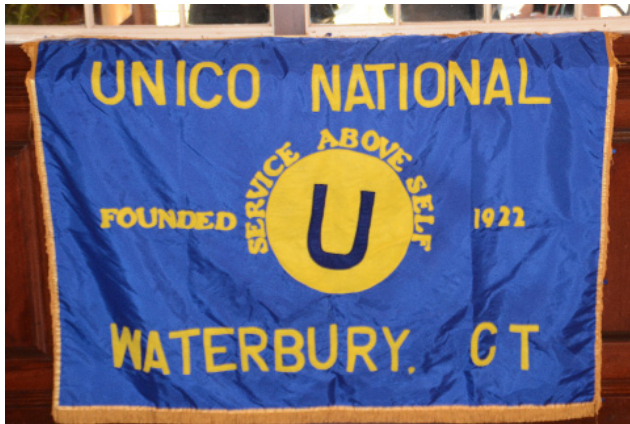
Cristina Fontanelli



Cristina Fontanelli will be performing at her 9th Annual "Christmas in Italy"® Concert at Symphony Space 96th and Broadway, New York City, on Saturday, December 1, 2012 at 3 p.m. On Friday, December 7, 2012, Cristina will be performing at the Kensington Concert Series, San Diego, California. The second Annual "Christmas in Italy"® Concert at the University of San Diego, Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice will be held at 3 p.m. on December 9, 2012.

For further information, group tickets and sponsorship opportunities contact:
www.cristinafontanelli.com, Fontanelli Productions at 212-217-6181 or E-Mail info@cristinafontanelli.com

WATERBURY 90TH ANNIVERSARY



From left: UNICO National President David Donnini, Joanne D'Angelo, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Francine Nido and Past National President Andre' DiMino.



The Celebration Committee Front row: Bob Rinaldi, Joan Pesce-Veneziano, Linda Lanza, Bianca Daniels, Joanne D'Angelo, Francine Nido and Toni Beccia. Back row from left: Frank Travisano, Don Mancuso, Dawn Maiorano and Nikki Maiorano.



From left: UNICO National President David Donnini and Connecticut District Governors Mary Joan Picone, Brian Guarco and Giuseppe Pampena.



From left: Angela LaMoy, Connie Lanza, Waterbury UNICANs Marie Ponzillo-Travisano and Linda Lanza.



UNICO National President David Donnini is with Past Chapter Presidents. Seated from left: Tom Buzzelli, Carmine Paolino, Frank DePaola, Richard Marano, Peter Ciullo and Joey Lanza. Standing from left: Bob Rinaldi, Joanne D'Angelo, Dianne Minardo, Frank Travisano and Francine Nido.



From left: New Jersey IV District Governor Perry Russo, Reverend Ronald Ferraro, Past District Governor Frank DePaola, and Connecticut I District Governor Giuseppe Pampena.



Mark and Toni Beccia.



Working the check in table are Don and Donna Mancuso and Joan Pesce Veneziano.



The Waterbury Chapter!



Presidents David and Joanne.