

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

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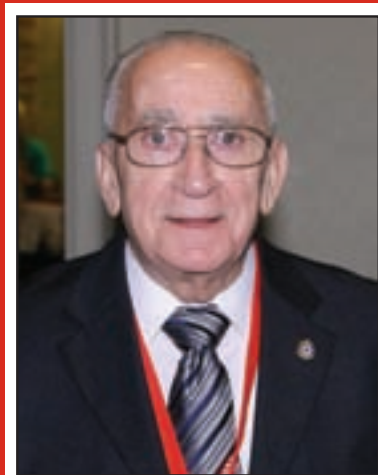
**UNICO**  
*Welcomes*  
**Members**  
**to its**  
**New Home!**



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



**“Service  
above *Self*”**



**ALFRED DANTE  
HONORED**  
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**ITALY IN CRISIS!  
ELECTION  
COVERAGE**  
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**91ST ANNUAL  
CONVENTION  
CATCH THE WAVE!**  
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UNICO NATIONAL CALENDAR PICTURES



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Steve Peterson - Rome - St. Peter's Square



Scranton Chapter - PA - Henry Salati - Stone - Giant Figure in Anticongrat Rome - Antigato Region



Hamden Chapter - PA - Joe Conzatti - A Greek Temple in Paestum - Campania Region



Clark Chapter - NJ - Ann Verducci - Mountains of Strength - Calabria



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Sal Novella - Houses on the Amalfi Coast



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Steve Peterson - Amalfi - Streets with stone and arches



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Sal Novella - The Duomo in Milan



Nulley Chapter - NJ - Louis Chapp - Calais on the Amalfi Coast



Scranton Chapter - PA - Joseph Szwedzinski - Church of San Giovanni, in Scordia Mammola, Calabria



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Taylor Kurland - Angkor Wat, in Sicily Park



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Sal Novella - Ravenna on the Amalfi Coast, Salerno



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Steve Peterson - Amalfi Coast



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Sal Novella - Courthouse in the Italian Alps



Passaic Valley Chapter - NJ - Ed Muehl - Positano on the Amalfi Coast



Nulley Chapter - NJ - Louis Chapp - Positano





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

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## COVER PHOTOS

**MAIN Top:** Members and Dignitaries gather for the Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held at the new office complex in Fairfield, New Jersey on November 30, 2012. (Back Cover)

**MAIN Bottom:** From left: UNICO National Office Manager Pat Pelonero, UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli, Fairfield Business Administrator and Fairfield Chapter Member Joseph Cantenaro, UNICO National President David Donnini and UNICO National Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti. (Back Cover)

**SIDE BAR TOP:** National President Alfred Dante was honored with the dedication in his name of the new National Office, which was purchased with funds established under his foresight and guidance. (Back Cover)

**SIDE BAR BOTTOM:** UNICO National's 91st Annual Convention-Catch the Wave! (Inside Back Cover)

# 2012-2013 CALENDAR

Mid-Year Board Meeting	March 8-10, 2013	Embassy Suites, Las Vegas, Nevada
Community Service Day	April, 2013	
Convention 2013	July 31- August 3, 2013	Marriott Harbor Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### A Message from National President David Donnini

First and foremost, I cannot stop thinking about the horrific tragedy that took place in Newtown, Connecticut last month. It was a very sad day for America. We have many members in that area. I hope everyone is safe. I pray that the friends and families of the victims may find some kind of solace. I ask each and every member to keep those innocent children and adults that were taken away from this earth way too soon, in your thoughts and prayers.

I cannot believe how fast time is passing by. I am enjoying every minute of it and proud to represent UNICO National across the country. I am happy to report that UNICO National just added another Chapter. On November 29, 2012, I had the honor of attending the charter night for the Delmarva Chapter. The Rehoboth Area and Point Pleasant Beach Chapters sponsored the newest part of our family. It was a great night and was hosted at the restaurant of the new Delmarva Chapter president, David Jones. Tom Vaughan, UNICO National's Expansion Director, did an outstanding job of putting together the program and emceeing. I am proud to report that we installed 25 new members. I would also like to thank UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko, Mary Teresa Morrison, Rose Marie Patin, and Mary Jane Deets of the Rehoboth Area Chapter for their help on such a great night for our organization.

I would like to thank all of the members who attended our open house and ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate UNICO's new headquarters. Thanks to our National Office Staff for all of their hard work in putting it together. There were many Past National Presidents, local dignitaries, and members in attendance. The event was catered and gave a chance for all to see where the day to day operations happen. If you have not seen it, stop by anytime. The doors are always open.

As I am writing this article, I am preparing for the Eastern Regional which was originally scheduled for November. I had to cancel the meeting due to Sandy. Please remember that I did set up a Disaster Relief Fund for those UNICANs

affected. To date, we have raised over \$15,000. We are still taking donations and are in the process of getting ready to disburse some funds to our fellow UNICANs in need.

I recently got back from a site visit for the Mid-Year Meeting. The hotel is the Embassy Suites located at 3600 Paradise Road in Las Vegas, Nevada. The property is located minutes from the strip. It is a very nice hotel. I am looking forward to seeing everyone there. I urge each and every member to attend. There will be a full agenda and many things to accomplish.

In the upcoming months, I will be traveling and will try and visit as many Chapters as possible. This month, I will be attending a function hosted by our Santa Barbara Chapter. In February, I will be attending an event hosted by our Marin, California Chapter. If your Chapter has an event upcoming event, please contact the National Office to inform them so I can plan accordingly.

In closing, I hope you and your families had a nice Christmas and New Year!

## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



### A Message from Executive Vice President Mike Veselka

As you travel through the chairs of the Vice Presidents, your involvement in the different aspects of the position you hold does not afford you the time to realize the importance of the people you are working with. Let me explain.

When I was the Third Vice President, I was put in charge of committees. My main focus was setting up committee meetings at the Eastern Regional, the Mid-Year Board Meeting, and the National Convention. You need to try and set up times for the committees that do not conflict with other meetings that are of importance to the members of various committees. This can become quite a challenge.

Being in charge of these Committees three years later, I have come to realize the importance of the Chairpersons and Committee Members to the mission of UNICO National.

They serve our organization with dignity and pride. Their role as Chairperson can often be an agonizing job. You must remember there are people requesting charitable grants, scholarships

and various awards. The Chairpersons need to inform some of those applicants that theirs was not accepted. That is never easy to do.

On the flip side, the position of Chairperson and Committee Member does have its rewards. Imagine having the ability to change someone's life. A grant that would help find a cure that may save a life. A scholarship to a student that helps them to attend the college of their choice. An award the recipient will wear with pride the rest of his or her life.

I wish to take this time to thank the elected, appointed and volunteer Chairpersons and Committee Members for all you do. I now realize that you are most important to the success of UNICO.

For those members that are attending an Eastern Regional, Mid-Year, or National Convention, please consider serving on a Committee that would fit your area of expertise. Contact myself or the Committee Chairperson on whose Committee you wish to serve. Not all Committees are volunteer positions; some are appointed members only.

To the Committee Chairpersons, I would like to recommend that you keep in touch with Committee Members and you should know which day and what time your Members are coming in for the Convention. This will help in selecting a mutual time and day for the meeting.

Also give some thought of suggesting a Tuesday or early Wednesday arrival so we will not have to make unnecessary changes to the schedule.

## CALENDAR PICTURE WINNERS

**Congratulations to all of our Calendar Picture Winners!!!**

Front Cover-Steve Pelonero-Rome  
January-Henry Salusti-Agrigento Region, Sicily  
February-Joe Cerullo-Paestum, Campania Region  
March-Ann Venturino-Calabria  
April-Sal Nocella-Positano, Amalfi Coast  
May-Steve Pelonero-Assisi  
June-Sal Nocella-Milan  
July-Louis Crupi-Cetara, Amalfi Coast  
August-Joseph Grandinetti-Calabria  
September-Taylor Kurilew, Ischia Pointe  
October-Sal Nocella-Coast of Saverno  
November-Steve Pelonero-Assisi  
December-Sal Nocella-Italian Alps  
Inside Back Cover-Ed Minetti-Amalfi Coast  
Back Cover-Louis Crupi-Positano

**Pictures appear on the inside Front Cover. For additional viewing and printing go to the UNICO National Calendar Website at [www.UNICOCalendar.org](http://www.UNICOCalendar.org)**



## FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



### A Message from First Vice President Rick D'Arminio

This might be my shortest article but I hope one of the most meaningful.

As I reflect on my first having joined UNICO back in 1979 and with all the ups and downs that we go through in our personal lives, work, etc. I think about why I have remained a member and not joined any other organization.

With the recent catastrophes that have occurred with Hurricane Sandy and the killings of innocent children and adults in Connecticut, I am constantly reminded that I joined UNICO because of wanting to give service to those less fortunate. Yes, of course having grown up in an Italian family in Hackensack, New Jersey and living in a two family house with my grandparents, I really got to live the Italian life and wanted to continue living that tradition for years to come, and UNICO also helps me do this with the Culture and Heritage aspect of our wonderful organization.

So, with Christmas right around the corner as this article is written, let us all ask ourselves why we made the choice to join UNICO. If it is to truly be thankful for what we have so we wish to give to others, then I believe that our great service organization will be around for decades to come. If you read ComUNICO and see the many fund-raisers that Chapters run across the United States, it is truly remarkable to see how many lives we are really affecting.

Every Chapter should also make sure that they are getting all their members involved in specific areas of membership, retention, fund-raising, Culture and Heritage programs, etc. This is what keeps members interested too, and like me it helps bring back the memories of my childhood years and the constant reminder that I am proud to be an Italian American.

With what I have said thus far I wonder why many Chapters struggle while others may not. As First National Vice President, I have made a promise to reach out to all District Governors by telephone because I want to talk to you on a direct basis. E-mails are great but there is still nothing better than a live conversation. I wish to talk to all the Districts before the upcoming Eastern Regional in Pennsylvania in January so that I, together with our Office Staff can offer assistance.

At many of our Chapter President and District Governors joint seminars at our National meetings I listened to you the members, the District Governors and Chapter Presidents so we have formed a small advisory committee of some District Governors who will assist me in reaching out to those Districts in need of any support, fresh ideas, etc.. All we ask is that you assist us and lend a helping hand if you have had success, and if you

do need assistance that you will allow us to help you and work together to correct any wrongs.

I cannot do it alone. That is why a few District Governors came forward to express an interest to help. Due to the recent Hurricane Sandy that affected many in the Northeast and the cancellation of some UNICO meetings, we will reconvene in January in Pennsylvania and get to work so that we keep UNICO in the forefront as being the number one service organization in the United States.

Thank you for what you do, and together with my entire family we wish all of you a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



### A Message from Second Vice President Ann Walko

It is hard to believe that five months of my term as Second Vice President has come to an end so quickly. There is so much left to do as we prepare for another Mid-Year Meeting and then our Convention! However, a great deal has been accomplished to embrace our President's agenda to strive for UNITY and to begin to embrace CHANGE.

To date, this officer has been able to connect with each Chapter which was a goal to be accomplished. The newsletter, *The President's Forum*, is filled with ideas for Chapter Presidents and connecting via social media is working. I will continue with this method of communication which is so vital to our organization.

Moving forward, my agenda includes a Chapter Tour and I hope to meet with as many Chapters as possible and participate in the many events being held. After the first of the year, each Chapter will receive a phone call so that I can talk on a more personal basis. I will be looking to see what is working across the country, seek out any trouble spots and offer to assist to rectify any situations and to see what Chapter Presidents would like to see happen in the near future as we plan the direction for the organization. CHAPTERS-YOU ARE MY VOICE TO NATIONAL. Let's share ideas and thoughts, your comments are important to the National Leaders. YOU are the vital link to our strength as a service organization.

It was my pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with our President, David Donnini, and our Expansion Director, Tom Vaughn as we chartered the new Delmarva Chapter. The new President, David Jones and his Officers are going to do a great job and I pledged to help them in any way possible. Thanks must be given to the Rehoboth and Point Pleasant Chapters for their sponsorship of this new Chapter.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Eastern Regional Meeting in Pennsylvania where we will present a Chapter President's Interactive

Workshop. Keep those reports coming in, they enlighten me as to the wonderful work you are doing and you provide me with good ideas to share with others.

I want to thank everyone for their graciousness as I moved around to Chapters and events. I am enjoying all of the events you are sponsoring as well as enjoying participation in the welcoming of new members to Chapters.

As we enter a New Year, please remember to keep those affected by climate change all across the country in your thoughts and prayers. I know that many UNICANs are experiencing loss and damage to homes and possessions, but rather than think of yourselves, you delved right in to help others in more dire need. Thank you for all you do to make life a little bit better for others.

MY BEST FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY, PEACEFUL, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

## VERONA, NJ



*The Verona Chapter donated money to the Essex Running Club in appreciation for their help with the Chapter's Annual Labor Day Run. From left: Anthony Nigro, Mick Close, Essex Running Club; Santi Condorelli and Bonnie Sharkey, Chapter President.*

## RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



*The Raritan Valley Chapter of UNICO swears in new members at its December 12, Christmas Party. From left: New member Tara Deleon, Jerry Madaluna, President of the Raritan Valley Chapter of UNICO, new member Dawn Wilde, and Robert Bengivenga, New Jersey District X Governor.*

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## THIRD VICE PRESIDENT



### A Message from Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro

By the time this article is read, I hope this message finds all of our members safe and in good health after Hurricane Sandy. It was a devastating storm, which affected so many lives and homes in the Northeast.

Once again our great UNICO Organization was ready to help anyone in need. Our National President David Donnini along with the Vice Presidents; Past National President Joseph Agresti, Sal Benvenuti and Pat Pelonero held a telephone conference call. During the call, we put a plan together to offer support to any of our members whose primary residence had been affected by Hurricane Sandy.

I was on the phone with District Governor Joe Cerullo, who told me the Hazleton Chapter and his District were working on getting a truck load of various cleaning supplies, clothing, food and tools together to be brought to our Chapters in the South Jersey area which still need our help.

So many other Chapters joined together and were ready to help anyone in need. This is what makes UNICO special and unique. If someone asks you 'What would/does UNICO do for me?' Please tell them it gives you a special feeling to belong to an organization. No matter how bad of a catastrophe occurs, we pull together as one big family, and do whatever we can to help make it right.

This is just one of many things which make a UNICO Member a special person who stands out in front of so many others. Maybe then, others will start to see, and be proud of being part of the largest Italian American Service Organization!

I have started laying the ground work to see if we can get a Rockaway Township Chapter formed. Applications were distributed to three people in town who are working on getting members. I will keep everyone posted on the developments. I hope we can get this Chapter chartered, by spring 2013.

I met with the Regional Superintendent of Schools here in Rockaway Township, New Jersey. We discussed honoring Columbus Day as a holiday for the students. Another topic discussed was getting the Italian language taught in our high schools. The Regional Superintendent was interested in both issues and wanted to present it to his board. I will be waiting to hear from him about these issues. Afterwards, I will get a date from him to attend a meeting with the board. So let's keep our fingers crossed, in the hope we get issues handled favorably.

The ribbon cutting done at our new office in Fairfield, New Jersey was a great ceremony. A lot of people attended on Friday when it took place. The Office Staff did a wonderful job in hosting all of us with wonderful Italian delicacies; homemade desserts, and of course we can't forget the wine! Lisa, the cheesecake was so good...I still want the recipe.

In closing, I know that this issue of ComUNICO will be read after the Holidays; I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and also a 'Happy, Healthy New Year!

## EDITOR'S DESK



### Editor's Comments: Pat Pelonero

Let me start by wishing all of our Members a very Happy New Year! We are off to the second half of the year and we still have much to accomplish. Hurricane "Sandy" wreaked havoc on the schedule this year as meetings were cancelled and had to be pushed to a later date. With that said, we are just getting back from the Eastern Regional in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. I think it turned out to be a very productive meeting for UNICO and I believe everyone was happy to see each other and spend some time with our UNICO family and friends.

Unfortunately January proved also to be a sad month for UNICO National as we lost two Past National Presidents Cavaliere Joseph Coccia Jr. and Joseph N. Manganaro. They both will be greatly missed for their contribution and love of UNICO National and for their desire to help in the education process of students through scholarships and grants. Our condolences to all their family members for such a great loss and know that their memories live on through us all.

Looking forward, we are gearing up at the National Office for the National Scholarships to start rolling in. We will be preparing for the Mid Year Board Meeting which is right around the corner. This year it will be held at the Embassy Suites Convention Center Las Vegas, Nevada March 7 - 10, 2013. Remember that all the National awards are selected at this meeting and given out at the Convention, so if you have a candidate for one of the awards the deadline is March 1st, however since the Board meeting is March 7th it would be a big help to the National Office to get your selected candidates in as early as possible.

Now that we are settled into our new Office complex we hope that all of you will find the time to come and visit us. We want all our Members to feel welcome and if you would like to host a meeting here as long as the date is available we can assist you with the details.

The 2013 Calendar is out and the Chapters should have all received your member allotment, if you have, not please contact the National Office and we will get them right out to you. Congratulations to all the winners from the Calendar picture contest. Your entries were all beautiful and you captured the essence of Italy for all to see. You can purchase extra Calendars if you wish and for Chapters that have Italian programs within their schools please give us a call, we will work out a special deal for you.

Hope you enjoy this issue!

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



### Chaplain's Message: Fr. Bob Wolfee

Out of all the women and men of history, why were Mary and Joseph chosen to be the parents of Jesus? A possible answer is in St. Luke's Gospel. He tells us five times that Mary and Joseph were a pious and observant religious couple. In fact, he tells us that their faith was the most important thing to them. When Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph followed the religious customs that new parents were expected to follow. A firstborn male child was thought to belong to God. So, parents would bring that child to the Temple to consecrate him to God. Additionally, to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves was a way of acknowledging God as the Creator of the child and was also a token of gratitude.

Mary, Joseph and Jesus formed a family unit that, in one sense, was unlike any other in human history, but that is not what made them holy. They shared the ups and downs of life just like all families do. They did their best to raise Jesus in the practice of their faith, so that he would know who he was and where he came from. Woodrow Wilson once said, "If you wish your children to be Christians, you must really take the trouble to be Christians yourselves. Those are the only terms upon which the home will work the gracious miracle." Through patience and self-sacrifice, Mary and Joseph created a home where love abounded. That is why they should be a profound inspiration to all people and all families.

Most families do not match the Norman Rockwell picture of everyone living happily as one. There are many burdens that a family can experience. They include sick children, single parenthood, divorce, the need to care for elderly parents or being childless. In today's difficult times, there are also factors like joblessness or the need to move to a new location to maintain a job or get a new one. No matter what difficulties a family experiences, all families are called to trust in God's providence.

To have a healthy family relationship, we must live the values and virtues shown to us by Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Imagine what our families would be like if we let the word of God dwell in us and let the Holy Spirit guide us. Imagine what our families would be like if we followed the values of God's kingdom rather than worldly values. As we begin a new year, let us invite Jesus to bring his loving presence into our homes. No matter how we experience family, we need to let Jesus bind us together, healing our differences and allowing us to give ourselves to loving him and others. That is how we can truly be God's holy family, his holy people!

God bless.



## TORRINGTON, CT



*President Robert Summa presents check for \$1000 to Lisa Haggeman, Executive Director of the Torrington Soup Kitchen at the November 14th meeting held at Bogey's at the Pedlar in downtown Torrington.*



*Torrington Chapter President Robert Summa swears in 3 new Members at November 14th meeting at Bogey's in the Pedlar in downtown Torrington, Connecticut. From left: Maria Summa, Tony Ponte, and Bob Calabrese.*

## SADDLE BROOK, NJ



*Saddle Brook UNICO installed five new Members at its last Chapter meeting on November 19, 2012, at Que Pasta Restaurant in Saddle Brook. From left: Flo Mazzer, Gerald Taylor, Emil Caliento, Carol Pallotta, Joy Ebel, Carol Sergio, Phil Sergio, Marianne Gailnius, President Joe Nasselo and Sal Mangano, Past National President.*



## SCHOLARSHIP



### UNICO National Scholarship Update Joan Tidona

UNICO Chapter Presidents, Scholarship Chairs and District Governors have been sent application forms for the UNICO National 2012-2013 Scholarship Program. If you require additional hard copies, please advise our Office staff. Applications are also available on the Members Section of the website.

As you know, we have introduced two new scholarships this year; both developed to assist matriculated college students. The DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship, funded through the generosity of Past National President Chris DiMattio and Former First Lady Ann Celli DiMattio, will help defray the cost of study in Italy. Two awards of \$1,250 will be conferred. The Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, will be granted based upon the submission of an original, short story or essay celebrating Italian heritage. The terms of participation, for these and all UNICO Scholarships, are clearly defined on the respective application forms.

For the continued success of our UNICO National Scholarship Program, member participation is essential. All UNICANs are asked to publicize the scholarship opportunities we offer. Please inform your local schools/colleges of the programs that could be of interest to their students and provide them with appropriate applications. Forms can be e-mailed, directly from our website. Request that your local newspapers notify their readership of these highly valued awards.

Last year we encountered some serious problems we need your help to correct. There was greater difficulty, than ever before, with required compliance. Close to 1/3 of applications submitted were missing compulsory components. Usually, deficient applications omitted mandatory signatures, specifically the Chapter representative, or letters of recommendation, again, most often the Chapter letter of endorsement. This resulted in an increased and unfair burden on the Office staff, as they worked to enable sponsors to correct errors. All are asked to make certain that necessary information is included. We have provided two check lists: one for the student, the other for the Chapter, to facilitate compliance.

It is essential that Chapters are certain to distribute the Revised 2012 applications. The date is clearly indicated on page 4. To use obsolete forms will put your candidates at disadvantage. In order to be sure candidates are not accidentally given outdated applications, I suggest that, when you bring the current applications to your area schools, you request they return any forms they have on file and dispose of them.

Undergraduate candidates should be advised to apply for all four scholarships offered.

To do so requires that they submit the original application and three complete copies, including attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because scholarships are judged in different states.

The DiMattio Celli application due date is February 1 to the Chapter; February 15 to National. All other applications must be submitted to the sponsoring Chapter by April 15 and to National by May 1. This time-frame allows Chapters to review applications and request any necessary corrections, prior to sending them to National.

Thank you for your commitment to the UNICO National Scholarship Program.

## EXPANSION



### Expansion Director Thomas Vaughan

I know I have one faithful reader out there because he was not happy that I did not submit an article for the last ComUNICO. So here is a shout-out (as the kids say) to Mike Rizzo Sr. of the Wethersfield Chapter. Hope you enjoy it Mike!

Congratulations to the Delmarva Delaware Chapter which was chartered on November 29. I was joined by National President Dave Donnini, Second Vice President Ann Walko, and Maryland District I Governor Mary Teresa Morrison as we welcomed a new Chapter to the UNICO family. Special thanks go to David and Christine Jones for spearheading this effort. David is the Chapter President, Angie Triscuit is the Vice President, and Heather Jenkins will be the Treasurer and Secretary. A lovely evening was had by all at David's establishment, Luca Ristorante in Millsboro. Thanks to Virginia Lazzati Burgstiner and Edward Furaro who stuck with us from the Ocean City possibility through the formation of Delmarva.

As Rodgers and Hart wrote, "We'll have Manhattan". The Manhattan Chapter is getting closer to a reality at the time this is written. We have a group of young professional men and women that are turning in applications for this Chapter. First Vice President Rick D'Arminio and I are very excited about this Chapter, as are all of the UNICO members that I speak to about Manhattan. Wouldn't it be great to have a "host" Chapter for the Columbus Day Parade festivities?

Through a unique set of circumstances we should have another Brooklyn Chapter soon with several new members. Teaneck is not looking good as a new Chapter, but I have been assured that the people interested will join the Hackensack Chapter. We are still working on Myrtle Beach.

Do you have any contacts in Tampa? I could use your help as there is someone who is an important figure in the Italian American community there, but cannot lead the effort. E-mail me at unicotomv@gmail.com about that or anything else regarding Expansion. Fino alla prossima volta!



## NICO SANTOLI

Nico Michael Santoli was born on January 19, 2011. Nico is the first son of Dominic and Christina Santoli and also the grandson of Gene Santoli, Past National Treasurer.

On September 14, 2012 Dominic and Christina received news that would change their lives forever. Nico was diagnosed with unilateral retinoblastoma which is a rare form of childhood cancer. Retinoblastoma is a rapidly developing cancer that develops in the cells of the retina. It only affects approximately 300 children annually. Fortunately for the Santoli family retinoblastoma has a very high cure rate and Nico's case was caught very early. However, not only does Nico's vision and eye itself remain in jeopardy, the treatment is very specialized and expensive.

Nico must undergo surgical chemotherapy which is called intra-arterial chemotherapy. Intra-arterial chemotherapy is the insertion of a tiny catheter into the femoral artery in the groin which allows the chemotherapy direct access in the tumor site. Unlike conventional delivery, intra-arterial chemotherapy reaches tumor sites directly and mitigates side-effects for the rest of the body. Nico is under the expert care of Dr. Shields at the WILS Eye Hospital in Philadelphia and Dr. Jabbour at the Thomas Jefferson Hospital for Neuroscience.

Anyone that is close to Dominic and Grandpa Gene knows how tough they are. However, the toughest fight of their lives is ahead of them and their family. Like father and son, they are an inspiration to everyone that knows them. Undoubtedly, individuals will be moved by their capacity to love and infectious spirit.

Nico, currently 22 months old, has proven to be a strong warrior and a brave crusader throughout this entire process. He has made everyone so proud and continues to be an inspiration to us all.

Now is the time for us to give our heart and soul as we join to win this battle. The Santoli's have just begun this journey and humbly ask for your support.

### Donations can be made as follows:

NICOM .S ANTOLIC ANCERS UPPORT  
9920 radell Avenue, Oradell, NewJ ersey07649

Contact information-<http://www.indiegogo.com/ForNico?a=1726253> or <http://www.discoverytoys.com/ForNico>

You can follow Nico's brave journey by visiting #ForNico on FaceBook.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity and consideration.



Standing from left: TBD, Gene Santoli, Giuseppe Pampana, TBD, TBD and Jenny DiMino. Seated: Mike Pisano and Santa (Andre' DiMino).

## WILKES-BARRE, PA

### Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO National Hosts 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity Football Classic

The Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO National hosted its 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Charity All-Star Football Classic. Proceeds from the event go directly to support local charities.



From left: Dave Fusco, Game Book Chairman; Jamie Anzalone, Football Game Committee Co-Chair; William Anzalone, Dave Donnini, President UNICO National and Angelo DeCesaris, Football Game Committee Co-Chairman.

The Italian American Association of Luzerne County recently honored Attorney Gerard Mecadon as the Italian American Person of the Year. Charles Adonizio III was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award. The statue of Columbus was imported from Italy in 1969 and is carved from Carrere marble.



From left: Charles Adonizio and Gerard Mecadon

**The deadline for the  
MARCH  
Edition of  
ComUNICO is Monday,  
February 11, 2013**

Send Chapter news to the  
UNICO National Office:  
e-mail: [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)

## MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION



### Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade

Although you are reading through this issue of ComUNICO at the end of January and we are already past the half-way mark of our UNICO year, this column is being written in the middle of December. This UNICAN is in the middle of getting ready for the Christmas Holidays, but that does not mean all things with UNICO come to a halt. With every social gathering this UNICAN attends, there is a UNICO application ready to be pulled from the inside pocket of my jacket. You never know when or where you are going to meet a future UNICAN and you do not want to lose the opportunity of bringing him or her into this outstanding organization. You are all encouraged to follow the Boy Scout motto: "BE PREPARED".

All of the Service Organizations are experiencing low to no membership growth and UNICO is not different. Our membership growth needs a boost and our membership retention needs serious attention. At this point in the year, the majority of the Chapters should have conducted a membership drive using our Italian Heritage as its vehicle. Take the time to make use of the power point that Past National President Andre' DiMino has prepared for your use and can be found in the Member Log-in section of our website. Beyond that, whenever your Chapter conducts any kind of fund-raiser, there should be a table set up with all the available UNICO information displayed, including your Chapter's yearly scrapbook or a display board depicting your events from the past to the present. Past ComUNICO editions and past UNICO Convention Journals should also be on display. There is a plethora of UNICO happenings and information that can be put to good use and it is all at your disposal. Use the tools that can be found on (Y)OUR unico.org website or can be acquired through the NEW UNICO National Office.

Another way of increasing membership on the National level is by starting up new Chapters. There are hundreds of communities out there that have large Italian populations but no UNICO Chapters for hundreds of miles around. Your help is needed to help with the organizing of these Chapters. Use your influence with your out of town relatives and friends in starting up a new UNICO Chapter. If you have a good lead for a new Chapter, bring it to the attention of our Expansion Director, Tom Vaughan. He just completed the Chartering of the Delmarva, Delaware Chapter and is looking forward to a Chartering in New York in early 2013. And he will welcome any new leads you can give him. Let's all help make UNICO National grow!

Have you made Your New Year's Resolution yet? Have you been true to it? If you haven't, here is one resolution you can fulfill. Here is the annual "Membership Committee Resolution" you are charged with. Let's all go out there and ... **BRING IN AT LEAST ONE NEW MEMBER BY JUNE.**



## KEARNY, NJ



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



New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch (front left) and UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko (front, second from right) attended the evening along with Veronica Nee (front, second from left), Catherine Apgar (front right), Kay Garbarini (back left) and Janet Fiume (back right).



Celeste Pandolfi and Denise Ficeto shopped for the turkeys and other "fixins" for the Thanksgiving baskets that were donated to The Kearny Corps of The Salvation Army for delivery to needy families.



John Josso and Lou Pandolfi brought the Thanksgiving baskets to Major Alberto Suarez of The Salvation Army for distribution.



On Sunday, December 9, 2012, the Kearny Chapter UNICO took a break from their various fund-raising activities to enjoy a trip to The Paper Mill Playhouse to see their new production of The Sound of Music. After the show, Chapter Members, friends and family enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Basilico in Millburn. Waiting for the show to start are from left: Celeste Pandolfi, Jeanette Fries, Ida Nigro, Alice Belfiore, Sharon Sterople and Jean Sansone.



Enjoying their after show dinner at Basilico are from left: Angela Varano, Theresa Trucillo and Pearl Yaszczemski.



## LYNDHURST, NJ



The Lyndhurst Chapter of UNICO participated in this year's Holiday in the Park Event at the Lyndhurst Municipal Park. In addition to handing out UNICO information and discussing Italian Heritage, we also drew attention to the Christopher Columbus Statue behind us that we helped donate to the park. From left: Members Patti Ann Nigro Hirsch, Damien Hirsch, Alessia Lombardi, Youth Member Carmine Lombardi and President Mark Fiume.



## LOS ANGELES, CA



The Los Angeles Chapter hosted a Christmas party at the world famous IMPROV Comedy Club in Hollywood. It was a fun night of dinner and several stand up comics. From left: UNICO National President David M. Donnini, Lorraine Genovese, and Silvio Serrapica.



UNICO National President David M. Donnini and Silvio Serrapica.



## DIMATTIO CELLI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP



### DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarships

The UNICO Foundation is pleased to offer the DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarships. Thanks to the generous support of Past National President Chris and Ann Celli DiMattio, this valuable program has been established.

Chris DiMattio served as UNICO National President in 2010-2011. He and his wife, Ann, are the proud parents of two sons, Louis Carlo and Robert Christopher. Chris and Ann have been active members of many Northeastern Pennsylvania charitable, civic, professional and religious organizations.

Both realize that one of the best ways to appreciate the Italian heritage is to experience Italy itself. During his UNICO travels throughout the country, Chris was always impressed with young individuals who studied in Italy and took advantage of learning the culture, art, science, history and so much more that Italy has to offer. What better way to truly appreciate your Italian American heritage and ancestors?

Chris' parents, Louis and Catherine Summa DiMattio both grew up in the Italian sections of Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Ann's father, Carlo grew up in Peckville, Pennsylvania, and her mother, the former, Silvia Urban, immigrated to America during the 1950's from Pantianicco, province of Udine, Italy eventually settling in Peckville.

As was the case with most Italian American homes, Ann's and Chris' parents instilled in their children a solid practice of their Roman Catholic faith as well as providing the knowledge needed so they could appreciate their Italian roots, traditions, values and beliefs. These are all very important in their lives today and they hope to carry-on to future generations.

In appreciation of their parents' sacrifices and selfless dedication to the family which so epitomizes the UNICO motto of "Service Above Self", Chris and Ann DiMattio have permanently endowed to the UNICO National Foundation the establishment of the "DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship". The purpose of the DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship is to assist young scholars by defraying the cost of studies in Italy.

This annual program will grant \$1,250 scholarships to two students attending accredited study abroad programs, in Italy, associated with a college or university in the United States.

## WAYNE, NJ

Wayne UNICO had a food drive to help the Wayne Food Pantry, which was completely wiped out due to needy families from Super-storm Sandy. We collected canned and boxed goods in front of the local A&P on Valley Road in Wayne. There were a total of 11 large boxes of donated food and nearly \$700 in cash that was given to the food pantry. The day was misty rain and dreary but the community showed their support. We will be making our rounds at other food stores in the town for more donations in the future and if our first time out was any indication what it will be like in the future we will have the pantry stocked in no time!!!

Our children were a big part of our success in the food drive. They were out in the rain with signs and were very enthusiastic about helping those families that were less fortunate and in need of food. Since our inception, in February 2011, Wayne UNICO has had a major impact on our community and it is our intent and dream to make a bigger impact in the near and distant future.



*Second Vice President Fedele (Frank) Nicolaro and Santa Clause (Ray Zachmann) speak to a thoughtful and generous patron who donated canned goods for the Wayne Pantry.*



*From left: Santa (Ray Zachmann) President Jeff Fosati, Steven Calantone, Dante Rebelo, Helder Rebelo, Jr., Frankie Nicolaro, President-elect Steve Calantone, Second Vice President Frank Nicolaro, Bill Bianculli, Secretary Brian Rasa, Shannon Calantone and Liza Zachmann.*

## GREATER ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

Buon Anno UNICANI!!!

We trust that UNICO members nationwide are looking forward to this New Year with the same excitement and exhilaration as our Atlantic City Chapter Members.

This past year was froth with wonderful

fund-raising and family fun activities that were truly enjoyed by all participants. From our Springtime Spaghetti Dinner, a very successful Columbus Day Golf Tournament, summer boat tours to our Annual Christmas Luncheon last month, the pride of UNICAN fellowship and doing UNICO's good work was so very evident. 2013 promises to be even more strengthening to our organization and profitable in our efforts to raise funds for the myriad needy causes we support.

At our last meeting, we rolled plans to increase membership, publicize the good work we do region-wide and develop initiatives in the interests of having a greater impact on the communities we serve. Relative to membership, we found that we are not alone in our concern over the lack of growth of our membership numbers. Organizations in our area have suffered drop-offs not only in participation levels but also in actual dues paying membership. Population levels and economic issues have taken a toll. Atlantic City UNICO's plans to mitigate this trend include updating member lists and contact info, one-on-one personal contacts to inactive members, bringing a friend/acquaintance to a meeting, reaching out to youth groups for potential members and offering reduced membership dues, publicizing our organization and being a visible presence in our communities' activities talking up Atlantic City UNICO. We are also planning to reach out to UNICO National and incorporate some of its strategies to increase membership.

So, we do have our work cut out for us. It is so very heartening to know that each Atlantic City UNICAN harbors an abundance of love and pride in our Chapter and possesses the commitment to be the most successful and highly regarded Chapter in all of UNICO. We look forward to that challenge. We will succeed because we so strongly believe in our simple but elegantly stated mission of "Service Above Self".

Have a fabulous 2013!!!

## MONTCLAIR, NJ



*The Montclair Chapter held its Christmas Party on December 15th at The Rectory of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Every member attending contributed a homemade entree or dessert. A good time was had by all while partaking in great food, some spirits and plenty of camaraderie. Also in attendance was New Jersey District IV Governor Perry Russo and his wife Betty, Pat and Steve Pelonero and Lisa Adubato from UNICO National and Frank Greco, President of the West Essex Chapter. From left: Elaine Caracciolo, Anthony Scarano, Linda Musolino, Angelo Pomarico, Father Tony Lionelli, Frank Greco, Pat Pelonero, Perry Russo and Lisa Adubato.*



## CARBONDALE, PA



Carbondale UNICO presented Scholarship Awards at their monthly meeting. From left: Tom Gretzula, President; Brittany Barney, recipient; Glenn Pettinato, Scholarship Director and Past National President; and Carla Barney, mother.



Carbondale UNICO presented Scholarship Awards at their monthly meeting. From left: Tom Gretzula, President; Thomas Mauro, father; Thomas Mauro, recipient; Glenn Pettinato, Scholarship Director and Past National President; and Laura Mauro, mother.



Carbondale UNICO held election of officers for 2012-2013. From left: Mike Dobrowski, Sergeant-at Arms; Pat Calabro, member; Yvonne Gatto, Second Vice President; Brian Durkin, First Vice President; Peter Pettinato, Secretary; Terri Pettinato, Third Vice President; Rich Ruggiero, Financial Secretary; Joe Masco, Treasurer and Glenn Pettinato, Past National President.



Carbondale UNICO swore in the new District Governor of Pennsylvania II. From left: Terri Pettinato, Thomas Gatto, Pennsylvania II District Governor and Past National President Glenn Pettinato.



## PLAINFIELDS', NJ

### PLAINFIELDS' CHAPTER OF UNICO CELEBRATES 42nd ANNIVERSARY!

The Plainfields' UNICO Chapter of UNICO, whose Chapter boasts two Past National Presidents and many high ranking officials past and present, recently celebrated the 42nd Anniversary of the Chapter's founding with a dinner and show in South Plainfield. Hundreds attended the sold-out event.



From left: UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko, UNICO Past National President Renato Biribin, New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO President John G DeAndrea, and Plainfields' UNICO Vice President Jason Risoli.



From left: Councilman Derryck White, Councilman Rob Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO President John G DeAndrea, South Plainfield GOP Vice Chairwoman Stephanie Bartfalvi, Council President Raymond Rusnak, South Plainfield GOP Chairwoman April Trivigno Bengivenga, Councilman Alex Barletta, New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, and Councilman Tim McConville.



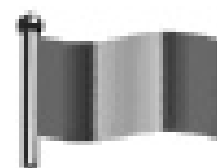
Charlotte Heckel was recently sworn in as a new Member of Plainfields' Chapter during a meeting at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield. From left: Immaculata Carotenuto, new Member Charlotte Heckel, Chapter President John G DeAndrea, New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, and Renato Biribin, Past National President.

## PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT II

Pennsylvania District II met for its November Meeting under the leadership of District Governor Thomas Gatto of the Carbondale Chapter. The Keystone Chapter served as host and the meeting was held at Carmella's Restaurant in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania II is made up of four Chapters in Northeast Pennsylvania (Carbondale, Keystone, Sayre and Scranton) and one from New York (Greater Binghamton), an area covering a distance well over 100 miles. All shared a great evening of camaraderie beginning with an hour of socialization before the dinner meeting began. The Host Chapter's Shirley Siragusa gave the UNICO Prayer and Ray Tropeano led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Binghamton's Jean DeSio, Carbondale's Pat Calabro and Yvonne Gatto and Keystone's Michele McDade conducted the 50/50, which was won by Shirley Siragusa (the prayer must have helped). Four of the five chapters were represented at this gathering with 56 members in attendance. District Governor Gatto thanked all present for coming after he disseminated all of the information sent to him from the National Office. Greater Binghamton President Rob Salamida, Carbondale President Tom Gretzula, Keystone President Mark McDade and Sayre Representatives Ralph Yannuzzi and Tom Salpino shared their Chapter news with those present. District Governor Gatto recognized all veterans attending. Past National President Glenn Pettinato and Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro addressed the members and Membership Director McDade recognized Dr. D.J. Maldonato as the UNICAN responsible for starting up Pennsylvania II and Claire, his wife, who is a Keystone Charter Member and has attained the age of 100. Also recognized was Patricia Carlucci Roughan, as the District Member who traveled the furthest, from Kingston, New Hampshire.



From left: Mark McDade, National Membership Director and Keystone President; Fred Mitchell, Keystone Life Member; Angela Carro, Binghamton Secretary; Peter Noto, Keystone Board Chairman; Felix DeSio, Pennsylvania II Treasurer and Binghamton Member; Tom Gretzula, Carbondale President; Chip Calabro, Eastern Regional District Governor and Carbondale Member; Peter Pettinato, Cooley's Anemia Chair, National Foundation Member and Carbondale Member; Tom Gatto, Pennsylvania II District Governor and Carbondale Member; Glenn Pettinato, Past National President and Carbondale Member; Anthony Greto, Carbondale Life Member and Jerry Arnese, Carbondale Past Chapter President.



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



## PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



At a recent book signing in Woodland Park, three of the Passaic Valley Chapter members had their picture taken with Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, TV personality and cook. From left: Chapter President Bob Appaluccio, Chapter Member and also UNICO National Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti, and First Vice President John Barbieri. We hope that if Sal bought a book, that he would be cooking one of her meals for us.



The Passaic Valley Chapter recently swore in their 80th Member at their November meeting. Pictured from left: Sponsor Joe McGill, Chapter President Bob Appaluccio and new Member Vince Cerniglia. Welcome to UNICO!

## LONGMEADOW, MA

### 2012 Food and Wine Tasting

The Longmeadow UNICO hosted its 12th Annual Food and Wine Tasting at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. Approximately 300 people joined for a night of food, friends, fun, and community. Many local restaurants donated eloquently prepared foods and local entrepreneur Manny Rovithis displayed his Olive Oil. The money raised from this event will provide scholarships for students in the Longmeadow Chapter UNICO's local area. Over the past twelve years, the Longmeadow Chapter of UNICO has been able to raise over \$80,000 and provide between three to five scholarships to local students every year.

The Food and Wine Tasting not only raises money to promote education, it allows over 30 restaurants in the local area to display delicious food samples. The events' highlight is M.S Walker Wine Distributor who supplies more than two

dozen varieties of wine samplings throughout the night. Beer, Vodka, and cappuccino samples were also available at the tasting.

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



Joe Pasternak, Chapter President addresses the crowd.

## SCRANTON, PA



UNICO Scranton Chapter Charity Ball will be held at Genetti Manor in Dickson City, on Saturday, January 26, 2013. At the event, UNICO Scranton Chapter will honor Dr. Peter Cognetti as "UNICAN of the Year". Proceeds benefit the UNICO Scranton Foundation and area Scholarships. Committee members seated from left: Rose Blasi; Mary Marrara, Chairperson; Ashley Yando, Sal Mecca, UNICO Scranton Chapter President; Palma Yanni, UNICO Scranton Chapter President of the Board of Directors; Lisa Bieri and Gayle DeAntona.

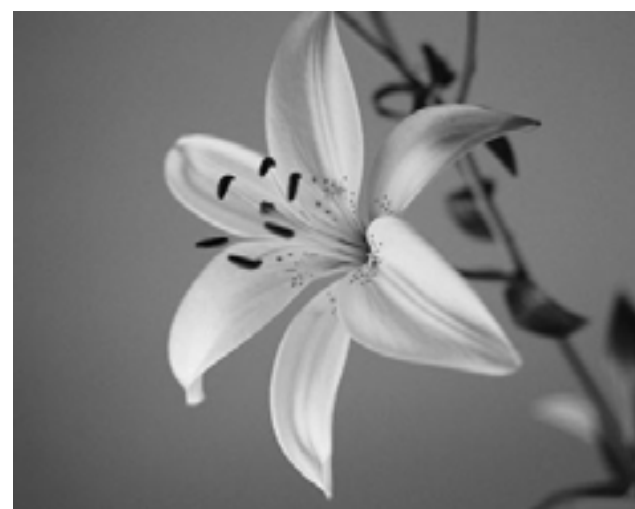


Presidents and representatives from several Eastern Pennsylvania Chapters met at "La Radunata" held at Arcaro and Genell's on Tuesday, October 23rd. About 170 people attended the event. From left: Frank DeFrank, Roseto Chapter; Joe Pierangeli and Ann Donnini, Wilkes-Barre Chapter; Past National President Chris DiMattio, Joe Donnini, Wilkes-Barre Chapter; Mark McDade, Keystone Chapter; Sal Mecca, Scranton Chapter; Joe Iasiello, Bethlehem Chapter; Angela Perro, Binghamton Chapter; and Guest Speaker Bob Keating, Parodi Cigars.

## IN MEMORIAM



Cavaliere Joseph Coccia Jr., 83, of Saddle Brook, New Jersey, formerly of Kearny, New Jersey, passed away on January 3, 2013. Born in Newark, New Jersey, to the late Clementina and Joseph Coccia Sr., Joseph was an Army veteran of the Korean War, serving in Japan and Korea from 1951 to 1953. He was the founder of the Coccia Foundation in Saddle Brook, a foundation to preserve and promote Italian culture. Joseph was also the founder of the Joseph and Elda Coccia Institute at Montclair State University. He was decorated with the Medal of Cavaliere in the Legion of Merit presented by the Republic of Italy for extraordinary fund-raising after the earthquakes in 1976 and 1980 (Friuli and Mezzogiorno). Joseph was a parishioner of St. Philip the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Saddle Brook. He was National President of UNICO National from 1976 to 1977 and a former member of the board of directors of Valley National Bank. Previously, Joseph owned the Coccia Real Estate and Insurance Agency in Kearny. He received a personal papal blessing from Pope John Paul II. He was a lifetime silver honorary member of the New Jersey State Police Benevolent Association for a successful fund-raiser in obtaining 140 bulletproof vests for local police officers. Joseph was also the grand marshal in the Columbus Day Parade in Nutley-Belleville, New Jersey, and in East Hanover, New Jersey. Joseph was the beloved husband of Elda M. (nee Soriano) Coccia; devoted father of Genevieve Nicastro of Whippany, New Jersey; Elisa Coccia of Saddle Brook; Marisa Kettelhut of Georgia; Joseph Coccia III of Rochelle Park, New Jersey and Christopher Coccia of Florham Park, New Jersey; dear brother of the late Katherine Zito, Theresa Farr, and Vincent Coccia, and loving grandfather of 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Coccia Foundation, 23 Leswing Ave., Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663, would be appreciated.





## CHICAGO WEST SUBURBAN, IL

### Chicago West Suburban UNICO Invitational Golf Outing

For nearly 50 years, the Chicago West Suburban Chapter of UNICO has been consummate host of one of the mid west's most popular charitable golf events.

Every summer the Italian American community of Chicago is flooded with invitations to attend one golf function or another; all for worthy causes and most involving a touch of Italian food and hospitality.

Under the leadership of Jack Cerone, Joe Rovetto and most recently, Ed Gesualdo, Chicago West Suburban UNICO's outing has been noted for its gastronomic delights from sausage and egg breakfast before the golfer's shotgun start to a buffet feast consisting of roasted lamb, chicken oreganato, Italian sausage with peppers, sweet corn on the cob and a variety of fresh fruits (with optional wine). Guided by the versatile hands of UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka, the buffet runs from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon and is located at a point on the course to allow golfers the opportunity to return for seconds ...or thirds throughout the day of golf.

The day's activities concluded with (more food) dinner, a raffle and award of prizes for the day's best competitors.

This year, The Chicago West Suburban Chapter partnered with St. Vincent Ferrer Church of River Forest, Illinois. The partnership saw nearly one hundred golfers participate in the day's activities. Proceeds raised by the event have been designated to benefit St. Vincent's elementary parochial school, the Jimmy V Cancer Research Fund and the UNICO Foundation College Scholarship Fund and the Order of Al Hambra.

### Thanksgiving, 2012

Under the chairmanship of members Henry Gentile and Mario Velti, The home Chapter of UNICO National Executive Vice President Elect Mike Veselka, continued its support of the Community by preparing and delivering 15 food boxes complete with turkeys and trimmings to 15 Chicago Area needy families on the weekend before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Well prepared and well received.



From left: Rich Caifano, UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka, Paul Domico and Illinois I District Governor Ed Gesualdo at the food Tent of the Chicago West Suburban Golf.



Rich Caifano preparing Sausage and Eggs for the early arrivals.

## MONTVILLE, NJ

### Montville Chapter's Turkeys 4 U Program

For over 10 years, Turkeys 4 U and Montville UNICO Foundation have been providing turkeys and food baskets to the needy in our area at Thanksgiving. Saturday, November 19th was no exception. The group provided a total of 1238 turkeys, purchased from Mennella's Poultry in Paterson, and 60 food baskets to various charities, individuals, food pantries, and churches. Father English Center in Paterson, Market Street Mission in Morristown, Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains, Our Lady of the Magnificent Church in Kinnelon, St. Peters and St. Ann's Churches in Parsippany, Kinnelon Board of Health, Hurricane Sandy Relief Victims in West Caldwell, and needy families in Woodmont, Hillsdale, Lazar, and William Mason schools in Montville.

The Turkeys 4 U Program was started in 2002 by Kinnelon student Blake Wheale and Montville UNICO member Debra Casha. They organized a program to be run solely by students with guidance from Montville UNICO. The students solicited donations and the contributions are used to purchase the turkeys. Everything is run in a very businesslike manner and the student charity and energy is inspirational. Over the years, students from various local schools have participated. This year only students from Kinnelon and Montville were involved. Monetary donations can be sent throughout the year to Montville UNICO Foundation, PO Box 788, Montville, New Jersey 07045. Indicate "Turkeys 4 U" in the check memo section.



Turkeys 4 U students in this year's program.

## IN MEMORIAM



Joseph N. Manganaro, 86, of Washington Street, Berwick, Pennsylvania died Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Born on February 15, 1926 in Berwick, he was the son of the late Salvatore and Giovanna (Trapani) Manganaro.

A graduate of Berwick High School, Class of 1941, he went on to serve in the United States Navy during WWII from 1944-1946. After his service in the Navy, he attended Gettysburg College and graduated with a B.S. in Science, continuing his education at the University of Vermont, where he received his Masters Degree in Science. From 1950 to 1951 he taught at St. Joseph's Prep School in Philadelphia. He was a Cadet Commander of U.S. Air Force R.O.T.C. Unit at Gettysburg College. He served in the United States Air Force active duty from 1951 to 1970, where he received the Defense Atomic Support Agency Certificate of Achievement award, retiring as a major.

From 1970 to 1972, he was the director of Industrial Relations for Berwick Forge and Fabricating.

He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Berwick, serving as a Special Minister of the Eucharist and as a lector for seventeen years. He served as president of the St. Joseph School Board and was elected to the Berwick Area Academic Hall of Fame in 1997. He was President and Board Chairman of the UNICO National, Berwick Chapter, from 1974 to 1976, and from 1986 to 1988. He was active in UNICO National for many years and served as National President 1995 to 1996. While National President, he was honored by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. He was a member of the board of the Berwick Cemetery Association for several years. He also held membership in the Maria Assunta Society, the Lions Club, and the Catholic War Veterans.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, the former Martha Canouse; one son: Michael Manganaro of Berwick; two daughters: Linda Stautzenberger of Concord, North Carolina and Michele Roberts, wife of Michael of Midland, North Carolina; five grandchildren: Heather Parker, Eric Stautzenberger, and Jacob, Jessica, and Lucas Roberts; one great grand-daughter, Sophia Anna Roberts; and one sister: Maria Bognar of Berwick.

Interment with military honors will be in Pine Grove Cemetery, Walnut Street, Berwick.

In lieu of flowers the family suggest donations be made to Holy Family School, 728 Washington Street, Berwick, PA 18603 or the UNICO Foundation Scholarship Fund.





## ST. LOUIS, MO

### St. Louis Chapter Christmas Party December 16, 2012

The St. Louis Chapter of UNICO's Christmas Party was held at Spazio Westport, St. Louis, Missouri on December 16th. We had a wonderful evening with lots of great food and holiday cheer.



Chapter President Gabriele Lancia presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the John L. Trotter MS Center Project. From left: Chapter President Gabriele Lancia, Dr. Laura Piccio, Dr. Gregory Wu, Chapter Second Vice President Jim Ferrante.



Chapter President Gabriele Lancia presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to the West County MS Center. From left: Jim Lordo, Lisa Nesler, Mary Kay Fink, Pat Knoerdle-Jordan and Chapter President Gabriele Lancia.



Chapter President Gabriele Lancia presented a check in the amount of \$4,000 to Sharon Lee, Site-man Cancer Center. From left: Chapter President Gabriele Lancia, Sharon Lee, George Stark and Linda Stark.



Chapter President Gabriele Lancia presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Our Little Haven. From left: Scott Hummel, Chapter President Gabriele Lancia.



Executive Vice President of UNICO National Mike Veselka, Midwest Regional District Governor Chair Paul Domico and Chapter President Gabriele Lancia installed our newest members Louis Cerutti and Antonino Siragusa. Congratulations to Louis and Antonino and welcome to UNICO! From left: Louis Cerutti, Antonino Siragusa, Midwest Regional District Governor Paul Domico, UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka and Chapter President Gabriele Lancia.



From left: Midwest Regional District Governor Paul Domico, Chapter Treasurer Nina Lancia-Held, UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka and Chapter President Gabriele Lancia.



Chapter President Gabriele Lancia presents Chapter First Vice-President John Mandala with the St. Louis Chapter's Member Of The Year Award. Congratulations John and thank you for all of your hard work, it is very much appreciated!

## NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII

### New Jersey District VII Presents MONTCLAIR STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

At a recent District Meeting, New Jersey District VII presented Scholarship Awards to Emanuela Melissa Andolina and Celina Poggiogalle. The students, juniors at Montclair State University, received District VII's Award for Excellence in Italian Studies.



From left: National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona, Bettino Poggiogalle, Celina Poggiogalle, New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch, Emanuella M. Andolina, Gina Andolina and New Jersey District VII Scholarship Co-Chair Joseph Pitocco.

## NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IX



From left: New Jersey District IX Governor Gerry Heytink, UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio, UNICO National President David Donnini, Past National President Andre' DiMino, UNICO National Office Manager Pat Pelonero and UNICO National Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti.



Standing from left: Ralph Spataro, Steve Pelonero, Steve Biofulco, Dominick Nicastro, Andre' DiMino, David Donnini, Pat Pelonero, Gerry Heytink, Rick D'Arminio, Sal Benvenuti, John Tinari and Joseph Favorito. Sitting from left: Margaret Spataro, Donna Brown, Gene Santoli, Rosie Heytink and Marie Hanlon.



**Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!!!**



## KEYSTONE, PA

### Italian Heritage Coloring Contest

The Keystone Chapter of UNICO sponsored a coloring contest for all second grade students attending both the Dunmore Elementary Center and Saint Mary of Mount Carmel School. The second grade students were given a picture of Christopher Columbus to color on their own during school time. The student drawings were judged and on November 8th the top four received their works professionally framed, along with gift cards to Toys R Us.



Front row from left: Mark McDade, Keystone Chapter UNICO President; Madison Waltz, coloring contest winner from St. Mary of Mt. Carmel School and Carol Lee McDonald, second grade teacher. Back row from left: Michele McDade, Italian Heritage Coloring Contest Committee Member; James Mack, Keystone Chapter Second Vice President and Contest Chairman and Marilyn Vitali, Keystone Chapter Secretary and Contest Committee Member.



Front row from left: Kaylee Smith, Madolyn Valvano and Anna Acculto, all coloring contest winners from Dunmore Elementary Center. Second row from left: Mr. Matthew Quinn, Principal; Marilyn Vitali and Michele McDade, Italian Heritage Coloring Contest Committee Members; James Mack Sr., Keystone UNICO Second Vice President and Contest Chairman and Mrs. Margaret Hart, Assistant Principal.

The Keystone Chapter UNICO held their November meeting at Mecca's Place in Dunmore. New member Linda Wishart was installed and Robert Siragusa gave a talk on anti-Italian bias over the last hundred years.



Seated from left: New Member Linda Garzella Wishart and Cathy Bianchi, Membership Chairperson. Standing from left: Michael Mecca, Robert Siragusa and Mark E. McDade, Chapter President.



The "Le Sorelle" Committee of the Keystone UNICO Chapter recently conducted a fund-raiser at Saint Mary's Center hosted by Pat Valtos of Sophisticated Lady. Among the many UNICANs and friends participating at the Sophisticated Lady fund-raiser are seated from left: Tillie Tarantini, Margie Del Vecchio, Michele McDade, Rose Ann Dougherty and Margaret Caterino. Standing from left: Elizabeth Mecca, Mary DePalma, Chapter Vice President; Cherie Mecca, Ann Summa, Mary Lou Montana, Marie Scaringi, Dolores Mecca, Marilyn Vitali, Carmela Iannetta, Cesira Berardelli, Nettie Wormuth and Cathy Gerard.

### Keystone UNICO Holds its First Chapter Christmas Party

The Keystone Chapter UNICO held its December meeting and first Chapter Christmas party on Thursday, December 13th at Fiorelli's. Each member brought one or more toys to be donated to the United States Marine's Toys for Tots program. Also on the program, the Chapter's Italian class honored their instructor, Richard Roani, for his pro bono teaching of the Italian language, with a plaque. Pennsylvania II District Governor, Tom Gatto, was on hand to present Past District Governor Peter Noto with his Past District Governor pin and life member, Fred Mitchell with his 25 year pin. Christmas and popular musical entertainment was presented by local vocalist Jim Cerminaro.



From left: Mark E. McDade, Tom Gatto, Yvonne Gatto, Peter Noto and Fred Mitchell.

## RUTHERFORD, NJ



Mary Ann Re received the Rutherford UNICO 2012 Mille Grazie Award. The Mille Grazie Award was established by the Rutherford Chapter in 2000 to recognize and honor individuals who have, in some way, promoted the true and positive image of Italian Americans. From left: Mille Grazie Awardees Mary Ann Re, 2012 and Sr. Ines Marie Bonaventura, 2000, with Joan Tidona.



In celebration of Italian Heritage, the Rutherford Chapter presented a display in the Community Library. From left: Joan Tidona and Vinnie Laborim.



The Rutherford Chapter honoring out motto "Service Above Self" donated \$1500 to the Rutherford Community Food Pantry. From left: Frank Tidona, Chapter President; Joan Tidona, Vinnie Decesare, Genevieve Kacmarcill, Director of Social Services; Barbara Laborim, Michael Duchak, Food Pantry Board Member and Scott Bardzell, Food Pantry Volunteer.



The Rutherford Chapter was pleased to support St. Mary Church Social Concerns. From left: Dolores Gennaro, Andrew E. Bertone, Frank Tidona, Chapter President; Father Michael Kreder and Barbara Laborim.



## SCRANTON, PA



UNICO Scranton Chapter members participated in the annual Lackawanna County Christmas Tree Lighting. From left: Scranton Chapter President Sal Mecca, Past National President Chris DiMattio, Ashley Yando, Frank Blasi, Jim Barress, Past Scranton Chapter President Palma Yanni, Steve Andrichak, Gloria Bernardi, Carole Dougherty, Diane Alberigi, Mary Marrara, Pat Yanni, Lou DiMattio and Bob Montalbano.



UNICO Scranton Chapter Money Tree Raffle Committee for the upcoming Charity Ball are from left: Mary Marrara, Bonnie Blaisé, Carole Dougherty, Palma Yanni, Jim Baress, Ann Reilly and Marie Waerhouse



UNICO Scranton Chapter members pledge allegiance as part of local TV channel WBRE-TV Veteran's Day remembrance program. Front row from left: Karen Clifford, Bonnie Blaisé, Linda Malinoski, Pat Guido, Palma Yanni and Ashley Yando. Second row from left: Jim Barress, Jack Brunetti, Dr. Al Giallorenzi, Peter Cognetti, Bob Montalbano and Chris DiMattio, Past National President. Third row from left: Pat Yanni, Mike Rescigno, Sal Mecca, Scranton Chapter President; Frank Blasi and Jim Soranno.

**"You may have the world, if I may have Italy" - Giuseppe Verdi**

## FARMINGTON, CT

The Farmington Chapter of UNICO recently held its 43rd Annual Pasta Dinner. Thanks to the teamwork of our UNICO members, this event was a success and allows us to provide scholarships and grants to worthy recipients. Despite the weather forecast for a storm the following day, many of UNICO's loyal customers came and enjoyed our famous "meatballs."



From left: Farmington UNICO members Jim Kane, Ray Lavendier and Sal DiMauro at Meatball Night, truly an organized and efficient production!



From left: Farmington UNICO members Bob McNally, Treasurer, and Joe Filomeno welcome guests to the Pasta Dinner at I. A. Robbins Middle School.



From left: Enzo DeDominicis, Pasta Dinner Committee Chairman, David DeNuccio, Pasta Dinner Committee Member, guests Irene Vanh and Bill Wadsworth and Ralph Arcari, Farmington UNICO President.



From left: Busy serving at the Pasta Dinner Lea Marcello and Jim Mugavero, Pasta Dinner Committee Members, Marie Macaro, David DeNuccio and Lisa Sweeney.

Members of the Farmington Chapter of UNICO gathered for their Christmas Party on December 12. The party took place at Angelo's On Main Rockledge in West Hartford. In the spirit of community service, members donated toys for Christmas to the Klingberg Family Center of New Britain, Connecticut.



From left: Ralph Arcari, Lisa Sweeney and Tony Secombe sharing Christmas smiles!



From left: Enjoying each other's company at the Christmas Party: Lillian Quazliano, Joe Filomeno, Barbara Alciati, Fred Alciati, David DeNuccio and Anne DeNuccio.

## SADDLE BROOK, NJ



Seated from left: Flo Mazzer and New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsh. Standing from left: Phil Sergio, Carl Esposito, Rocky DiStefano, Joe Nasello, Chapter President and Sal Mangano, Past National President.



Chapter members donated toys to the Marines Toys for Tots Program. From left: Joe Nasello, Chapter President; Jason McIwain, United States Marine Corp; Joy Ebel, Ed Ebel, and Marilyn Nasello.



# 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.

## NOVEMBER

### AVON

Stefano Cacciola  
Peter Marzano

### CARBONDALE

James Brannon  
Mary Lynn Brannon

### CEDAR GROVE

Salvador Arcadipane

### CLARK

Natalie Belverio  
Jill Belverio Curran  
Fran Cebulak  
Michael Cebulak  
Diane Intartaglio Smith  
Tony Leone  
Henry Trani

### DELMARVA

Vincent Catania  
Edward Fufaro  
Paul Galioto  
Nanci Hurt  
Heather Jenkins  
Christine Jones  
David Jones  
Virginia Lazzati Burgstiner  
John Marino  
Lorraine Marino  
Joseph Odierno  
Robin Odierno  
Caroline Ruggieri  
Nicholas Ruggieri  
David Sciortino  
J. Fredrick Sposato  
Angie Triscuit

### DENVILLE

Mary Culver

### FARMINGTON

Alex Maiorini

### GRANBY

Adrienne Perry  
Ann Marie Therault

### GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Rossano Acchione

### ISLIP/SMITHTOWN

Elizabeth De Gennaro

### KEYSTONE

Angela Richards  
Linda Wishard

### PEQUANNOCK

Christopher Fenniman  
Frances Osborne

### PLAINFIELDS'

Charlotte Heckel  
Dan Ratti

### RARITAN VALLEY

Dawn Wilde

### RIDGEFIELD

Angela Pulci

### SPARTA

Richard Luzzi

### SPRINGFIELD

Salvatore Calvanese

### ST. LOUIS

Louis Cerutti  
Antonino Siragusa

### STAMFORD

Joseph Corsello  
Jon Paul Macri  
Angelo Mallozzi  
Stefano Pirolozzi  
Luigi Pirri  
Piero Pirri  
Dino Spadaccini

### TWIN CITIES

Dani Anspach  
Ralph Davini  
Nellie Frascione  
Suzanne Hendricks

### UNION

Fredrick Gorman  
Anthony Manochio

### WETHERSFIELD

Marc Tenore

## DECEMBER

### BETHLEHEM

Sean Tallarico

### BRICK

Anthony Aquino  
Genesio Iacocca  
Joseph Landicino

### CHICAGO WEST SURBURBAN

Mike Sberno

### CLARK

Paul Palmucci

### EASTON

Michelle Walakonis

### GREATER BINGHAMTON

Camilla Carlini  
Rosa Carlini

### HACKENSACK

Anthony Rotella

### KEYSTONE

Frank Valvano

### PLAINFIELDS'

Ivana Palma

### RARITAN VALLEY

Tara DeLeon

### SADDLE BROOK

Emil Ciliento  
Mariann Gelenius  
Carol Pallotta  
Jessica Pallotta  
John Pallotta  
Caroline Sergio  
Ann Taylor  
Jerry Taylor

### SCOTCH PLAINS/ FANWOOD

Jeffrey Blanck  
Ron DelPrete  
Anthony Gialanella  
Colleen Gialanella  
Dorianne Perrucci  
Vincent Russo

### SCRANTON

Christopher Cardamone  
Kathleen Giannone  
Mary Gisolfi  
Virginia Gowden  
Dominic Keating  
John Pricci  
Jim Wansacz  
Maria Wansacz

### SECAUCUS

Susan Marra

### SPRINGFIELD

Matthew Pellegrino  
Vincenzo Rohghi  
David St. John

### STAMFORD

Josephine Weller

### TORRINGTON

Antonio Ponte Jr.  
Maria Summa

### WATERBURY

John Lombardo  
Frances Durante

### WESTFIELD

Bob Centrella  
Edward Marhefka

### WESTWOOD

Enza Monti  
Michael Monti  
Angela Ruocco  
John Ruocco

### WOODCLIFF LAKE

Michael Tortora  
Thomas Ventura

WELCOME TO  
UNICO  
NATIONAL!



## SECAUCUS, NJ

On December 11th Secaucus UNICO made their Annual trip to Hudson Manor to sing Christmas Carols and hand out tins of cookies to the patients. "This trip has inspired our Youth Group to organize more visits to the facility" says Adviser Michelle Malcolm. Our Chapter has been serving the community for over 9 years and we appreciate the support we receive from the residents. Please watch the town calendar for our upcoming fundraisers because the more we get ... the more we can give!



From left: Gene Salvatore, Sandra Lopez, Joe and Ann Arena, Samantha, Sophia, and Melissa Vogel, Gerry Dowd, Michelle Malcolm, Krupa Patel, Brianna and Carol Marra. Present but not pictured was Anthony Lopez who passed away Saturday December 15th. He will be missed by the members of Secaucus UNICO and all the many lives he's touched with his kindness. A thoughtful man who was taken from this world much too soon....May he rest in Peace.



The Secaucus Chapter of UNICO Youth Group held its 3rd Annual Secaucus Holiday Parade. From left: Ms. Malcolm (advisor), Yanjie Yu, Jarrod Smeyers, Mario Castelli, Claire Molina, Bhavya Singh, Chrizzia De Leon, Vito Digiorgio, Nalali Tikyani, and Samantha Vogel." The bottom row shows students Alex Consulmagno, Karishma Vaswani, and Pranav Duggal.



Luciano DiGiorgio (the green M&M), Vito DiGiorgio, and Alex Consulmago spreading holiday cheer at the tree lighting.

The DEADLINE for the March Edition of ComUNICO is  
Monday, February 11, 2013.  
Send Chapter news to the UNICO  
National Office: [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org).

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

## GARFIELD, NJ

On Sunday, December 2, the Garfield Chapter of UNICO participated in its Annual Christmas Basket distribution, boxing and delivering food to 47 families in the Garfield community. Members sorted canned goods, pasta, bread and frozen chickens at Budget Blinds of Northern New Jersey in Garfield, a space generously donated by member Sal Militello for the project every year. The members then loaded the boxes of food into a truck and delivered them to the less fortunate in the Garfield community.

This is the Chapter's biggest non-monetary donation every year as it exemplifies UNICO's mantra of "Service Above Self." The members vote to participate in the distribution every year in order to help people in its Chapter's city and to spread the good work that UNICO does.

On December 13, the Chapter hosted its Annual Christmas Party and honored former Chapter President and National Delegate Antonino Randazzo for his work for the Chapter and UNICO National."



Members of Garfield UNICO fill Christmas baskets for members of the Garfield community. From left: Ralph Hamilton, John Gervasio and Anthony Marchese



Garfield UNICO member Sal Militello gives directions to members of Garfield UNICO regarding distributing Christmas baskets. From left: Sal Militello, Dominick Nicastro, Members of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Youth Group, Maria Barone, John Gervasio, Jack Latona



Garfield UNICO members at their annual Christmas Basket distribution - Back Row Going up the stairs: Members of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Youth Group, John Gervasio, Joe Kovacs, Ralph Hamilton, Maria Barone. Middle Row in front of stairs: Dominick Nicastro, Giuseppe Barone, Chuck Nucifora, Ben Focarino, Allan Focarino, Members of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Youth Group, Stephanie Kuka, Anthony Randazzo, Sam Faltas, Anthony Marchese, Jack Latona. Front Row (kneeling): Sal Militello, Dominick Nicastro Jr. and Members of Our Lady of Mount Virgin Youth Group.

## BOOK REVIEW



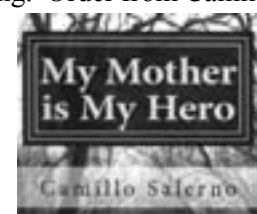
**My Mother is My Hero**  
by  
**Camillo Salerno**  
Reviewed by  
**Tony Arabia**

This is a lovingly told factual story of Salerno's mother, Concetta and her whole family. It is a sad, but hopeful, beautiful tale of the courage and hard work of immigrants who came to America in the late 1880s and early 1900s. Salerno has done an excellent job. As the book cover explains, 'Writing his mother's story has enriched his life, bringing back so many memories of his pre- and post-war childhood in a small Calabrian town: his parents' unconditional love, sibling relationships, and the closeness they all shared during life's most difficult times.'

He refers to his parents as the pillars of the family. Both were seemingly tireless. They, like many of our ancestors, sacrificed themselves for the good of their children and grand children. The author strikes a chord with many of us who have lost a mother or father to cancer. His very lovely description of his mother and family members gave warm life to all of them.

Salerno's treatment of history and in particular his wartime End Notes of the German-Russian World War II offensive added greatly to this book. In closing, he tells his purpose to donate the proceeds of the book to cancer research.

You will truly enjoy reading this book! Published 2012, 105 pages \$14.95 & \$5 shipping and handling. Order from [CamilloPublishing@aol.com](mailto:CamilloPublishing@aol.com).





## WELCOME DELMARVA, DE

UNICO welcomed a new Chapter to our family when National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan presented the Delmarva Delaware members with their Charter on a lovely evening at Luca Ristorante in Millsboro on November 29.

What started out several years ago as a possible Ocean City Chapter was transformed into a successful formation of the Delmarva Chapter by the hard work of Maryland District I Governor Mary Teresa Morrison, along with Past Expansion Director Gerry Heytink, Tom Vaughan, and the Chapter Members.

National President David Donnini installed Chapter President David Jones and the other members of the Chapter. President Donnini told them how proud and pleased he was to install them as UNICANs.

National Second Vice President Ann Walko installed Chapter Vice President Angie Triscuit and Treasurer/Secretary Heather Jenkins and also presented the banner. Ann was pleased to be a part of the ceremony and welcomed the Delmarva Chapter into the fold. She said that she and UNICO would help make the Chapter the success she knows it will be.

District Governor Mary Teresa Morrison gave the Invocation in English and Italian. When asked to comment Mary said "I want to congratulate Delmarva and would like to encourage them to continue with the enthusiasm which they have shown in forming this Chapter. IN BOCCA AL LUPO!"

Chapter President David Jones said "The Delmarva Chapter would like to thank the Point Pleasant Beach and Rehoboth Area Chapters for co-sponsoring our Chapter. We are very excited to get going." Rehoboth area President Rosemarie Patin read the Benediction and was joined at the event by Past Chapter President Mary Jane Deets. Letters of welcome were read by Tom Vaughan from Executive Vice President Mike Veselka, First National Vice President Rick D'Arminio, and Eastern Region District Governor Chip Calabro. New Jersey I Immediate Past District Governor Grace Gynn wrote that "The Point Pleasant Beach Chapter welcomes you into our UNICO family. We are proud to help sponsor your new Chapter and hope you enjoy a wonderful Charter Night."

Tom Vaughan would like to thank Pat, Lisa, Sal, and the rest of the National Office for all of their support.

Congratulazioni e benvenuto to the Delmarva Chapter members: David Jones, Christine Jones, David Sciortino, Joseph Odierno, Robin Odierno, Vince Catania, Angie Triscuit, Heather Jenkins, Paul Galioto, Virginia Lazzati Burgstiner, Edward Furaro, Nanci Hurt, Lorraine Marino, John Marino, Nicholas Ruggieri, Caroline Ruggieri, and Frederick Sposato.



*The Presentation of the Charter! From left: Chapter President David Jones, UNICO National President David Donnini and UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan.*



*From left: Chapter President David Jones, Secretary/Treasurer Heather Jenkins, UNICO National President David Donnini, Chapter Vice President Angie Triscuit, UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan.*



*From left: Chapter President David Jones, Chapter Vice President Angie Triscuit and UNICO National President David Donnini.*



*The Presentation of the Banner! From left: President David Jones, UNICO National President David Donnini, UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan and UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko.*



*From left: Chapter President David Jones, Maryland District I Governor Mary Teresa Morrison, UNICO National President David Donnini, UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan.*



*From left: UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko, Chapter President David Jones, UNICO National President David Donnini and UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan.*



## SAN ANTONIO, TX



Members of the San Antonio Chapter gather for their Christmas Party.



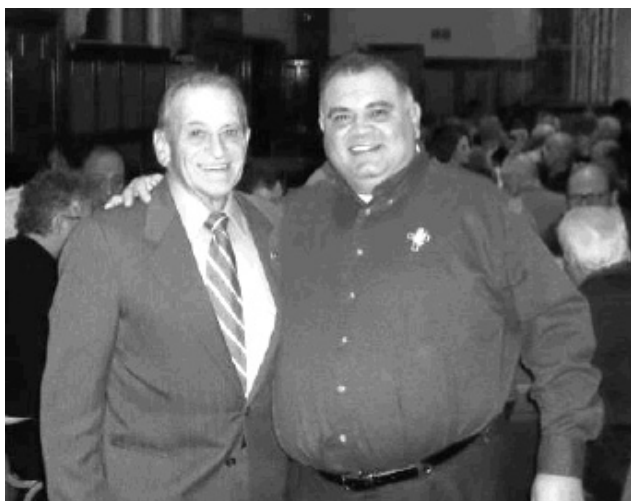
From left: Joe Monaco, Tony and Rose Arabia, Liz Kelly, Sandra Rao, Christus Foundation; Lacey Hayes and Bill Kelly.

## PLAINFIELDS', NJ

### Plainfields' UNICO Hosts Annual Pig Roast Fund-raiser at Scotch Plains Italian American Club



Renato Biribin, Past National President and Stephanie Bartfalvi, both worked to organize the Pig Roast fund-raiser.



Plainfields' President John DeAndrea and Giuseppe Razzano take time for a break at the Pig Roast.



From left: Brian Roesch, Adam Butrico, Jason Belanger, Amy Bengivenga Johnson, New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO First Vice President Jason Risoli, Lena Esposito, who cooked and South Plainfield Councilman and Plainfields' UNICO member Robert Bengivenga Jr. worked to prepare and deliver the goods to a starving crowd of more than 200 at the Pig Roast.

### Ramapo Aquamasters Wore UNICO Logo for Competition

Plainfields' UNICO sponsored Amy Bengivenga-Johnson, daughter of New Jersey District X Governor and Plainfields' UNICO member Robert Bengivenga, and donated team shirts with the UNICO logo to her team, the Ramapo Aquamasters. The team proudly wore the UNICO logo throughout the US Synchronized Swimming Master's Nationals in Sarasota, Florida.

Amy placed first in the Figure Event, third in the Solo Event, and third in the Team Event. Amy, a native of South Plainfield, is also a teacher in the Scotch Plains - Fanwood School District.



Amy Bengivenga Johnson with her gold medal in the Figure Event, and her father, New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga.

## HAZLETON, PA

Normally our fund-raising activities are for local purposes. But this time we are helping fellow UNICO Members in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey Chapter, who were hit very hard by Hurricane Sandy.

Almost all of Point Pleasant Beach was affected, with many homes having flood damage on the first floor, losing all the furnishings and

belongings on the first floor. Also many lost their cars. They were without power and heat for over a week. So they lost all food in refrigerator and freezer.

President Deb Vaccaro, President of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter has said that it's difficult to contact other UNICO members because most are still living with family and friends. Schools and gas stations just re-opened this past Monday, two weeks after the storm hit.

So you can see this area was devastated by the storm and we are trying to do a little part to help them get back on their feet.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this relief drive this past weekend. It was a great success! We filled a 15 foot truck with supplies for the Sandy flood victims and had intended to take it to Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey. But due to their extensive damage, they were unable to take the supplies at this time. So, we decided to direct the supplies to a flood ravaged area of Staten Island. The people at the Red Cross there were tremendously thankful for our efforts."

## MEMPHIS, TN



Memphis UNICO had the pleasure of participating in the University of Memphis Homecoming Parade as a community involvement event. We decorated Michael Spano's truck and threw out lots of candy to the parade watchers as we were cheering on the Memphis Tigers. Afterwards we went out to eat and had a very fun time. From left: Mike Camurati, Chrisann Schiro-Geist, Jack Conway, Linda Spano, Gerri Camurati and Michael Spano.

## IN MEMORIAM

Ernest A. "Ernie" Marino, 92 of Southbury, Connecticut, formerly of Waterbury, passed away Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at the Lutheran Home in Southbury.

He was a member of the Waterbury Chapter of UNICO National and the Waterbury GOP Township Committee and was a former commissioner of Waterbury Public Works. He enjoyed playing cards, golfing and traveling the world with his beloved wife.

He is survived by his wife Marie, his daughter Valerie and his son Marcus. Memorial contributions can be made to either Operation Smile, 6435 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, Virginia 23509, or Safe Haven 29 Central Avenue, Waterbury, Connecticut 06702.



## 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, phone and PayPal.

*Wilkes-Barre Chapter Member Joseph Donnini presents UNICO National President David Donnini a \$5,000 donation for Disaster Relief. Also pictured are Past National President Joe Agresti and UNICO National Executive Administrator Sal Benvenuti.*



*The Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO National recently donated \$5,000 to the victims of Hurricane Sandy through a special relief fund established by UNICO National. From left: Angelo DeCesaris, Chapter Secretary; Joe Donnini, Joe Pierangeli, Chapter President; Dave Donnini, UNICO National President; Carmen Magistro, Chapter Treasurer; John Terrana and Dominic Ortolani.*

### UNICO National Disaster Relief

**Donation Amount** \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type:

\_\_\_\_ CASH

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

\_\_\_\_ CREDIT CARD

\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

\_\_\_\_ Visa

\_\_\_\_ American Express

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



*The Scranton Chapter of UNICO National recently presented a check for \$2,500 to the UNICO National Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. From left are: Scranton member Pat Yanni; Sal Mangano, New Jersey member representing the storm's victims; Chris DiMattio, UNICO Scranton Foundation Trustee; Palma Yanni, Scranton Chairwoman; Dave Donnini, UNICO National President; Dave Bieri, Scranton Vice President; Karen Clifford, Secretary; Pat Pelonero and Sal Benvenuti, UNICO National Office.*

**Charitable donations to UNICO  
Charities are tax deductible!  
Send your check made out  
to UNICO Foundation:**

**UNICO Foundation  
271 US Highway 46 West  
Suite F-103  
Fairfield, NJ 07004**



# Turano seeks Italian senate seat



**Chicago-area business executive and community leader Renato Turano is campaigning to again represent the Italian citizens of North and Central America in the Italian Senate. He previously served as senator from 2006 to 2008.**

During their brief tenure, Turano and the other five senators elected abroad formed a committee with a dozen other senators from Italy to identify the needs of Italian citizens living around the world. "We laid the groundwork for sweeping changes during our 20 short months in office, and those plans have been gathering dust ever since," he explains. "I'm running again to finish the job we started back in 2006."

Turano was born in Calabria in 1942 and moved with his family to America when he was 15. In 1962, the Turano family bought a small bakery in Chicago that Renato and his brothers, Umberto and Giancarlo, transformed into one of the largest manufacturers of artisan breads in North America: the Turano Baking Co.

Turano has been actively involved in the Chicago-area Italian-American community for decades, presiding over half a dozen major organizations, and being honored for his leadership and generosity on countless occasions.

Turano has held leadership positions on the national and international levels as well, serving on the Assocamerestero, an association of 76 Italian chambers of commerce around the world, and as consultore/adviser to the Region of Calabria, representing the interests of Calabresi in North America at annual work conferences in Italy.

Among his many accomplishments, he 1) co-founded Casa Italia, a community center for Italian Americans in the Chicago area; 2) helped the Italian American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest win official recognition from the Italian government; 3) leveraged funds from the Italian government to support economic exchanges between Italy and the Midwest, resulting in increased import/export activity; 4) brought Calabresi organizations from across North America together for the first time to work for the common good; and 5) helped create a sister-college relationship between the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the University of Calabria.

**Turano's political platform includes passing legislation to make it easier to reclaim Italian citizenship; increasing funding to Italian consulates and improving consular services; eliminating duplication of effort among Italian government offices; increasing funding to Italian language programs on the elementary, middle and high school levels; increasing cultural programs from Italy and making them more accessible to the community; subsidizing newspapers, radio shows and television programs that promote Italian culture and language; encouraging academic, student and cultural exchanges on the university level; facilitating economic exchanges, joint ventures and increased trade; and reforming the Italian electoral process.**

His accomplishments have earned praise from all quarters.

"Renato Turano is the ideal candidate to represent the Italians of North and Central America," says Giovanni Chieffallo, consultore of the Region of Calabria representing East Canada. "He is admired on both sides of the Atlantic, he has the same background and spirit of many Italians living abroad, he has decades of experience serving on bodies similar to the parliament, and he has the best interest of his fellow Italians at heart."

"For most of its history, the Italian American Chamber of Commerce was a social club for Chicago-area businessmen," says Fulvio Calcinardi, executive director of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce-Midwest. "Renato Turano helped transform it into a truly international organization with strong ties to Italy and other chambers around the world."

"Renato Turano has had a positive impact on the partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the University of Calabria," says UW-Parkside Chancellor Debbie Ford. "He has the enthusiasm and skills needed to bring people together and accomplish great things."

**With all that he has accomplished, Turano is most proud of and thankful for his family. He has worked for 50 years with his two brothers, whom he considers his best friends, and he cherishes his relationship with his wife of 47 years, his three children and his nine grandchildren.**



*For more information, visit [www.renatoturano.com](http://www.renatoturano.com).*



# **Vote** *for* **Renato Turano**

**Your voice in the Italian Senate**

*Experience and competence in service to the community.*



"Italy must embrace a brighter future for all of its citizens, young and old. If I am elected senator, I promise to be the voice of my constituents in North and Central America in the Italian Senate, and to help create that brighter future."

**- Renato Turano, Candidate for the Italian Senate**



All eligible voters should receive ballots in the mail from their local Italian consulate by Feb. 6. Please mark the Partito Democratico logo with an X, write in Renato Turano for Senate, and mail the ballot back as soon as possible. All completed ballots must be received by the local consulate no later than 4 p.m. on Feb. 21.

***For more information, visit [www.renatoturano.com](http://www.renatoturano.com).***



# UNICO NATIONAL



*Joe Agresti and Mike Veselka.*



*From left: Pat Pelonero, David Donnini and Sal Benvenuti.*



*From left: Nick and Marie Quercetti and Bernie Brutto.*



*From left; Perry Russo, Mike Colucci, Elyse Buonomo, Anthony Bengivenga and Debbie Benvenuti.*



*Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Committee Meeting.*



*From left: Frank Cannata, Frank Tidona and Carol Cannata.*



*Joe Cerullo and Perry Russo.*



*From left: Bob Tarte, Anthony Bengivenga and Mary Teresa Morrison.*



*From left: Sal Ingallina, Ann Walko and Phyllis Coldebella.*



*Linda Gail Alati and Carol Cannata.*



*From left: Frank Blasi, Joan Tidona and Tom Vaughan.*



*From left: Roseanne Buckleman, Andre' DiMino and Brian Guarco.*



*Lou and Celeste Pandolfi.*



*Bob Bengivenga and Gene Maddalena.*



*Anthony Iasiello.*



# EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING



*Germain DeMartinis and David Donnini.*



*David Donnini.*



*David Donnini and Joe Pierangeli.*



*Frank Greco Jr.*



*From left: Tom Vaughan, Sam Prudente, Sal Benvenuti and Mark McDade.*



*Frank Blasi and Pat Pelonero.*



*Andre' DiMino speaks against stereotyping.*



*Frank Cannata.*



*Andre' DiMino speaks about the Service Mark and Logo Trademark now owned by UNICO National.*



*Ralph Torracco and Lou DiMattio.*



*From left: Sal and Maryanne Ingallina and Betty and Perry Russo.*



*Felix and Jean DeSio*





## CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHAPTERS

UNICO Memphis members really enjoyed our annual Pizza with Santa at Madonna Learning Center. The kids got to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas and received gives from Santa, they could get their face and hand painted, they made a Christmas tree craft, they sang Christmas songs and they got to eat lots of pizza. It was a blessing to see these kids having so much fun.



*From left: Santa Charles Vanelli, Shannon (student) and Ms. Claus Rose Marie Cross.*



*From left: Ray and Marie Ricossa, Chrisann Schiro-Geist, School Teacher, Mike and Gerri Camurati, Michael and Linda Spano, Amelia Camurati, Ron and Regina Giometti, Alicia McKenzie, Michael Spano, Gianna Capodiferro and Courtney Spano.*

New Jersey District IV held its Annual Christmas Party for residents of the North Jersey Developmental Center, Totowa, New Jersey on December 4, 2012.



*From left: Tom Triolo, Sal Ingallina, Dominick Nicastro, John Morano, Paul Alongi, Pat Pelonero, Perry Russo, Sal Benvenuti, Joan and Frank Tidona, Jose Cuebas, Joe Agresti, Dave D'Arco and Hasam Abdallah. Seated Nina and Mike Corradino.*



*From left: Carol Genchi, Margo Villanova, Santa Claus (Gino Giaconia), Nina Corradino and Maria Weibe.*

On Friday evening, December 7, 2012, the Kearny Chapter hosted a Christmas Party for Mentally and Physically Challenged Individuals at the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center. Working with Pathways to Independence, the Kearny Chapter provided 150 guests with food, music by a DJ and gifts from Santa. Chapter members decorated the hall, served food to the guests and also served as Santa's helpers.



*From left: Theresa Trucillo, Avery Zarbetski, Libby McInnis, Pearl Yaszczemski, Ida Nigro and Alice Belfiore serve food to the party's many guests.*



*Kearny Santa and his helpers enjoy a photo-op. Standing behind Tom Gregory dressed as Santa, from left: Joe Sgalia, Marty Ball, Vinny Ball, Nino Capitti, Addie Boyd, Lou Pandolfi, Judy Hyde, Nat Amadeo, Pearl Yaszczemski, Ida Nigro, Alice Belfiore, Celeste Pandolfi, Libby McInnis, JoAnn Mitchell, Theresa Trucillo and Angela Varano.*

On Sunday, December 9, 2012 The West Essex Chapter held its Annual Christmas party for the handicapped. About 120 physically and mentally handicapped adults from The ARC of Essex County attended the party. An Italian dinner of salad, bread, pasta, meatballs, dessert and drinks was served. A DJ was on hand to provide music for dancing. Santa arrived and passed out gifts for everyone.



*Guests enjoy the pasta dinner at the West Essex Party.*



*Helpers at the West Essex Party include from left: Lisa Adubato, Jessica Schnurr and Remy Astorino.*



*West Essex Santa Ray D'Uva gets a hug from a guest.*

Also on December 9, 2012 the Woodcliff Lake Chapter held its Annual Pizza with Santa Party for members of the community.



*Santa Andre' DiMino shares a secret with a guest!*



*Front row from left: Gene Santoli, Tami Guglielmo, Lucia Wehr and Santa. Back row from left: Mike Pisano, Dina Santarelli, Giuseppe Pampena, Lori Bettini, Dolores Accardi, Carmela Iovino, Maria Jannicelli, Kristin Brown, Tom Jannicelli, Paul Camella, Peter Alianello, Jenny DiMino and Donna Brown.*



# Italian & Italian American Heritage Calendar



## 2013

*Announcing the 2013 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar*

## 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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## UNICO NATIONAL



### NJ District IV Karaoke Night!

**Saturday, February 23, 2013**

**7 pm to 11 pm**

**Little Falls United Methodist Church  
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**Thousands of Songs for you to Sing  
Six-Foot Assorted Hero Sandwiches  
Gourmet Hot Dog Cart  
Soda-Coffee-Dessert  
BYOB!-Door & Raffle Prizes**

**Only \$35 per person**

**Advanced Purchase is suggested!**

**Make Checks Payable to NJ District IV  
Mail to: Joe Agresti, 97 Hadley Ave. Clifton, NJ 07011**

**Proceeds to benefit The "V" Foundation,  
St. Jude Cancer Research  
and other select UNICO causes.**

For info call - PNP Joe Agresti @ 201-874-0546  
Steve Pelonero @ 973-271-9314  
John Borgese @ 201-452-6237



## WETHERSFIELD, CT

### Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO

#### Hosts 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Youth Soccer Jamboree

The Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO hosted its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Soccer Jamboree". Our opening ceremonies included a welcome to players and their families from Tom Vaughan, UNICO National Expansion Director, our current Chapter President, Nick D'Eramo, and our Mayor, Donna Hemmann. The town's award winning Wethersfield High School Marching Band played.

The jamboree was attended by over 200 recreation soccer players from Wethersfield, and from our neighboring Cromwell, Portland, and Rocky Hill. All players were treated to a fun-filled day of soccer among these local rivals.

Additionally, all the participants took part in a great soccer clinic hosted by the Wethersfield High School soccer coaches and players. Each player and coach was provided with a team jersey, jamboree program, team photo and a game ball thanks to the generosity and hard work of Wethersfield UNICANs.

This entire event highlighted how UNICO contributes to our community by supporting students through scholarships, providing assistance to families in need and by showcasing the local talents of our music and youth sports programs.



Wethersfield event organizer Pelino Sylvestri welcomes participants and noteworthy visitors to the Jamboree.



Wethersfield High School Band's youth conductor Antonio LaRosa, son of Salvatore LaRosa leads the band.



From left: Marco Maio and Chapter President Nicholas D'Eramo supervise the cooking and quality of the food available for hungry players and family members.

### Annual Family Christmas Party With Santa!

Again, Wethersfield UNICO sponsored a family Christmas Party that was even more joyous, delicious, and rambunctious than the one which was held last year. Our UNICANs created savory dishes to the delight of the parents and their children.

The children were surprised by the boisterous voice and colorful appearance of a bona fide Santa and Mrs. Claus. Santa was one of our very own UNICANs, Marco Maio. Santa Marco, through his comely behavior and attire and tremendous amount of joyous experience, has the wonderful personality of a young adult, despite his real, long white hair and beard. The dining room was filled with sounds of expectation and joy as gifts were received, opened and displayed.

UNICAN, Ken Sokolowski was well positioned and was taking pictures of each of the children sitting on Santa's lap as Santa whispered in their ears, encouraging each of them though not guaranteeing anything, a wise Santa. There was no doubt by the end of the evening that all would look forward to the Family Christmas party next year too!

Please visit our Website at [www.WethersfieldUnico.org](http://www.WethersfieldUnico.org)



From left: Katherine Maio (Mrs. Claus); Chapter President Nicholas D'Eramo and Marco Maio (Santa Claus) share still another happy moment at the end of the Annual Christmas party.

## NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter of UNICO National continued its monthly dinner meeting activities with a special November meeting recognizing all members who are veterans of the military service. The special guest at this meeting was Lieutenant Colonel Randy Freeman of the 3rd Battalion, 314 Field Artillery from Fort Dix, New Jersey. The Lieutenant Colonel treated all in attendance to a stirring presentation of patriotism. The Chapter thanks all veterans across the country for their service.

In a continuing effort to focus on culture and heritage, members, friends and members of the community were invited to attend a UNICO sponsored Italian Movie Night on October 30. Several dozen attended and saw La Doppia Ora (The Double Hour) at the Nutley Public Library. Italian pastries and coffees were also provided for all.

The Chapter's Annual Christmas Party was held on December 6 at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, New Jersey. All enjoyed the company, food and drink and the singing of member, John

Cafone, who treated the party goers to a variety of selections varying from holiday songs to pop to standards by Sinatra, Tony Bennett and others.

Several dozen members continue to be involved in the Chapter's wine making initiative. The grapes were pressed in the fall and come spring we will enjoy several homemade reds and whites.

The major fund-raising effort for the Nutley Chapter is a \$100 per ticket raffle. Three hundred-fifty tickets have been distributed. The winners will be selected at the February 7, 2013 meeting. These funds plus those raised by other fund-raisers will finance the \$20,000+ that will be awarded in local scholarships in the spring, plus local and national causes.



Lieutenant Colonel Randy Freeman of the 3rd Battalion, 314 Field Artillery from Fort Dix, New Jersey is pictured with Nutley President Anthony Malfitano.



Veterans honored at the November meeting of the Nutley Chapter included from left: Sal "Pops" Cocco, Frank Catanzarite, John Verrico and Ernie Capalbo. They were joined by Lieutenant Colonel Randy Freeman.



New Members sworn in by the Nutley Chapter in November were Robert Solimo, Tom Pucci and Anthony Rosamilia. They were joined by New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch.



Nutley President Anthony Malfitano, Dan Maurucci, Tom Sposato and Frank Cocchiola celebrate the toys and other gifts collected at the Christmas Party.



## GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

On November 14th, the Greater Binghamton Chapter held a Dinner and a Show Fund-raiser. This event was held at Atrio in Endwell, New York. Member Pierre Figguccio put together a band that wowed the crowd. Band members were: Pierre on vocals, Rick Pedro on piano, Larry Lolli on guitar, and Brad Nemcek on drums. The theme was a Lounge setting, as Pierre sang songs from the 60's, 70's & 80's. Our very own Angelo Zuccolo made the perfect MC for the evening. Marie Walsh was in charge of the decorations, putting us in the mood to enjoy our Las Vegas evening. Candy cigarettes and chocolate cigars were handed out to the attendees by our very own cigarette girl Sara Wahila. Of course Vegas is a game of chance, so members John Barbieri and Felix DeSio sold 50/50 tickets. Dinner was provided by Lou Fata of Atrio. Lou made our signature drink of the night, "The God Fata", a delightful martini. Guests were seated at their Casino Table. Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro and wife Patti, as well as Pennsylvania II District Governor Tom Gatto and wife Yvonne, were found at the Westward Ho Casino table enjoying the evening. The event was co-chaired by members Donna Carlini and Jean DeSio, with Marco Cuda and Pierre Figguccio as Committee members. This evening would not have possible without the numerous volunteers that gave their time and donations to make this event an overwhelming success. Proceeds of the event will support various charities of the Greater Binghamton Chapter.



"Cigars, cigarettes, cigars, cigarettes..." From left: Richard Wahila, Sara Wahila, cigarette girl, and Barbara Wahila. The chocolate cigars and candy cigarettes were a hit. Remember fund-raising is FUN!!



Members Frank and Connie Cardullo enjoy the evening's festivities. Check out the giant martini glass!



What every event needs-a signature drink. Lou Fata, owner of Atrio, the inventor of the "God Fata" Martini. A truly unique martini, enjoyed by many.



The night was a success THANKS to lead singer Pierre. Pierre put together the band just for this evening's event. During the show we all thought we were in Las Vegas—wait that's not Dean it's Pierre! The crowd loved them.



Co-chairs Donna Carlini and Jean DeSio make a toast to the evening's success.



Bob and Marie Walsh. Marie was the artistic mastermind behind all the decorations.



## PITTSFIELD, MA

### Pittsfield Chapter Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame

The Pittsfield Chapter inducted five new members into its Berkshire County Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame on Friday, November 16, at its monthly meeting which took place at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield. This is the seventeenth year of the Baseball Hall of Fame. Former baseball and softball players (men and women), as well as contributors to both sports, from Berkshire County are nominated and sponsored by family, friends, former team mates and coaches for induction. The Chapter's Hall of Fame Committee reviews and approves the nominations after which the sponsors conduct a fund raising event for a donation to the baseball and softball scholarship fund. Any graduating senior in Berkshire County, who has played baseball or softball for their respective high school, may apply for the scholarship. The Chapter's Scholarship Committee makes the selections.



Pittsfield Chapter Berkshire County Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2012 inductees from left: Jim Gleason (representing his late father Donald Gleason), Kara Nilan, Tony Procopio, Mitch Wood and Heather Capitanio.



Five new Members were installed into the Pittsfield Chapter at the October Chapter meeting. The new Members were sworn in and welcomed by Chapter President Cathy Mazzeo. From left: New Members Patrick Anello, Frank Dignard, Scott Miller, Christine Gregory and Frank DiPierro.

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



## UNION, NJ



*On December 13 the Union Chapter joined members of the Union Police Department by donating toys to the Santa in Blue Program for children victims of Hurricane Sandy. The Chapter donated unwrapped boys and girls toys to the program, donated by the members and UNICO supporting businesses. Included in the picture are UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and Chapter President Joseph Almeida.*



*At the Annual Union Chapter Christmas Party the membership welcomed Fred Gorman and Tony Manachio to the Chapter. Ann Walko, UNICO National Second Vice President swears in the new members from left: Bob Johnson, mentor to Fred Gorman, Tony Manachio, UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and mentor, Chapter President Joseph Almeida.*



## HERITAGE AND CULTURE



### Heritage and Culture Chair Sal Mangano

#### Valentine's Day in Italy

The Romantic Festival of Valentine's Day is celebrated with enthusiasm in Italy. Lovers take the opportunity of the day to express love and affection for their beloved. Loads of Valentine's Day gifts are exchanged and everyone enjoys the day.

#### Early Valentine's Day Tradition in Italy

Valentine's Day was initially celebrated as a Spring Festival in Italy. Celebrations for the

day were held in the open air. Young people would gather in tree arbors or ornamental gardens and enjoy listening to music and reading poetry. Later they would stroll off with their Valentine into the gardens. The custom steadily ceased over the course of years and has not been celebrated for centuries.

In the Italian City of Turin, a betrothed couple used to announce their engagement on Valentine's Day. Several days ahead of February 14, stores were decorated and loaded with a huge variety of bon-bons. Some even sold china baskets and cups filled with delectable Valentine's Day candies and tied them with a ribbon. These were to be presented as gifts to the chosen Valentine.

There is another interesting Valentine's Day tradition followed in Italy and Britain. Unmarried girls were made to wake up before sunrise. People strongly believed that the first man an unmarried girl sees on Valentine's Day would marry her within a year. Girls therefore used to wake up early on Valentine's Day and stand by their window to watch a man pass.

#### Valentine's Day Celebration in Italy Today

Today people of Italy see Valentine's Day as a holiday imported from United States, just like Halloween and Mother's Day. For the love and lovers country of Italy, the major day for celebration of love is called "Il giorno della festa degli innamorati". As lovers exclusively celebrate this day, family members and friends do not exchange gifts.

In recent times, lovers in Italy celebrate Valentine's Day by expressing their love to their sweethearts. Couples usually go out for dinner. Just as in other countries, the festival has been commercialized to a great extent. There is a strong tradition to exchange gifts like roses, perfume, chocolates and diamonds depending on the age and taste of a person. Another popular Valentine's Day gift in Italy is Baci, Perugia - the small, chocolate-covered hazelnut candy containing a small slip of paper with a romantic poetic quote in four languages.

Valentine's Day in Southern Italy, is for spoiling your sweetheart with delicious and scrumptious pizza. This is the place that introduced the enticing flavor of pizza to the rest of the world; hence, it is a must to romanticize and indulge in these delightful varieties on the occasion of Valentine's Day.

A great idea to celebrate Valentine's Day in Italy is to organize a wonderfully decorated candlelight dinner, accompanied with lush cuisine of the country and the pungent smell of exclusive home-made wine. This can be further accompanied by the soft ripple of music and the smooth rhythm of dance. No one will be able to deny such a romantic environment. You may even pop in your question in between this setting and it is sure that you will come out victorious. So, go ahead and plan one of the most romantic days of the year in the beautiful country called Italy. You won't be sorry.

Researched and submitted by Salvatore J. Mangano, Past National President



## BRICK, NJ



*Brick Chapter sponsors a Secret Santa program for the Brick Osbornville School. This year the Chapter donated over \$2,400 in gift cards. Many families have been displaced from Storm Sandy and the Brick Chapter stepped up to help the families from this school. Erica Mancuso, Brick Aces member is pictured with the donations.*

## CLARK, NJ



*President Ralph Bernardo greets members Marcus Sanguliano, Bill Hearon, and Frank Origanato at the Chapter's Christmas Party.*



*From left: Past Vice President Antonio Demeidici, President Ralph Bernardo and Vice President Greg Menza.*



*From left: Members Tony Ginesi, Patti Ashmont and John Demarco have a great time.*



## CLARK, NJ



Clark UNICO recently celebrated the success of their Annual Italian American Feast by inviting all those that helped volunteer their time to work the feast. Over 100 volunteers from Clark plus UNICANS enjoyed a fantastic meal catered by Taranella's of Clark.



Clark UNICANS serve food to the volunteers. From left: Antonio DeMedichi, Henry Varriano, Kathy Violante, Sam Liff, Karen Bernardo and Vera Abruzzo.



Clark UNICO participated in the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony by placing a wreath by the Veterans Monument at ALJ High School. From left: George Abruzzo, Ed Grande, Ralph Bernardo and Henry Varriano.



Glen Gray, Jill Curran and Fran Cantarelli load up the trucks with donated merchandise.



Clark UNICO collected coats, cleaning supplies, food, blankets and other new items to those that have suffered from Hurricane Sandy. Four truck loads of donated merchandise were driven down to Asbury Park's Holy Spirit Church. From left: Ralph and Karen Bernardo, Chris DeLauro, Jill Curran, Pete Zimbardo, Glen Gray and Fran Cantarelli.

## SPARTA, NJ



The Sparta Chapter held a Comedy Night with Uncle Floyd to raise funds for Evin Muse, a ten year old boy battling bone cancer. Pictured from left are: Chapter President Gary D'Uva, Uncle Floyd and Evin's parents.



From left: Bill Cursio, Kenny Carafello, Lou Crisculi and Jack Schaaf.



Event Chair Tom Cifelli introduces Uncle Floyd before the show.



From left: Laura D'Uva and Lou and Lisa Parisi.



From left: New Jersey IV Governor Perry Russo, Past National President Joe Agresti, Uncle Floyd, Lisa Adubato, Chapter President Gary D'Uva, UNICO National President David Donnini and Pat Pelonero.

## CARBONDALE, PA



The Carbondale Chapter recently installed five new members. From left: Reverend John C. O'Bell, Chaplain; James Brannon, Tom Gretzula, President; Mary Lynn Brannon, Mary Ann Carney and Carm Gretzula.

## CALL TO MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

The Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting will be held March 8-10, 2013 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Convention Center 3600 Paradise Road Las Vegas, Nevada 89169. All members of the Board of Directors should make every effort to attend. Registration form and hotel information may be found on page 32.







## UNICO NATIONAL 2013 MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Dates for the Mid-Year Board Meeting are:  
Friday, March 08th thru Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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**NEXT - FILL OUT YOUR MID-YEAR MEETING REGISTRATION FORM  
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Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail - [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)

## MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING REGISTRATION AND HOTEL INFORMATION



## 2013 UNICO NATIONAL Mid Year Board Meeting March 08 - 09, 2013

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL CONVENTION CENTER  
3600 PARADISE ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89169 PHONE: 702-893-0708

### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### MEALS

Includes Breakfast Friday/Saturday/Sunday mornings and  
Cocktail Reception Friday evening.  
Lunch Buffet Saturday  
Marconi Award Banquet Saturday evening.

Member Guest

\$125.00 \$125.00

REGISTRATION: (UNICO Members only)

\$50.00 n/c

TOTAL with registration: \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL" or, if you prefer, use one of the following  
(Circle one below)

MasterCard - Visa - Discover - American Express

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

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Completed form should be mailed or sent by facsimile to:

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Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458

Tel: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 or email to: [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)



## ITALIAN JOURNALIST'S ARTICLES



**Giovanna Pastega** is an Italian journalist who writes for the ‘The Little’ of Trieste on its culture and entertainment page and also contributes pieces about the theatre. In addition, she has published articles about Italian art, history, literature, and traditions. She is particularly knowledgeable about Veneto/Venice--its history, its traditions, its art, its curiosities, and its many new aspects that are little known to the outside world. She has studied Latin and Greek and knows the history and literature of the ancient Roman and Greek empires. Nevertheless she is passionate about modern literature. She majored in literature and philosophy in college.

Giovanna’s articles were submitted to ComUNICO in English and Italian, by Richard Lanham at the suggestion of Professor Peter Carravetta at Stony Brook. Both felt there would be an interest by our readers for Italian subjects for American readers who are curious about the country and its culture.

### FASHION AT THE TIME OF THE “SERENISSIMA REPUBBLICA DI VENEZIA”

Venetian women ‘crazy’ for fashion! As evidence of this, ancient chronicles that tell how Venetian noblewomen competed to show off the most sumptuous clothes, woven of precious stones, pearls and gold. To “dress trendy” and flaunt expensive jewels lots of families at the time of the “Serenissima” went literally in ruins. To address this problem the Venetian state was forced to enact strict laws, setting up a special court and applying fines. At the beginning of ‘700th in Venice the law forbade to the noble to wear colorful clothes in public places, they had to wear black.

As a consequence “black” became the color of social distinction, the color of nobility .

While laws against luxury in Venice always tried to put a stop to the mode, on the other hand, the Venetians tried in every way to disobey these constraints, so the government had to allow disobedience during festivals and public ceremonies.

Thanks to the clever ‘tweaks’ of Venetian tailors noblewomen and townswomen vied to dress in the fashion of the moment: German, Polish, Muscovite, English and even Chinese and Persian.

French fashion , which reached its peak of popularity in the eighteenth century, was one of the most popular in Venice since the Renaissance.

The famous manikin called “La Piavola de Franza” or “La poupée de France”, a life-size doll dressed in the latest fashion , was displayed just at the entrance of the city’s most important shopping street, the “Mercerie”. The clothes worn by “The Piavola” were sent by the most famous French dressmaker of the moment, Madame Rose Bertin, dressmaker to Queen Marie Antoinette. Despite her fame Madame Bertin went bankrupt in 1787 with 2 million francs of passive. As they say, all fashions pass sooner or later in one way or another!

### THE FLAGSHIP OF PIERRE CARDIN

Imagine a giant bouquet of flowers up 245 meters, capable of lighting up completely: it’s the Palais Lumière, the innovative architectural project Pierre Cardin wants to build near Venice lagoon. The well-known Italian-French fashion designer of Venetian origin has recently launched this challenge meeting several difficulties. Despite the concerns of many intellectuals and some institutions, the beginning of the work seems near. But what will the Palais Lumière look like? According to the designers it is a real palace-city consisting of 6 discs 35 meters away from each other and supported by three towers of different heights. This enormous building will have 72 lifts, an unknown number of restaurants, luxury apartments, health clubs, offices, bars, hotels, shopping centers. It will also provide the public with as many as 19 movie theaters, 6 auditoriums, 44,000 m² of rooftop gardens with ponds and pools (filled with recycling rainwater), a mega-panoramic restaurant, a hospital emergency room, a heliport and more than 8,000 underground parking spaces. Estimated cost of € 1.5 billion (nearly U.S. \$ 2 billion), which will double between taxes, furnishings and additional charges. All paid for by Pierre Cardin.

The construction of the mega building would require 11.000 workers and the management about 7.000.

The Palais Lumière should also accommodate a large university fashion with the adjacent campus in collaboration with the most prestigious international institutions of the sector. Besides Palais Lumière there would be a unique example of bio-compatible architecture in the world with zero emissions: all the energy needed for its maintenance would be generated by the integration of photovoltaic systems, wind and geothermal, ensuring the building energy independence.

But what does Pierre Cardin think of his Palais-Lumier? “It ‘a beacon, a large habitable sculpture, a suspended city... a gift to the land where I was born: Veneto”.







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**BARBARA AIELLO:** The first female rabbi to practice in Italy, she has dedicated her life to reviving the lost Jewish heritage of Sicily and Calabria.

## LOU&A

by Louis R. Carlozo

### Ambassador of faith

If you're of Sicilian or Calabrese descent, the next sentence you read could forever change how you view your roots.

Historians believe that prior to the Inquisition, the population of Sicily and Calabria was about 40 percent Jewish. So if you claim roots in either or both of those regions, there's a high likelihood that you'll find Jewish ancestors in your family tree if you trace back far enough. Surnames such as D'Alessandro, Romano, Ferraro and Cimino, for example, point to a lost Jewish history.

In fact, the very name "Italia" could have Hebrew origins. (More on that tantalizing factoid later in this piece.)

So says a woman who should know: Rabbi Barbara Aiello (who's also a third cousin to actor Danny Aiello). The founder and director of the Italian Jewish Cultural Center of Calabria, this Pittsburgh native was the first woman rabbi in Italy, and

(See Lou&A on Page 44)

## NEWSMAKERS

### Making her own breaks

by Jim Distasio

It's sad to say, but actress Linda Cardellini seems to do her best work when almost no one is watching.

This isn't a knock against the talents of this beautiful, 37-year-old film and TV actress. In fact, this Italian American's acting skills are formidable and more than a little underappreciated. She's one of those rare performers who easily exudes that killer combo of warmth, intelligence and vulnerability.

But Cardellini's highest profile roles to date have been a solid six-year, later-season run on the hospital drama "ER" as a nurse with family issues and as the vixen sleuth Velma in two less-than-stellar live-action "Scooby Doo" movies, which found the actress donning horn-rimmed glasses and a tight orange turtle-neck to speak to a poorly computer-generated talking dog.

These are the kind of roles that pay the bills and put you in front of millions of eyeballs — two goals 98 percent of working actors rarely achieve — but they fail to give a full accounting of what a performer is capable of.

Fortunately for Cardellini, she has

done incredible work in two underseen gems any thesp would kill to have on their resume. The first was as Lindsay Weir, a 16-year-old high school student going through an existential crisis in 1980s suburban Michigan on the cult TV hit "Freaks and Geeks," a drama/comedy that aired for just one season on NBC in 1999 and 2000 before

(See Newsmakers on Page 44)



**LINDA CARDELLINI:** Best known for high-profile roles that haven't showcased her full range as an actor, she recently put her money where her talent is in pursuit of a 2013 Oscar nomination.

## REVIEW On eagle's wings

by David Witter

In the big band era, it was the star soloist, backed by as many as 19 other musicians, who soared above the ensemble like an eagle. Yet despite the legions of great singers, saxophonists and such, no instrument soared more dramatically than the trumpet, and no trumpeter flew higher and faster than Secondo "Conti" Candoli.

During a magical career that began at the second flowering of the big band era, Conti Candoli served as the lead trumpeter in the Woody Herman and Stan Kenton big bands, two of the greatest outfits in jazz history. Often performing with his older brother, Pete, Candoli's mirror-shattering range and be-bop dexterity allowed composers and arrangers to take



musical risks that changed the sound of big band jazz.

Other stars took note of his prowess, and Candoli worked with vocalists the likes of Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Sarah Vaughan and Sammy Davis Jr., as well as the Benny Goodman and "Tonight Show" bands. Yet the greatest nod to his ability may have come when Dizzy Gillespie, often acknowledged as the greatest bop trumpeter ever, employed Candoli to play in his band.

Candoli's spectacular career began modestly enough. Growing up in the small farm town of Mishawaka, Ind., Secondo was under the watchful eye of his older brother. It was Pete, best known for the driving trumpet on Henry Mancini's "Peter Gunn Theme," who inspired Secondo to take up music. A veteran of the Tommy Dorsey band, Pete convinced Woody Herman to let the teenager fill in for an absent member of the Thundering Herd, a part-time gig that led to full-time employ-

(See Review on Page 44)



# LIBRI A truly American tale

by Fred Gardaphe

In her latest novel, Adriana Trigiani applies her master storytelling skills to an immigrant saga based on her grandparents' love story. Ciro and Enza, friends from an Alpine village in Italy, struggle to make their lives matter in a world torn by war and abuse. Both protagonists have tough childhoods that push them into the workforce while most children are busy learning their ABCs and playing make-believe.

Ciro and his brother Eduardo are left at a convent just after their father died overseas in a Minnesota mining disaster. Their mother knows she can't take care of them in the state she's in, and Enza's father happens to be the one driving the carriage that brings the boys to the convent and their mother to a refuge further away. Ciro grows up to be a strong, handsome young man who has been shaped by the nuns into a hard worker who is tough enough to stand up to the local church authorities when he witnesses abuse. His punishment for telling the truth is to be sent to a work farm, a sentence the sisters help him avoid by sending him off to the United States.

The oldest daughter of hard-working parents, Enza can dress and guide her father's horse team as well as she can make clothes and embroider linens. When tragedy befalls the family,

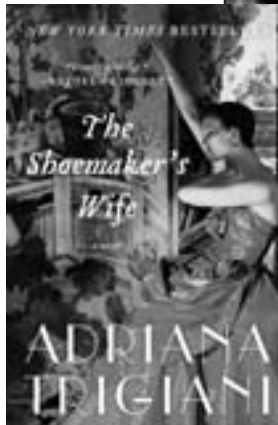
Enza remains strong and leaves with her father for America so they can make the money they need to buy the land they've been renting. Their plans for a short stint in America are thwarted by hard times, but their dream is not lost. Her father works in the mines while Enza finds employment in a garment factory. Her friendship to a young Irish immigrant proves to be her salvation, and the two of them end up working in the costume shop of the very New York opera

company that employs the great Enrico Caruso. The experiences in New York transform Enza into a strong woman.

Ciro and Enza cross paths a number of times before they connect to build a life and love together. It all happens after Ciro serves his new country in the Great War and returns to the shoemaking business that he had helped to develop into a highly profitable trade. Together with a friend he had met on his ocean crossing, Ciro brings his skills to Minnesota to provide boots for miners in the very place where his father was killed.

On their way to becoming Americans, Enza and Ciro hang on to their Italian values of hard work, family and friendship, while they take advantage of the opportunities their new world offers them. This combination is what makes their success all the more remarkable, and their tragedies all the more heartfelt. This is the kind of story that, while sticking close to historical facts, becomes mythic, and thus more powerful, in the hands of a skilled writer.

The addition of family photos at the end make this novel more personal than usual. There even are some discussion questions at the end for those who might want to connect the reading to their own lives. "The Shoemaker's Wife" is another great reason to stick with Trigiani as she writes her Italian ways into American culture.



"The Shoemaker's Wife" by Adriana Trigiani

Cost: \$15.99 (paperback)

ISBN: 978-0-06-125710-0 [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



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# SPORTS Aerial assault

by Elena Ferrarin

Growing up in New Jersey, Mike Rossi was bored with traditional sports like lacrosse and soccer, instead feeling a pull toward extreme sports like skateboarding, rollerblading and snowboarding.

So it wasn't a big surprise when Rossi, now 19, wound up an aerialist on the U.S. freestyle ski team, shooting off ski ramps to perform twists and somersaults in the air.

"It's the adrenaline. I really like the rush of not knowing if you're OK in the end," says Rossi, whose nickname is "Jersey Mike."

Rossi has been living in Park City, Utah, since spring 2012, about a year after he joined the U.S. freestyle ski team. His coaches are Joe Davies in summer and Matt Saunders in winter.

As a member of the aerials C team, Rossi gets free coaching and gym time, but has to pay for his own travel and lodging during competitions. His goal is to move up to the aerials A team by making the podium at this year's World Cup, he says.

So what is it like to do aerials? "It's a higher level of focus," Rossi says. "Your adrenaline is pumping, you're so focused on what you have to do. I take a couple of deep breaths before going down the ramp, and all the way down I'm thinking about my good take off. If you don't have a good take off, you don't have a good jump. Once I'm in the air, I feel out my rotation and do what I need to do to bring it to my feet."

Rossi learned to ski at age 5, and soon after taught himself to do flips on the backyard trampoline his father bought him when he was 6. "I was a very hyper kid," Rossi says.

In his first year of performing singles in aeri-

als, 14, he made the podium five out of six times.

"I never really compete to win. I just kind of compete to land and see how well I can do for myself. That first year I was just trying out what jumping was, I was learning how to land jumps," he says. "I won the competitions because everyone else sucked," he adds, not entirely joking.

However, Rossi admits he was really surprised when he took third place at junior nationals at age 15 in 2008. That's when he figured out he had a shot at really doing this, he says.



**MIKE ROSSI:** Twisting and somersaulting his way to a string of national medals, his sights are now set on the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia.

He won a bronze medal at the U.S. Freestyle Championships in 2011, and took silver in 2012. His ultimate goal, he says, is to make the U.S. team that will be competing at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

During the summer, aerialists practice by skiing down water ramps and jumping into pools. "On snow, our main objective is to land. On water, we're thinking about perfect takeoff, perfect form in the air, perfect landing. In the water it's a lot lower risk, you can land on the tails of your skis and you'll be fine," he says.

Rossi also watches a lot of footage of himself, dissecting every twist and turn with his coaches. As for injuries, there was a herniated disk a couple of years ago, but he's all healed now, he says.

Rossi graduated in December from The Keystone School, an online high school, and plans to study business or a related field at a local college, probably starting this summer. "Since we're not in one place for very long during winter, it's hard to keep up with classes in spring and fall," he says.

Aerial skiing was very popular in the 1980s and 1990s, when it became an Olympic sport, but its popularity has been eclipsed by slopestyle skiing, Rossi says. Slopestyle skiing will make its Olympic debut in 2014.

"Slopestyle has pretty much been the death of aerials. It's a lot more popular, the style is more effective, with hard tricks," he says. "Everyone thinks that aerialists are super uptight and have no style at all, because we're shooting for perfect form. But we have our own style. It's just less prominent."

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by Nicola Orichuia



## Stemming the tide

The Italian elections are right around the corner, and I find myself taking part in them for the first time as an emigrant. Being abroad has had a twofold effect on my perception of the country's constant state of political turmoil. First, I'm far less interested in the theatrics of the whole thing, in which politicians continually jab at each other and use the media to send subliminal messages only they can understand. And at this great distance, I can hear far more clearly what politicians have to say about the future of Italy, especially when it comes to policies promoting a fairer and more open job market for the younger generations. It would be nice to hear at least one proposal capable of stemming the economic tide that has driven so many of us so far away from what we cherish most: our homes.

The silence from politicians has been deafening, but there's actually a lot to be said. The notorious "brain drain" that Italy is experiencing isn't just a superficial way of dismissing a recent trend. It's actually the best way to describe what I call the third wave of emigration from Italy. All three waves have come at times of economic crisis. The first wave, between 1886 and 1920, saw more than 12 million Italians flee a primitive and poverty-stricken nation. The second came during the destruction and desolation that World War II left behind. The third wave is a modern one — smaller in numbers, but made up mostly of young professionals who are eager to prove themselves, yet are unable to do so in the land of their birth.

(See In America on Page 45)

## Anatomy of a meltdown

by Nicola Orichuia

When Prime Minister Mario Monti officially announced his resignation on Dec. 21, Italian President Giorgio Napolitano must have had a strong sense of déjà vu. Just 13 months earlier, the same scene had taken place at his residence, the Quirinale Palace in downtown Rome. But on Nov. 8, 2011, it had been then-Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi throwing in the towel.

To understand what has happened to the Italian political landscape since then, it's important to go back in time to that point.

After a remarkably durable three-and-a-half year run, Berlusconi's government was the equivalent of a boxer on his knees. Countless blows had been delivered via defections since July 30, 2010, when Gianfranco Fini,

co-founder of Partito della Libertà, formed his own movement. Plagued by scandals of every kind, the government survived, despite a razor-thin majority, until it entered the final round.

October and November 2011 were both devastating and humiliating: The government lost its majority on a procedural vote on Oct. 10. Two weeks later, Berlusconi was forced by the European Union to sign a pledge to change Italy's pension system and labor laws. Asked at a news conference if Berlusconi had reassured them, French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel could only giggle. But the low point was yet to come. At the G20 summit in Cannes on Nov. 4, Italy was forced to accept mon-

(See Elections on Page 44)



**MARIO MONTI:** When the Italian prime minister tendered his resignation in December, the Italian President Napolitano (inset) no doubt felt he was reliving a bad dream from just over a year ago.

## IN ITALY Guaranteed to fail

by Nicola Orichuia

Changing a country's electoral process is a delicate matter, which should be done in a spirit of inclusion. But on Feb. 24 and 25, Italians will be called to the ballot box to vote using a system that was passed outrageously quickly by the Berlusconi government in late 2005 and without any support from opposition parties. It is now known as the Porcellum — the Piglet law.

The derogatory moniker comes from — believe it or not — the law's own author, Northern League senator and former minister, Roberto Calderoli. Asked during a television interview what he thought about the law he himself penned, Calderoli described it as a "porcata" — the act of a pig. Political expert Giovanni Sartori extrapolated the law's nickname from the interview, giving it a Latin twist, and it has been known as Porcellum ever since.

Even a cursory look at the new system reveals why. Voters are no longer allowed to indicate who they want to elect, but

only the party they prefer. Parties win percentages of the seats in each chamber based on the percentage of votes they receive. The parties fill those seats from



**ROBERTO CALDEROLI:** Having authored Italy's disastrous 2005 electoral reforms, the Northern League stalwart has since given it a resounding no-confidence vote.

lists of candidates of their own devising, giving the parties the power to decide who will and won't represent the people. As if that weren't undemocratic enough, the time-honored system of territorial representation was thrown out the window, with candidates now being permitted to run in — and represent — any region, regardless of where they live.

And the madness doesn't end there. The winning party receives 55 percent of the seats, regardless of their actual winning percentage in races that can include literally dozens of parties. That calculus is applied nationwide in the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies, thus guaranteeing the winning party far more power than it actually has earned. In the Senate, the calculus is applied regionally, creating the exact opposite effect. Take, for example, Lombardia, a Northern League stronghold and Italy's

(See In Italy on Page 45)



# VIAGGIO Hidden in plain sight

by Judith Anne Testa

Marvelous treasures can sometimes lie hidden in the most unpromising places. The dingy, half-hidden exterior of the little Florentine church of S. Felicita is easy to miss, as it's set well back from the street, and most people who cross the Ponte Vecchio and pass by are on their way to or from the imposing Palazzo Pitti, so they don't even notice it. But S. Felicita is one of Florence's oldest churches. It has an interesting history, and it contains several of the city's most memorable paintings.

At the time the first church on this site was founded in the early 400s, the ancestor of the present Ponte Vecchio led into the busy and somewhat disorderly neighborhood of the "Oltrarno" (beyond, or across, the Arno River). This was where the roads to Rome, Siena, Arezzo and Pisa intersected, and where caravans arrived, carrying merchandise from various parts of the Roman Empire. The area was outside the city walls, and the inhabitants were mostly families of Greek-speaking merchants from Syria. It's unknown if they brought Christianity with them when they first settled there in the second century A.D., or if they converted after their arrival.

We don't even know to which saint the earliest church was dedicated; the name S. Felicita, first noted in a document in 972 A.D., refers to a Roman woman who suffered martyrdom along with her seven sons, during the reign of the emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161 A.D.). There's also an alternative tale: that the church was originally dedicated to the mother of the seven Maccabee brothers, whose martyrdom (second century B.C.) is noted in the Old Testament. It's possible that the early Christian cemetery adjoining the church also was dedicated to the Maccabees, which suggests that the Syrian founders of the church may have been converts from Judaism. (Many of the Syrian merchants of the Roman world were Jewish.)

Whatever its origins and original dedication, the church survived into the 11th century. Pope Nicholas II had it rebuilt in 1059, and it underwent another reconstruction in the second half of the 1300s, this one sponsored by wealthy families in the neighborhood, which had come up quite a bit from its modest origins in the late imperial period. Many families contributed chapels, and they had them decorated as indications of both their prosperity and their piety. Those who had survived the great plague epidemic of 1348-49 added thanks offerings to the church in the



**S. FELICITA:** Dingy on the outside and set well back from one of Florence's main drags, this ancient church offers up a treasure trove of history and art to those who are willing to seek it out.

form of art or financial contributions. One example that remains in the church from that period is a beautiful altarpiece of five panels showing the Virgin and Child with four saints. At the base are the coats of arms of the Guicciardini and Guidetti families. A descendant of the former, the great 16th-century historian Francesco Guicciardini is buried in the church. During this same post-plague period, an adjacent monastery was founded, but it was suppressed during the Napoleonic occupation of Florence (1808-10), and all that remains today is the cloister.

During the 1400s — the great age of Florentine art — patrons enriched the church further, both in its architecture and with the addition of still more painted altarpieces to adorn the side chapels. Most of these paintings have been removed to museums, principally the nearby Uffizi. During the years 1419-1423, the leading architect of the time, Filippo Brunelleschi, who also was constructing the cathedral dome and reconstructing the church of S. Lorenzo, designed an elegant little chapel in S. Felicita for the Barbadori family.

The external appearance of the church changed radically in 1564 when, on commission from Duke Cosimo I de' Medici, Giorgio Vasari designed and built a long corridor that connects the Palazzo della Signoria, seat of the Florentine government, with the Palazzo Pitti, which had become the ducal residence. The Vasari Corridor, as it's now called, passes directly in front of S. Felicita, hiding much of the upper portion of the façade. Although this might seem like a major defacement of the church, it proved beneficial. The duke had Vasari insert into the passage a sort of miniature chapel with a window, so the ducal family could watch the Masses taking place below in the church, without having to mix with the ordinary parishioners. As a result of this odd, aerial connection, the Medici dukes took an interest in this previously obscure church, using it on occasion for ceremonies and also — from above — for their daily devotions. Even after the construction of a private chapel in their residence, the Palazzo Pitti, the Medici never entirely abandoned S. Felicita.

The 1600s saw more additions and modifications to the church, in keeping with the more ornate taste of that time. The final and most complete transformation took place between 1736 and 1739, when Fernando Ruggieri completely reconstructed the interior. He substituted a vaulted ceiling in stone for the original wooden one, enlarged all the windows and inserted a series of new side chapels that obliterated the original ones. Although the interior now gives a sober, Neo-classical impression, it comes as a pleasant surprise to realize that this style harkens back to the elements typical of Brunelleschi's architecture of the mid-1400s: white walls with accents in gray pietra serena stone. Fortunately, Ruggieri allowed the 15th-century sacristy and the two Renaissance chapels to the right and left of the entrance to survive.

The sacristy, constructed by the patron Giovanni Canigiani in 1474 and inspired by the architecture of Brunelleschi, remains as it always was: simple, elegant and uncluttered. Over the altar is a painted crucifix of the 1300s by Pacino di Bonguida and a painting of S. Felicita and her seven sons, the work of Neri di Bicci from around 1465, which was previously





in one of the chapels destroyed during Ruggiero's 18th-century reconstruction. Also in the sacristy is a lovely painted terracotta Madonna and Child, rescued from an outdoor tabernacle on the side of the church and recently attributed to the leading 15th-century master of terracotta sculpture: Luca della Robbia.

The crown jewels of S. Felicità, however, are the paintings in the Barbadori-Capponi Chapel, the first one to the right as you enter the church. The chapel was originally commissioned from Brunelleschi by Bartolomeo Barbadori, and it was dedicated to the Annunciation. Shortly before 1525, the Barbadori family sold the chapel to Ludovico di Gino Capponi, a member of one of Florence's leading families. Despite some deliberate destruction in the 18th century, both the architecture and most of the paintings survive relatively intact.



Late in 1525, Ludovico Capponi hired Jacopo Carrucci da Pontormo (known today simply as Pontormo) to paint frescoes on the walls and ceiling. Capponi made a bold choice, because Pontormo was truly one of the strangest characters ever to pick up a paintbrush. Born in 1494, he was orphaned by age 12. Because he showed a talent for drawing, relatives apprenticed him to various artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, but the melancholy young loner had trouble getting along with any of them. He grew into a withdrawn, deeply neurotic man who obsessed about food and bowel movements, shunned most people and sometimes locked himself into his house for days at a time. The one love of his life beyond his art was his apprentice and star pupil, Agnolo di Mariano, known as Bronzino. Neither man ever married; they remained close throughout their lives and were rumored to be lovers, although nobody knows for sure what went on behind Pontormo's locked doors.

Somewhere along the line, Pontormo learned to paint. He developed a unique style that features sensitive, haunted faces, elongated, intertwining bodies, iridescent colors and a defiant indifference to the

rationally constructed space so central to other Renaissance painters. The originality of his work has led art historians to call him the first exponent of Mannerism — a style characterized by artificiality rather than realism.

This style is on striking display in the Capponi Chapel of S. Felicità. In his reclusive way, Pontormo screened off the chapel during the three years he was working in it, so he could paint without being bothered by anyone. Whatever he painted in the dome of the chapel was destroyed in the 1760s at the misguided orders of a Medici grand duke, and at the same time his fresco of the Annunciation on the right side-wall was covered over with whitewash, not to be rediscovered until a thorough restoration in 1936.

Today, a radiant Angel Gabriel in billowing pink and pale orange robes faces a dreamily startled Virgin Mary in iridescent pink, blue and yellow. The figures float on either side of a tabernacle on the right-hand wall. If there were ever any buildings or landscape behind them, there's no longer any sign of either. In the pendentives — where the right angles of the square chapel transition into the circle of the dome — there are images of the Four Evangelists in bust-length, each of them as strange and dreamily distracted as Mary. St. Matthew in particular, probably painted by Bronzino, stares down slack-mouthed at the viewer, seeming to be caught in the act of choking the distressed angel trapped under his right arm.

On the wall over the altar hangs Pontormo's large panel painting (10 feet by 6.5 feet) usually identified as the "Deposition of Christ from the Cross." Or is it actually the entombment of Christ? Scenes from the Passion are normally easy to identify, but Pontormo's astonishing painting gives us few clues. It if represents the deposition, there is no cross, and if it's the entombment, there's no tomb. The almost surreal painting has no environment at all, beyond a vague, gray foreground and a single cloud that floats in the left background. If the work were not the altarpiece of a chapel, we might not even identify as Christ the slack figure being held up (or let down) by two men. Although they bear the weight of a full-grown man, their feet barely touch the ground. The other figures appear to be floating around the edges of the composition, which is empty at the center — except for a hand holding a rag. Everyone is dressed in a rainbow of iridescent shades, as if colored lights were playing over them. Two of the three unidentified young men in the painting seem to have blue, hot pink and green skin, although on closer examination they turn out to be wearing tight-fitting leather (?) jackets. All of the figures wear facial expressions more dazed than despairing. At the upper right, a young man — with blonde curls and beard, full lips and round, haunted eyes that stare out at the viewer — is assumed to be Pontormo's self-portrait. The work seems even more eccentric, given the rigorously logical space of Brunelleschi's chapel. An Italian scholar called it "un irreale groviglio di corpi mossi da una musica immaginaria." (An unreal tangle of bodies moved by an imaginary music.) And yet, for all its strange and even downright weird qualities, there is something undeniably and deeply spiritual about this singular rendering of the subject. Could this be how the participants experienced it?

## TRAVEL TIPS



### WHERE IS IT?

The church of S. Felicità is located in the Oltrarno, the district across the Arno River from the center of Florence. After you cross the Ponte Vecchio, look immediately to your left; there, in an inconspicuous little piazza, you'll find the church, set back from the street and half-hidden behind a segment of the Vasari Corridor that connects the Palazzo Pitti with the Palazzo della Signoria.

### WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

The nearest major monument is the enormous Palazzo Pitti, which is further down the same street (via Guicciardini) on which S. Felicità is located. The Pitti, once the residence of the family of that name, later came into the possession of the Medici, and Duke Cosimo I de' Medici made it his family home. Today it houses one of Florence's major painting collections — second only to the Uffizi — the Galleria Palatina. There are several minor museums in the palace as well. Behind the Pitti Palace stretch the Boboli Gardens, the only real park to be found in relentlessly stony Florence. The first street to your right when you reach Piazza Pitti, via Sdrucchiolo, will take you to the church of S. Spirito, designed by Brunelleschi, the architect of the cathedral dome.

### SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

The Ponte Vecchio, which you cross in order to reach S. Felicità, is a jewelry-lover's paradise. Via Guicciardini, the street that passes S. Felicità and continues on toward the Pitti Palace, is lined with elegant shops selling leather goods and jewelry.



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# RECIPES Meatless marvels

by Dolores Sennebogen

Lent is a period of preparation for Easter and a spiritual spring cleaning for Catholics around the world. We can think of it as a time to evaluate our lifestyle and to take stock of what is important to us. We are also asked to examine what, when and how we eat. Today, the requirements for fasting and abstinence required by the Church are fairly simple, but there was a time when no meat or animal products were consumed for the entire 40 days of Lent. Since this included milk, cream and eggs, it was difficult to prepare desserts. Those with a sweet tooth, however, found ingenious ways to circumvent the rules. The cake I've included this month springs from the mind of just such a clever baker. I hope the other recipes will help you think ahead to Lenten meals.

## ZUPPA CON VERMICELLI E VONGOLE

*(Soup with Vermicelli and Clams)*

1/3 cup olive oil  
1 large clove of garlic, minced  
1 small piece of hard Romano cheese (optional)  
1 (16-ounce) can tomato sauce  
2 cans water, approximately 1 quart  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley  
1/2 teaspoon each: oregano, basil, onion salt, garlic salt  
1/4 teaspoon thyme  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 cup vermicelli, broken into 2-inch pieces  
2 (6-ounce) cans chopped clams  
Romano or Parmesan cheese, grated  
Additional parsley for garnish

Heat the oil over medium-low heat and add the garlic and optional hard cheese. Stir while cooking and watch carefully, being sure not to burn the garlic. Add the tomato sauce, water and seasonings to the pan, and cook at a low temperature for 10 to 15 minutes.



In a separate pot, cook the vermicelli until half done. Drain it well and add it to the broth along with the chopped clams and the liquid from one of the cans of clams. Cook gently until the pasta has completed cooking. Add more of the clam liquid if you want a thinner broth. Serve in very hot bowls and sprinkle with grated cheese and parsley for garnish.

— Ann Sorrentino

## FRITTATA DI ASPARAGI E FUNGHI

*(Asparagus and Mushroom Omelet)*

1 bunch asparagus  
1/2 pound fresh mushrooms  
1 medium onion  
1/3 cup olive oil  
1 clove garlic  
1/2 teaspoon basil  
1/4 teaspoon oregano

Salt and pepper  
6 eggs  
1/3 cup grated Romano cheese  
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley  
1/2 cup coarsely grated Fontinella cheese

To prepare the asparagus, remove the scales, break off and discard the tough bottoms, and cut the asparagus into pieces. Wash and set aside. Wash the mushrooms quickly under lukewarm water, pat dry and slice. Set aside. Thinly slice the onion and keep separate.

Fry each vegetable separately to ensure proper cooking. In a large non-stick frying pan, heat the oil and add the asparagus and garlic clove. Cook, stirring often, until the asparagus is lightly browned and tender. Remove it to a dish with a slotted spoon.

Discard the garlic. Add the mushrooms to the pan and sauté over a medium-high heat until the moisture evaporates and they are lightly browned. Remove with a slotted spoon and add to the asparagus. Place the sliced onion in the pan, adding more oil only if needed, and cook over low heat until they are soft and golden. Return the asparagus and mushrooms to the pan and season with basil, oregano, salt and pepper.

Beat the eggs and add the grated cheese, parsley and a little salt. Pour over the vegetables in the frying pan and cook on medium heat. Lift the egg around the edges as it sets, allowing the uncooked egg to slip under. When there is no more loose egg on top of the omelet, cover it with the Fontinella and place it in a preheated broiler to set the top and melt the cheese. Slip it onto a large platter and serve at once.

— Ann Sorrentino

## TORTA DI RISO CON ZUCCHINE E SPINACI

*(Rice Squares with Zucchini and Spinach)*

1-1/2 cups water  
3/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup long grain rice  
3 cups diced zucchini  
3 cups finely chopped fresh spinach  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 large onion, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, through a press  
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste  
Pepper to taste  
5 large eggs  
1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese  
1/3 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon basil  
1/2 teaspoon oregano  
1 teaspoon parsley flakes

*(See Recipes on Page 45)*





## LOU&A

(Continued from Page 35)

founded the Sinagoga Ner Tamid del Sud (“The Eternal Light of The South”). The first active synagogue in Calabria and Sicily in 500 years is situated in Serrastretta, the village where her father grew up. The building has been in her family for generations. Her great grandfather, Saverio Scalise, led prayers in the room that became the synagogue itself.

Aiello’s work to restore and celebrate Judaism in Italy has many facets. She has teamed up with veteran travel consultant Ellen Paderson of Bar Mitzvah Vacations to offer a unique bar/bat mitzvah program for families who want to hold their child’s ceremony in Italy. And she also holds wedding ceremonies for Jewish and interfaith couples. (In the winter, she resides in Sarasota, Fla., where she is resident rabbi for seniors living at the Kobernick House and also at an assisted living facility, The Anchin Pavilion.)

Rabbi Aiello took us on fascinating journey into her history-making work — and a side of Italian history that few Italians know anything about, save the scholars.

**Fra Noi: This seems staggering, but you say the name “Italia” has its origins in Hebrew, and reflects how Italy has a history intertwined with the Jewish diaspora. Tell us more.**

Rabbi Barbara Aiello: My father told tell me a story that has been passed along among Calabrian Jews for centuries. Italian Jews represented the very first Jews in the diaspora. We trace our history back to the time of the Maccabees, the family from the Chanukah story. They sent scouting parties from Judea to search for help in their struggle to survive. As their tiny craft drifted into the Mediterranean Sea, the Jewish scouts were entranced by the beautiful mist rising above miles of pristine coastline. In Hebrew they exclaimed, “Aiee-tal-ya!” “Aiee” is Hebrew for “coastline,” “tal” is Hebrew for “dew,” and “ya” is a contracted form of one of the names of God. So “Ee-tal-ya,” or “Italia,” means “the coastline of God’s dew.” And so it was the Jews who first gave Italy its name.

**FN: It sounds like you can trace your roots back much further than most Italians. How far back?**

BA: My father’s family, Aiello, started out in Judea. The name comes from El Al, like the airline, and means “to the skies.” In Spain, they were forced out by the Inquisition and went from Toledo, Spain, to Portugal to the Rock of Gibraltar. Then some of my family went on to Morocco, and another group went to Sicily, and then to Reggio Calabria, and then into the mountains of Calabria.

**FN: Why into the mountains?**

BA: When my family was being persecuted, and in danger of losing their lives, they were looking for the most isolated place they could find. So they came to Serrastretta about 400 or 500 years ago. We’re 3,000 feet up, and there are many little villages like Serrastretta founded by Jewish people who wanted to live lives of peace, free from persecution. My mother’s family came from Taormina in Sicily. All of my family was Jewish, and my parents were an arranged marriage.

**FN: A lot of what we’re discussing here will surprise readers who come from a Roman Catholic background, and who may find it hard to believe that they might have Jewish roots. What would you say to them?**

BA: You don’t have to give up being Italian or Catholic to celebrate your Jewish roots. I have a third cousin who is a priest and he says, “If I had known we were Jewish, I probably would’ve become a rabbi.” ... I do name research for \$70 an hour using Inquisition records, and I make it clear that I’m not doing a biological or bloodline search. I check surnames to see if they ever pop up in the records: whether they were arrested, burned in effigy or burned at the stake. In my own family, my great grandmother escaped and she was burned in effigy.

**FN: Fast forward to the present: How**

**would you describe your work in Italy today, especially with the bar mitzvah and bat mitzvah program?**

BA: I went back to Italy in 2004 and I was the first female rabbi, and today I still am. For the last six years, I’ve been in Calabria working on a grant to restore Judaism, to revive it there. I spend seven months out of the year there, and the rest of the time in Sarasota.

With the bar and bat mitzvah students, the response has been marvelous. We’ve had more than 50 come to our synagogue, and I work with them over Skype in conjunction with their local tutor. They come from all over: Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Chicago and as far away as Singapore. The parents often want to provide their kids with something different than the typical big party. Our students study Italian, so they give part of the sermon in Italian, and we work from a prayer book that’s in English, Hebrew and Italian. It’s a mini-immersion into Jewish culture in Italy, and afterward we offer a traditional Calabrian dinner. It’s quite an experience.

**FN: You practice a progressive form of Judaism. Tell us about how that applies to the work you do.**

BA: The first girl to read from the Torah in all of Italy was one of my students, in Rome in 2005. That’s important because, in the Orthodox Jewish tradition, girls are not permitted to read from the Torah or touch it. We offer girls this opportunity that can’t happen in traditional synagogues. I want to see the modest liberal movement take hold in Italy, that offers equality in practice to women as well as men, and to gay and lesbian couples.

**FN: It sounds like you also have a heart for those who lost touch with the Jewish part of their Italian heritage.**

BA: I’d like to see people discover their Jewish roots, the roots that were so cruelly taken from them during the Spanish Inquisition. I want people to know there is a rich Jewish heritage that was theirs, and will always be theirs — one that needs to be acknowledged and celebrated.

*For more information on the work of Rabbi Barbara Aiello, and to consult her on a name search to trace possible Jewish ancestry, visit [www.rabbibarbara.com](http://www.rabbibarbara.com).*

## NEWSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 35)

finding renewed life years later on DVD and cable reruns. The show, produced by director Judd Apatow (“The 40-Year-Old Virgin”), also launched several of today’s young comedic stars, including James Franco, Seth Rogen and Jason Segel.

Despite lackluster viewership, “Freaks and Geeks” cemented Cardellini’s status in Hollywood and earned plaudits for her funny, human portrayal of a teen straddling the line between her former nerd friends and her new burn-out buddies. It’s the kind of layered and heartfelt program network TV rarely makes — probably because people don’t seem to tune in — and Cardellini jumped at this opportunity.

“I had been reading a lot of scripts, and it was the best script that I had read,” Cardellini told the A.V. Club. “There were a few other shows that I was strongly in the running for, and I said, ‘I really want to do this show. I don’t care if the other shows have better deals, or if they have a greater shot of being successful. This show is so good.’”

Cardellini, who hails from Redwood City, Calif., grew up as the youngest of four children, and says she used her experiences in that Italian/Irish-American household to help shape Lindsay Weir — one of TV’s rare teen characters whose anxieties and identity issues stem from the positive relationship she has with her parents.

“I’m very close to my family,” Cardellini told the A.V. Club. “And being that close to

your family, I think you also struggle with how to become your own person.”

Cardellini’s second revelatory performance happened in 2012 in a little-seen independent film from up-and-coming writer/director Liza Johnson. In the drama “Return,” Cardellini plays Kelli, an Ohio mother and Army reservist who returns home after a tour in an unnamed foreign war zone and finds herself slowly re-acclimating to civilian life. The film eschews easy stereotypes and handles Kelli’s unraveling with quiet and subtlety, and Cardellini stuns in a contemplative and unvarnished performance that shows untapped reserves of potential.

“It was the biggest role I’ve been able to play and just such a phenomenal character,” Cardellini told Interview Magazine. “I’m so excited about the movie.”

The film, unfortunately, flew beneath the radar when it was released last February. But Cardellini wasn’t ready to let that be the story’s end. She recently undertook a rare and risky move in Hollywood by funding an awards campaign to draw attention to this small film as the movie industry gears up for the Academy Awards and Screen Actors Guild honors.

“It was an actor’s dream,” Cardellini told the Los Angeles Times of the role. “They don’t come around that often. They certainly don’t come around that often for me. I decided it would be a shame to not even throw our hat into the ring. For us, it’s just about more people seeing the movie.”

This wasn’t about winning an Oscar, Cardellini says. Instead, it was about raising the profile of smaller films that are frequently overlooked.

To grasp what Cardellini is trying to accomplish, you have to understand the bizarre process by which films garner awards attention. Everyone knows about the multimillion-dollar campaigns used to launch films (billboards, commercials and Web ads, oh my), but there’s an equally sizable marketing push made annually from November through January to grab the attention of people who vote to hand out those precious golden statuettes. Publicists and marketers send out DVDs, buy ads and even throw lavish parties just so a film can be nominated for something.

Along with some help from the film’s producers, Cardellini funded her own awards push, which included distributing DVD copies of the film to thousands of Hollywood bigwigs. Some Hollywood insiders told the Los Angeles Times that this type of guerilla awards campaign can cost upward of \$10,000 to start.

The move was admirable — Cardellini did her best to leverage a system of mixed up priorities in favor of her little film. Despite its pedigree, “Return” had a difficult time breaking through even with a cast that includes a one-time Oscar-nominee, Michael Shannon (“Boardwalk Empire,” the upcoming Superman film “Man of Steel”), and an Emmy-nominated TV actor, John Slattery (the silver-haired Roger Sterling on “Mad Men”). The film only grossed \$16,000 in its theatrical run — which is just \$6,000 more than what the awards campaign could cost — but found some success through its video on-demand home release timed to Veterans Day.

“In the past few years there have been movies that have been very small that I never would have seen: ‘Pariah,’ ‘A Better Life,’ ‘A Separation,’ had it not been for DVD screeners that people got for free and then talked about because they were worth talking about,” Cardellini has said. “It felt like that was where our movie could be seen and appreciated.”

Cardellini’s gamble has already paid dividends, netting her a nomination for an Independent Spirit Award for “Return.” And though she was unsuccessful in her Oscar campaign, the actress has plenty to look forward to. Cardellini says she’s ready to once again make audiences laugh and maybe even start writing scripts with starring roles that showcase her versatility like her “Freaks and Geeks” costars Jason Segel and Seth Rogen have done for themselves.

“I’d love to do some comedy again soon. I haven’t done that in awhile, so that would be fun,” she told Collider.com. “One thing I like about trying to write is that I can possibly write myself a role. Otherwise, you’re at the mercy of whatever roles are out there that people are willing to give to you.”

## REVIEW

(Continued from Page 35)

ment upon graduation from high school. After a stint in the service, Candoli joined the Stan Kenton Band in 1948, where he remained until 1954.

At that time, Kenton’s band was the most popular in the nation, partly because of Kenton’s brilliance in modernizing the big band sound and partly because of Condoli’s trumpet.

Tired of the constant travel and yearning for the freedom of a small-band format, Candoli left Kenton in 1954. Settling in Los Angeles, he became part of the cool bop scene, recording with genre stalwarts like Howard Rumsey’s Lighthouse All-Stars, Stan Getz, Shelly Mane and Gerry Mulligan.

Along with his brother, Conti became a top session man in L.A., recording movie and TV soundtracks, including the theme songs to “Mission: Impossible” and “Mannix.” When “The Tonight Show” traveled west, the Candoli Brothers joined it. In 1972, Johnny Carson made a permanent move to Burbank, Calif., bringing Candoli’s horn into America’s living rooms until Carson retired in 1992. As he told jazz writer Zan Stewart: “Usually, you never think you’d do a gig for 20 years, but because of this job, I was able to raise a family and stay in one place.”

In his later years, Candoli performed regularly, both on his own and with his brother. Perhaps the best example came when he shared the stage with Stan Getz and Pete at a tribute to his brother. Graying and in their 60s, the men took to the stage a bit gingerly. But when the first downbeat was stuck and the trumpets tore into “What is This Thing Called Love...,” the jazz eagle — with white manes to match — soared once again.

## ELECTIONS

(Continued from Page 39)

itoring from the International Monetary Fund. The country, in other words, had lost all its credibility. It was the knockout punch that effectively ended Berlusconi’s government, which collapsed four days later.

To avoid the ghost of early elections at such a fragile time for the country, President Napolitano maneuvered to get respected economist and two-time European Commissioner Mario Monti to form a government. Leading a cabinet of technocrats, Monti was ushered in with a lopsided majority in Parliament, with bipartisan support from Berlusconi’s PdL and the Partito Democratico, Italy’s second major political force at the time. The huge majority enabled Monti to quickly push forward a series of dramatic reforms, such as raising the retirement age and reintroducing a real estate tax, moving Welfare Minister Elsa Fornero to tears as she pronounced the word “sacrifice” during a Dec. 4 news conference.

Thirteen months later, the unique parliamentary supermajority backing Monti caved in on Dec. 6, 2012. In a quick turn of events, Berlusconi (who had all but disappeared from the political scene) ordered his PdL party to withdraw support on some of the government’s key economic plans. Two days later, sensing a loss of trust in his government (but not asking for a vote of confidence in Parliament), Monti let President Napolitano know that he would resign. The formal resignation took place on Dec. 21, effectively kicking off the campaign season that will end with the February 24-25 elections.

The political turmoil of the last two years has effectively caused a conflagration of the Italian political landscape. The only moderate force to remain stable has been the Partito Democratico, which has capitalized on the popularity of its recent primaries. (It was the only party to do so.) But Monti’s willingness to be prime minister again has

(Continued on the next page)



seen a number of smaller centrist parties coalesce around him instead of seeking an alliance with the PD. Unwanted in this centrist mix is Berlusconi's PdL, which has been forced to run to the right of center. On the extremes, the far-right and once-powerful Northern League, also plagued by scandals, is skeptical of joining forces with Berlusconi, while to the left, Antonio Di Pietro's Italia dei Valori has isolated itself into near-certain oblivion. A new political movement led by comedian Beppe Grillo, the MoVimento 5 Stelle, might attract a good percentage of angry and disappointed voters.

Unless a clear victor arises from the elections, the current fragmentation brings with it the high risk of political instability. With a nod toward malaprop master Yogi Berra, it looks like it may be déjà vu over and over and over again.

## IN AMERICA

(Continued from Page 39)

The loss of human capital has been devastating to Italy. In December 2010, the economic newspaper Sole 24 used two figures to put the "brain drain" into perspective. From AIRE, the official registry of Italians living abroad, came the bad news that 316,572 young Italians had left the country between 2000 and 2010. That's an average of 30,000 a year, which doubles when you consider that at least one in every two expatriates does not register with AIRE. Adding salt to the wound, Confimprese Italia, a national organization representing small- and medium-sized businesses, calculated that 70 percent of today's emigrants have at least a college degree.

All of this comes with a high price tag. The Sole 24 Ore article estimated the cost to educate an Italian student from elementary school all the way through college is roughly \$130,000. Multiply that by the number of college graduates who leave Italy, and the sum is staggering. Take 2008, for example, the year my wife and I bought a one-way ticket from Rome to Chicago, our lives packed in two suitcases. That year alone, 6,552 young Italians with college degrees left the country. That makes for almost \$852 million in human capital that was washed from our shores.

Reviewing these numbers, one has to wonder where Italian politicians have been all these years. Labor and Social Politics Minister Elsa Fornero used the English word "choosy" to describe the younger generation's take on work. In so doing, she revealed a complete disconnect between today's political class and the future of the country. According to a recent study made by the independent research group DataGiovani, 355,000 young Italians found their first employment during the first semester of 2012. That's 80,000 less than those who registered in the same period five years earlier. And the quality of the job market is equally disconcerting. Many companies are relying on down-and-dirty internal turnovers, using short-term contracts and internships as an excuse to hire as few young Italian adults full time as possible. All the proposed solutions brought to the table so far have either been half-baked, undernourished or completely starved-out.

It's no small wonder that so many talented young Italians will be casting their votes from abroad this year. And if the government has any hope of reversing the brain drain and bringing them back home, they had better start paying heed to what the next generation has to say.

## IN ITALY

(Continued from Page 39)

most populous region, accounting for 47 of the Senate's 315 seats. The Northern League (which not coincidentally spearheaded the law change) can win with only 20 percent of

the vote and still net 55 percent of the Senate seats from that region. Multiply that skewed result over Italy's 20 wildly diverse regions and you create a virtual political war zone.

In addition to kicking democracy to the curb, these so-called reforms effectively killed the nation's nascent movement toward a two-party system. That movement began with electoral reforms in 1993 that reined in the number of smaller parties and forced the remaining parties to work together in coalitions. The resulting more-or-less two-party system ushered in a period of relative political stability, producing 10 government in 20 years, versus 51 governments in the previous 47. With the chaos created in the Senate by the new system, the bad olden days are back with a vengeance.

The only positive change wrought by the new law was the introduction of the vote abroad, which legally acknowledged Italian citizens living outside Italy's borders. The Center-Right opened that door with the expectation those votes would lend to their victory in the upcoming election. But that door was slammed shut in the Center-Right's face when Prodi's Center-Left L'Unione party eked out a narrow victory on the strength of the vote abroad.

Various attempts have been made to restore Italy's electoral sanity in recent years. A group of senators led by Renato Turano made a push to revert back to the old system, with some improvements. A referendum had been called for in May 2008, but due to the sudden collapse of the Prodi government that spring, the vote was postponed to June 21, 2009. Nothing came of the referendum, as it was boycotted by the ruling parties. The Monti government considered changing the law, but the current political crisis ended the impetus.

Whichever party emerges victorious on Feb. 25, job number one had better be real and lasting electoral reform. Otherwise, the nation is destined to backslide into the pigsty of political instability that dominated the second half of the 20th century.

## RECIPES

(Continued from Page 43)

Boil the water with the 3/4 teaspoon of salt. Add the rice and cook until the liquid is absorbed. Set aside. When preparing the vegetables, scrub but do not peel the zucchini. Wash the spinach and remove the stems before chopping.

Melt the butter in a large skillet and add the olive oil. Sauté the onion for three minutes and then add the diced zucchini. Continue to cook until the vegetables are tender but not browned. Add the chopped spinach and the garlic, stirring well. Cook a few more minutes, just until the spinach has wilted. Season with 1/2 teaspoon of salt and a little pepper. Add the cooked rice to the vegetables and mix well. Taste to correct seasonings, adding more salt and pepper if desired. Turn off the heat and cool the mixture slightly.

In a medium bowl, beat the eggs, cheese, milk and herbs. Add this to the rice mixture and combine thoroughly. Place in a well-oiled two-quart casserole measuring approximately 7x11 inches. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes or until set. (If you use a different size dish, baking time may vary.) Remove from the oven and let set for five minutes before cutting into squares. Sprinkle each serving with additional grated cheese if desired.

— Dolores Sennebogen

### MINESTRA DI PATATE CON LO ZAFFERANO

(Potato Soup with Saffron)

4 medium red potatoes  
1/4 cup olive oil  
1 large clove garlic, minced  
1 small piece of hard Italian cheese  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley  
4 cups water  
1 teaspoon salt, or to taste  
1/4 teaspoon pepper

1/8 teaspoon powdered saffron

Pare the potatoes and dice them in small cubes. Rinse and set aside. Heat the oil in a saucepan and add the garlic and hard cheese. Stir while cooking for about one minute, being careful not to burn the garlic. Add the potatoes and parsley and stir for about two minutes, until the potatoes are coated.

Add the water and seasonings and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer, cover and cook for 20 minutes. Remove and discard the piece of cheese. Taste the soup and correct the seasoning if desired with additional salt or a chicken bouillon cube. You may find it necessary to correct the saffron seasoning to suit your individual taste. This soup is best served with a sprinkling of grated cheese and a firm crusty bread to dip.

VARIATION: Halfway through the cooking time, add some very small homemade Italian meatballs, about the size of a marble or hazelnut. Use very lean ground beef, such as sirloin.

— Ann Sorrentino

### PIATTO DI VERDURE

(Platter of Roasted Vegetables)

1 small eggplant  
2 medium zucchini  
1 red pepper  
1 green pepper  
1 yellow pepper  
1 large sweet onion  
3 carrots  
Fennel (optional)  
Portobello mushrooms (optional)  
2 cloves garlic  
Extra virgin olive oil  
10 cherry tomatoes, halved  
Fresh chopped herbs  
Romano or Parmigiano cheese

Peel the eggplant if you wish and slice into one-inch rounds. Place on paper towels and sprinkle with salt. Cover with additional paper towels and place something heavy on top of the slices for 20 to 30 minutes.

Slice the zucchini on an extreme angle for oval slices. Core and quarter the peppers, removing the white pith. Slice the onion thickly. Pare the carrots and cut them into thick sticks. Cut the garlic cloves in half. If using the fennel and mushrooms, slice them as well. Rinse the eggplant slices and pat them dry.

Place all of the vegetables (except the tomatoes) on two or more baking sheets. Brush them with plain or seasoned olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Turn and brush the second side with oil as well, adding more salt and pepper. Place them in a preheated 450-degree oven and roast them for about 30 minutes. Halfway through turn the vegetables gently, aided by a spatula. Add halved cherry tomatoes at this point and return to the oven, rotating the baking sheets so that the one that was on the bottom shelf is now on the top. Continue roasting until the vegetables are tender and starting to brown. Turn on the broiler for just a few minutes at the end if they are not browning enough.

Remove from the oven, discard the garlic

and arrange the vegetables attractively on a large round platter by making spokes of each type of vegetable. Sprinkle with chopped herbs such as basil or flat-leaf parsley. Pour any vegetable juices from the pan over the vegetables and drizzle with additional olive oil if desired. Add a sprinkling of grated cheese over all. If you prefer, you can use a vegetable peeler to add shavings of cheese instead. Any leftovers make a great vegetarian sandwich on crusty bread.

— Dolores Sennebogen

### DOLCE DI NOCE E ARANCIO

(Walnut and Orange Spice Cake)

1/2 cup golden raisins  
3/4 cup freshly squeezed orange juice  
2-1/4 cups sifted cake flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1/2 cup corn or canola oil  
2 tablespoons honey  
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice  
Grated zest of 1 small orange  
Grated zest of 1 small lemon  
1 cup walnut pieces,  
toasted and finely chopped

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Place the raisins and orange juice into a small saucepan over medium heat to bring the orange juice to a boil. Remove the pot from the heat and allow the raisins and juice to cool. Place the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, nutmeg and cinnamon in a medium bowl and whisk them to combine the ingredients thoroughly.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, use the paddle attachment on medium speed to beat the sugar and olive oil together until smooth and light, about two minutes. Add the honey, lemon juice and grated zests.

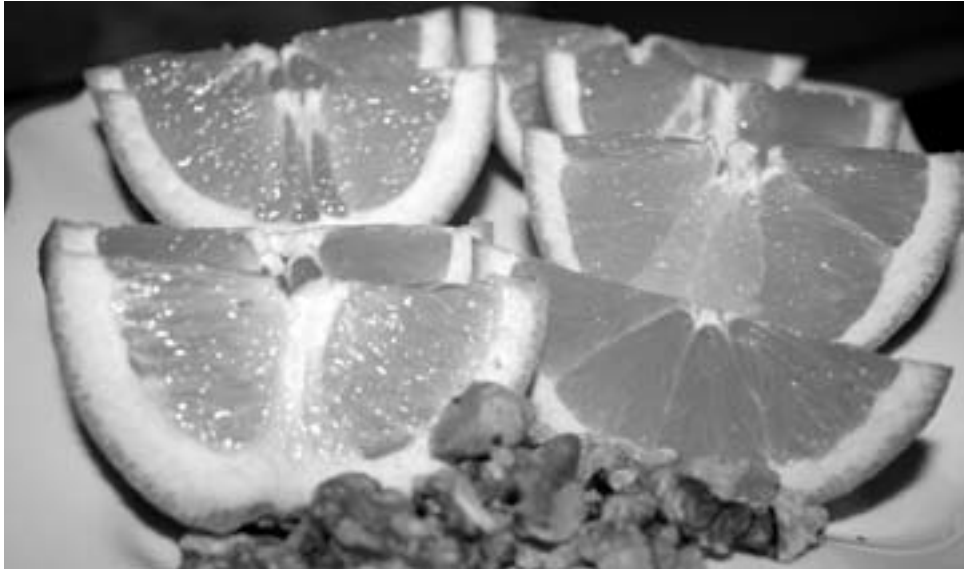
Add the dry ingredients and beat on low speed for about 30 seconds, then increase to medium speed and continue beating until the batter is smooth. Add the orange juice and raisin mixture to the batter and beat for another 30 seconds. Fold in the walnuts.

Pour the batter into a greased, 9-inch round cake pan, and bake the cake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until it is golden brown and springs back lightly when touched. Allow the cake to cool in the pan, and then remove it to a cooling rack to cool completely. To serve, dust with confectioner's sugar.

— adapted from Gina dePalma

#### COOK'S TIP

Powdered saffron is frowned upon by some purists as inferior to saffron threads. Its main advantage is that it is so easy to blend into recipes. If buying powdered saffron, be sure to buy it from a trusted spice shop that can assure you it has not been cut with turmeric or other cheaper spices. Saffron threads, one of the world's most expensive spices, can be used sparingly and are worth investing in for special dishes.





# UNICO NATIONAL EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING



*Patty and Gino LoIacono.*



*Members of New Jersey District XI enjoy a night out for dinner.*



*From left: Linda Gail and John Alati and Frank Cannata.*



*From left: Chris DiMattio serenades Perry and Betty Russo.*



*From left: Bernie Brutto, Angela DiNapoli and Tanya Brutto.*



*From left: Mary Berger, Mary Teresa Morrison and Sal Benvenuti.*



*From left: Anthony Bengivenga, Mike Colucci, Bob Tarte, John DiNapoli and Ann Walko.*



*From left: Frank Greco, Sal Benvenuti, Frank Tidona, Joe Agresti and Steve Pelonero.*



*From left: Frank and Rose Blasi, Giuseppe Pampera, Frank Blasi Jr. and Andre' DiMino.*



*Andre' DiMino and Frank Gervasi serenade the crowd!*



*Seated from left: Frank and Joan Tidona, John Alati, Pat Pelonero, Debbie Benvenuti and Linda Gail Alati. Standing from left: Joe Agresti, Gino LoIacono, Frank De Frank, Carol Cannata, Linda DeFrank, Frank Greco and Frank Cannata.*



*John Alati and Pat Pelonero celebrate their joint birthday!*



*The Donnini's-David, Ann and Joe.*



*From left: Linda Hartman, Ann Straub, Pat Pelonero, Frank Gervasi and Jeannie Chomko.*



*The Passaic Valley Chapter.*





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Paul Domico  
ppdomico@  
gmail.com

Vice Chair:  
John Alati  
jmalati@aol.  
com

Ad Journal  
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# UNICO NATIONAL OPEN HOUSE RIBBON CUTTING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY



*The Official Ribbon Cutting! From left: Pat Pelonero, Office Manager; John DiNapoli, Foundation President; Joseph Catenaro, Fairfield Township Administrator; David Donnini, UNICO National President and Sal Benvenuti, Executive Administrator.*



*Pat Yanni and Giuseppe Pampena reminisce.*



*From left: Past National President Glenn Pettinato, UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro and Passaic Valley Chapter President Robert Appaluccio.*



*Past National President Mike D'Arminio locates his Convention issue of ComUNICO.*



*Our New Home Dedicated to Past National President Al Dante!*



*Al Dante's grandson and daughter, Dante and Lisa Bieri.*



*From left: Past National President Frank Licato, Union Chapter President Joe Almeida, Robert Tarte, UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko and seated UNICO National President David Donnini.*



*From left: Frank DeMaio, John DiNapoli and Angelo Pomerico are in a deep discussion.*



*The Dedication! From left: Pat and Palma Yanni, Past National President Chris DiMattio, David, Lisa and Dante Bieri, National President David Donnini, Sal Benvenuti, UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli and Pat Pelonero.*



*Fairfield Township Administrator Joseph Catenaro and UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli.*



*From left: Jenny DiMino and her mom Rosa DiCapua, Palma Yanni and Elise Buonomo.*



*John Morano*



*It wouldn't be a UNICO Event without Dessert!!!*