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ComUNICO Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGES

04 President
05 Executive Vice President
05 Chaplain
06 First Vice President
06 First Lady
07 Second Vice President
07 Editor
08 Scholarship Director
08 Membership & Retention
09 One Voice

26 Mid-Year Forms
30 New Jersey District IV
34 Meet the President
38 National Office Party
41 Award Guidelines
42 New York District II

FEATURES

61 Cool Stuff
62 Books
63 Music
64 Panorama
65 Media
66 Recipes
70 Ciao Italia
71 Travel
74 Parting Shots

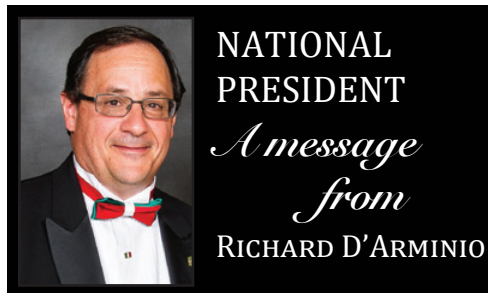
NEWS

10 Chapters & Districts
14 New Members
15 Scholarship Guidelines
16 Highland Beach Charter
25 In Memoriam

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

February 7, 2015 UNICO Scholarship Presentation
March 1, 2015 Deadline for DiMattio Celli Scholarship Application to the National Office
March 5-8, 2015 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting
March 9, 2015 April ComUNICO Deadline
April 25, 2015 National Community Service Day
May 1, 2015 Scholarship Applications due to National Office
July 28 - Aug. 1, 2015 National Convention
For more events, visit www.unico.org

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Many of you told me to enjoy the year because it really goes fast. All the planning prior may seem to go slower but the Presidential year flies by rather quickly.

The reason why many of us who seek the office of National President become active in some other capacity first as Membership & Retention Director or Expansion Director before we become a National V. P. is so that we can take some time prior and set an agenda with some goals for the Presidential Year.

Well it's been four months, or one third of my year is gone and I would like to inform you where I think we are, what we have accomplished thus far and what I hope we can finalize before the next eight months fly by too.

First let me say that First Lady Manuela and I have been welcomed into many of your Chapter Events as well as your homes. I've said it before that if you invite us there is a good chance we will accept. I would like to thank Joe and Gloria Cerullo, Tom and Michele Vaughan and Lou and Elsa DiRico for your hospitality and making us feel a part of your family. Yes we are all a UNICO Family but many of you have gone beyond that and the respect that you show the office of National President is unbelievable.

So far I am pleased, but I am not ecstatic because we have much more to do if we are going to accomplish some of the goals that I set forth in my Inaugural Speech in August.

First, we have introduced www.piazzaunico.us. In speaking to other Italian American Organizations, many have stated that it is a great idea and wish they had come up with it first. This is our very own Personal and Business Social Network site where we hope to increase and retain more members as well as get our youth involved which will hopefully grow from 200 to 1000 by August,

2015. It is a tool where we can manage our affairs better, communicate better, introduce many fund raising events and promote our Culture and Heritage more. I believe it is beginning to take shape but we must get more members using it and get at least one to two Chapter members to actively post events and communicate with other Chapter's every week. Please use it so that we can monitor its success and invite our partners at Solutionize to one of your upcoming Chapter events or meetings to speak. You can e-mail the National Office for help and/or them directly at: support@piazzaunico.us.

You will hear a lot more about our Voluntary Benefit programs. It's been in ComUNICO but some of our partners will ask if you would like for them to speak at one of your events and/or Chapter meetings. It's our way of offering some of our members something back and also give both the Chapter and National something in return. You may also reach out to them to speak at an upcoming Chapter meeting. We are always looking for some guest speakers. You can listen to a two minute video about some of the programs at: sevenprotected.com/unico-discount. It's really that easy or you can call Doug Petersen at 732-995-7663 or e-mail us at the National Office and Doug will speak at one of your meetings too.

I am pleased to report that our Italian Studies, Culture and Heritage, and AP Testing Committees have begun meeting both at our National Office as well as at some of our Universities such as Montclair State University to strengthen our scholarship and Italian Language programs, find more ways of all of us getting involved with Culture and Heritage events, and work in unity to increase the number of students taking the exam.

I have spoken and met leaders of other Italian and Italian American Organizations at various functions and although we may differ on some of our mission statements, I am seeing a greater interest in working together to share our Italian Culture and Heritage and joining forces when it comes to fighting discrimination and standing up for our right to Save Columbus Day.

Immediately after the New Year, every single Chapter in UNICO will be

receiving calls from our National Vice Presidents, Regional Governors, District Governors and some Immediate Past District Governors. I have asked Second National V. P. Tom Vaughan to oversee this as we must communicate more and make sure that all Chapters are on the same page.

The entire D'Arminio family wishes you and yours a Blessed Christmas and the Happiest New Year filled with good health, prosperity, and continued "Service Above Self" to others.



Mayor Sandy Mascaritolo from River Edge explains the wine making process. From left: Gaetan DiNapoli, Mike D'Arminio and Sandy Mascaritolo.



From left: Ralph Contini, Ken Tyburezy, Ben Focarino and Joe Verdone.



From left: Joe Verdone, Richard D'Arminio, Gerry Heytink, Joe Iula and Sandy Mascaritolo.

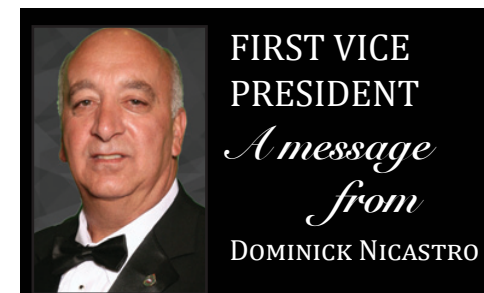


Attending the event were members from New Jersey District VII and IX.



"HOPE lies in dreams, in imagination and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality." This quote from by Jonas Salk is fitting for UNICO and what our dream should be for our future.

Do we dare to make our dreams become a reality? It is my dream that we interact more and give more in terms of providing the members with information to move us forward. The officers have been making great strides in bridging the gap between members and National and it is evident that we are working to collaborate between Chapters and Districts. We made a concerted effort to provide more communication during the Eastern Region Meeting by sending out information in advance of the event. Your comments were very encouraging



The Christmas season is upon us. This year is moving so fast. I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.

This year in 2015 all of us, as your Executive Board, will try to assist the Chapters and Districts that need help.

I have been in close contact by phone with the Mid West and West Coast. In addition, I have been requesting all District Governors call my house at 973-627-1588 with any problems. I cannot help you if you do not reach out to me to let me know what you need. Remember I am here for all of you.

and we will again provide an agenda for members as we prepare for our Mid-Year meeting in Memphis.

Another dream and hope is to have more members participate in the Mid-Year proceedings and our upcoming Convention. We accomplish a great deal of business that is pertinent to the running of our organization and your voice needs to be heard on issues.

It is also my hope that Districts will consider a Convention event in their planning for the year. The Convention Committee is working toward having a memorable offering for entire families to enjoy. We would appreciate all the help that Districts and Chapters can provide as we make history for a second time by installing a female president in our 93 years of existence!

Another dream that must become a reality is Membership Growth. It is imperative that we continue to attract and retain new members. We must also support and strengthen our chapters so that we remain a viable service organization. Our SURVIVAL is dependent upon membership recruitment and retention!

Still another dream that must become a reality is enhancing our

If you would like to invite me to a meeting, or you would like me to attend an event, please send an e-mail to dnicastro@unico.org

Since the Italian Language program was turned down by the Morris Hills/Morris Knolls Regional School system, I plan to move forward with a meeting to the Copeland Middle School asking for them to consider this. If it is approved, the High School would most likely follow suit. I find it very disturbing when you get an answer such as; 'due to lack of interest, we cannot offer the Italian Language program'. This is highly unfortunate and disappointing, especially when we have a high Italian American population in the four towns. I intend to keep fighting for this to be brought into our school system. I will be reaching out to our team that we previously had, but ask that both Rockaway Township and Denville Chapter Presidents to please help me make this work for our kids. It takes some work, but I know we can win.

Public Image. We must make others aware of all the good work that we do. We must tell our story to a wider audience. We continue to be the best kept secret in the United States.

Other dreams and hopes include the grooming of future leaders, adapting to more modern methods of management through advanced technology and information systems, maintaining fiscal responsibility, encouraging strategic planning at all levels, developing clear and concise objectives for where we are and where we need to go in the future, continuing to encourage Chapters to improve their networking ability, adhering to our core values, exciting younger members to join our seasoned team, and stressing the importance of having a strategic plan for both Districts and Chapters.

This quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson has been my message since entering the leadership field-"our chief want is someone who will inspire us to be what we know we could be." I need you to help me turn these dreams and hopes into reality. Can we do it? Yes! We can because we are TEAM UNICO!

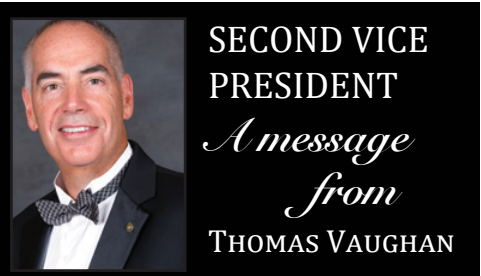
I would like to acknowledge the Garfield Chapter for Honoring Past National President Paul Alongi as their UNICAN of the Year 2014. Paul is a great man, and was a very good National President. Good luck Paul and thank you for all you do for all of us at UNICO.

I have had the pleasure of being a part of the Highland Beach, Florida Charter night. There is nothing more special than starting a new Chapter and showing support needed to encourage Chapter success. It was a very nice affair. I know they will succeed. Good luck Highland Beach Chapter.

Also, all Chapters and Districts, please remember to file your 990 tax returns. This is very important.

In closing, let us keep that UNICO Chain strong and together. We must never break any link in it if we want to move forward and get stronger.

Thank you and God Bless



I thought the first edition of the new ComUNICO was spectacular and want to congratulate the staff on a job well done. In that issue you got to see the pictures from the Eastern Regional (including those of a certain VP disguised as Gene Simmons of KISS!), but I want to talk about the seminar I hosted for Chapter Presidents in Newport. I moderated a UNICO version of “Around the Horn”. This is an ESPN show where the host asks timed questions of sportswriters and then gives them points for their answers. I thought this would be a fun, fast paced way to get a lot of participation by the attendees. Since it was Halloween on the day of the seminar, I started out asking people what their favorite Halloween memory was. We then discussed

answers to questions like: as a Chapter President, “What are your goals for the year?” “What do you wish you knew before you became President?” “My Chapter has trouble with...” and “How did you resolve a difficult situation?” I think the setup allowed for a lively discussion. I hope the participants learned something and had a little fun. This was one of the better Eastern Regionals I’ve attended. We had a great time at the Halloween Costume party and baking contest, attended some informative sessions, had an energetic and inspirational general meeting, and got to hang out with our UNICO friends.

A couple of weeks before that, Michele and I had a lot of laughs at the Southington UNICO Comedy Night. Chapter President Dave Zoni and members put on a very nice event. We got to sit with Foundation Trustee Mario Giovannucci and his wife Andrea, and Membership and Retention Director Francine Nido and her friend Mingo. President D’Arminio traveled to Connecticut and joined us at Hartford UNICO’s major fund-raiser “An Evening in Basilicata”. Every year Hartford picks

a different region in Italy to celebrate. They give the caterer local recipes and research the area. This year we ate Fettucini Lucane, Petto di Pollo Arancello, and Fave e Cicoria among other delicacies. Dr. Mozzicato and Rose Ciarcia then presented a slide show informing the attendees all about the Basilicata region. I’m always impressed by this as it includes over a hundred slides in about ten minutes. A great time was had by all and President Rick gave a nice speech to the approximately 300 people attending.

After sleeping on the very comfortable guest futon in the Vaughan house, President Rick travelled with me to Torrington for the CT/MA Meet the President event. Chapter President Christina Mascetti and the Torrington Chapter hosted the event along with help from Francine Nido, Patti Mascetti, and others. We got to talk to a lot of our Connecticut and Massachusetts friends and had a good time.

I’d love to tell you about the Highland Beach Charter Night, the Wethersfield Wine Tasting, Newington Toys for Tots dinner etc., but I think I’m at the max for words in my article and...



Let me start by saying thank you to everyone that reached out to let us know how they felt about the new format of ComUNICO. It was really nice to hear all the great accolades mentioned in reference to our new look. Lisa Adubato and I were very pleased with the outcome. There were some small issues with a few articles, but all and all it was awesome to see it in print and to be able to bring a professional looking publication to our members and all who read ComUNICO.

It is my sincere hope that all our members had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Thank you to all our members and guests who attended the UNICO National Open House in early December in celebrating the Christmas season with us. A special thank you to everyone that lavished us

with gifts and cards through the holiday season. The staff is very grateful and ten pounds heavier! We will start the New Year 2015 off with a very busy month. There is still much to accomplish and many meetings set.

On February 7, 2015 we will honor Seton Hall nursing student Stephanie De Simone with a Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Nursing Scholarship. If you are not aware of the story, Stephanie saved a man’s life on a plane returning home from a trip to Italy this past summer. If you go to the Seton Hall website you can find the story, it is quite fascinating. It is befitting of UNICO National to honor such an articulate woman for her service above self. Please join us that day to make it special for her.

Before you know it the Mid-Year Board meeting in Memphis will be upon us. If you plan on attending please get registered early. Think about who your Chapter could nominate for one of the many awards that will be judged at that meeting. The deadline is February 15th for all nominations.

We have many scholarships to award. There seems to be many Chapters that are not aware of the substantial

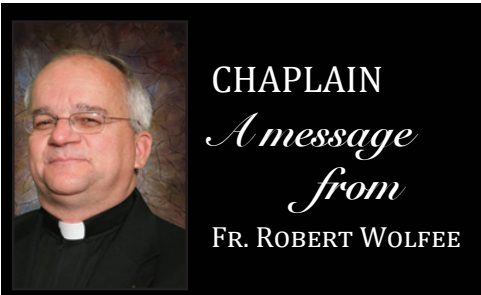
amount of funds available to worthy students. Please become familiar with what UNICO National has to offer. If you have any questions please give the National Office a call.

Our next issue will be in April. As we have gone to five issues there no longer will be a March edition. The issues going forward will be April, July, September and November. Deadlines for these issues can be found throughout the magazine.

Ciao

Things to Remember:

- Awards
- Scholarships
- Amendments
- 990 IRS Filing
- Dues Payments
- Chapter Reports
- District Reports
- Register for Mid-Year Board Meeting
- Register for Convention



Kippur service one evening in 1944, he suddenly had a mystical experience, which he recounted in his autobiography, “I saw Jesus Christ clad in a white mantle, and beyond his head the blue sky. I experienced the greatest interior peace.” All of a sudden he heard the words, “You are here for the last time.” Rabbi Zolli did not share what he had experienced with anyone. So, he was surprised later that night when his wife told him that during the service she had seen a figure resembling Jesus with his hands on his head as if to bless him. As if this weren’t enough of a confirmation, his daughter then shared with him that she had recently seen a figure that she recognized as Jesus Christ in a dream. Israel Zolli knew that the time had come for him to become a Christian. A few days later, he resigned from his position as chief rabbi of Rome and began instructions to become a member of the Catholic Faith. On February 13, 1945, Israel Zolli and his wife were baptized Roman Catholics, followed a year later by their daughter.

Most people do not have such dramatic encounters with Jesus. However, our encounters with him, whether big or small, are life-changing. Once we have fallen in love with Jesus, life is never the same again. When Jesus draws us into a deeper relationship with himself, he shines his light into our lives as if to say also to us, “You are here for the last time.”

What if we have not yet had this experience of encountering Jesus in such a definitive way? Well, all we need to do is open our hearts a little bit and invite him in. He will not reject the sincere prayer of anyone who has even the smallest desire to know him more personally. Jesus has been pursuing us from the moment of our conception and wants nothing more than to help us move from being merely committed to our religion and going through the motions, to experiencing true intimacy with him. If we allow him in to do this, our lives will never be the same again.

God bless



Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Hope the hustle and bustle of this season is not taking away from the true meaning of Christmas for all of you. May you enjoy family members in a quiet setting and/or have several holiday parties, be it with your jobs or personal friendships.

Rick and I have continued our journey in the last several months visiting more Chapters and enjoying our “breaking bread” with them. On December 2, 2014 we were so touched by the many attendees with special needs that were so delighted that evening to be a part of

an Italian American group’s celebration for the Christmas Holiday. I was asked to dance by a dashing young man who led me around the dance floor and was able to dip me at the end of the song. Such a gentlemanly thing to do.

We attended the Ocean County Columbus luncheon meeting December 6th, with heads of other Italian organizations and the Brick Chapter where the main focus was on next year’s Columbus Day Parade. Rick also discussed at the meeting Piazzaunico site and how vital it is for all UNICANS to communicate through this new and exciting social media site. We then drove to Mineola, Long Island to Elsa and Luciano DiRico’s home where we were greeted, red carpet style, for a wonderful dinner with their son Robert (soon to be Chapter President) and his lovely wife, Hayley, along with friends Anna and Al. We attended the New York District II 21st Century Fund Banquet Gala at Chateau Briand

the next day to dine, dance and meet new friends. Their hospitality was so heartfelt and warming that we are looking forward to visiting them again very soon after the New Year!

I will be submitting a phrase of the month for each ComUNICO issue in the hopes of bringing some Italian language to each UNICAN.

Have a blessed Christmas and a healthy Happy New Year!

Buon Natale a tutti e un Felice Anno Nuovo!





Happy New Year brother and sister UNICANS! I wish all our members outstanding success, as we continued to celebrate our illustrious heritage and work to make things better. It is evident we are off to a great start.

Congratulations and sincere thanks to ComUNICO Editor Pat Pelonero, Lisa Aduato and all who worked so hard to prepare our newly formatted publication. The exceptional quality of the “new ComUNICO” is remarkable. I am especially pleased with the excellent coverage given the UNICO National Scholarship Program. Everything our members need to know was included. If you didn’t get to do so yet, be sure to read the stories submitted by our Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship recipients. I think you will enjoy them.

There has been tremendous interest in UNICO scholarships to date. As costs

Congratulations to the Raritan Valley Chapter for winning the “New Member Contest”! Their six new members scored them a complimentary Banner Stand. In addition, the Scranton Chapter will also receive a Banner Stand for their outstanding effort in securing nine members in October and November. Way to go!

Chapter Presidents and District Governors should be on alert for the next contest that will be released in February! This one will focus on retention, so get ready!!!

As we embark upon the New Year, I encourage each Chapter to thank their most active members for their continued

continue to escalate, more and more students require financial assistance. Our offerings are highly valued, sought after and appreciated. The assistance we provide young scholars through our Chapter, District and National programs is truly meaningful. We are having a positive impact.

Revised scholarship application forms and candidate checklists were e-mailed to District Governors, Chapter Presidents and Scholarship Chairs last November. Anyone requiring hard copies is encouraged to request them from the office.

Every UNICO Chapter, in good standing, is invited to nominate candidates. Applications may also be submitted through a District Governor or the National Office. As before, UNICANS and their family members are eligible to apply through their respective Chapters.

Several modifications are reflected in the updated forms (Revised 2014- 2015). Most changes simply clarify requirements. Candidates MUST meet qualifications as stated on the specific applications.

It is essential to avoid distributing obsolete applications. Nominees will be at a disadvantage if outdated forms are used. When you provide your schools with the current form, please ask them

support and to reach out to “at-risk” members to see what can be done to get them more involved. Now is also the time to ask all members to make their resolutions to be more active, supportive and committed members in 2015.

For the Membership Chairs in each Chapter/District, put together lists of members who have dropped and send them a “We Want You Back” letter. Sometimes, the simple act of reaching out to someone is enough to make them say “yes”!! At your dinner meetings, especially when there are guests, invite a long-time member and a newer-member to share why they joined UNICO, you may be surprised to see how similar their answers are. Remember that every new member has something to do and something to learn. Be sure to utilize their talents and pair them up with long-term members to share ideas and skill-sets. Everyone wants to feel needed and that they are contributing. Involve all members in setting realistic and creative

to return any obsolete applications they may have on file.

Undergraduate candidates should be encouraged to apply for all four scholarships. To do so requires them to submit the original application and three complete copies, including all attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because the scholarships are judged at separate locations. Copies cannot be made by office staff.

An application must be completed in its ENTIRETY to be considered. The Chapter representative is asked to check the form, prior to submission, to make certain all is in order. The checklists should simplify reviewing applications. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to submit most scholarship applications is April 15 to the sponsoring Chapter; May 1 to the National Office. The DiMattio Celli is due to the Chapter prior to March 1 and by March 15 to the National Office. It is imperative that this time frame is observed.

Yogi Berra once said, “If you don’t know where you are going, you’ll end up someplace else.” Clearly, UNICO scholarship recipients know exactly where they are going. And our dedicated members are helping them get there!

membership goals. People who participate in setting some of the objectives are more committed to reaching the goal. Remember, it takes ALL OF US to make UNICO successful.

Please remember to share directly with me any activities taking place in your Chapter/District including special events, meetings, open houses, membership drives or heritage nights. If invited, I or someone from my committee will make every effort to attend. Feel free to reach me via e-mail at UNICODoll@gmail.com and my phone number and mailing address is available on www.UNICO.org.

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Important Milestone Achieved in Sending Message to A&E on “The Godfather of Pittsburgh” and its Affront to Italian Americans

In a move that proves he lives up to his recent UNICO award for defending Italian American heritage, new anchor and radio personality Gene Valicenti has just helped get the first major sponsor to confirm it will not advertise on the new A&E reality series “The Godfather of Pittsburgh”.

Valicenti, who earlier this month was recognized by UNICO National’s Anti-Bias Committee with its Mille Grazie Award for his past support defending Italian American heritage, recently interviewed UNICO National Executive Director Andre’ DiMino on “The Morning Show with Gene Valicenti” on WPRO

630 News Talk Radio, about the new reality series. After discussing the Italian American stereotyping and denigration the show portrays, DiMino advised Valicenti and his listeners that the Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition has asked its activists and supporters to contact sponsors of the show to request they not support this affront to Italian Americans. When Valicenti heard that one of the advertisers on the show’s premiere was Dunkin’ Donuts he commented that he was surprised they would be involved and that he would contact them about it. After a few days Valicenti was able to secure the following official statement from Dunkin’ Donuts:

“Dunkin’ Donuts does not intend to advertise with this particular program, and it is currently on our “do not air” list for advertising. We understand a Dunkin’ Donuts advertisement did air in error during the premiere episode as part of a larger advertising buy. The program will continue to be on our “do not air” list in 2015.”

On receiving confirmation of the statement from Valicenti, Manny Alfano, President of ONE VOICE stated, “This is what happens when we work together and speak with one voice. I am

so pleased that Andre’ DiMino of UNICO was interviewed by Gene Valicenti about this. And, I am even more pleased that Gene Valicenti took immediate action to secure this important support from Dunkin’ Donuts. We should all thank Dunkin’ Donuts and Gene Valicenti!”

ONE VOICE is different from all other Italian American groups in that its sole mission is to fight bias, stereotyping and discrimination against Italian Americans.

ONE VOICE founder and president Manny Alfano issues a regular e-mail newsletter, “The Alfano Digest,” to more than 5,000 individuals and Italian American organizations nationwide. For more information visit www.iaova.org.

UNICO National, (an organization member of ONE VOICE) founded in 1922, is the nation’s largest Italian American service and charitable organization, with local Chapters throughout the United States. Its volunteer members support charitable, educational and community service projects promoting Italian heritage and combating negative stereotyping. For information, or to join UNICO National call 973-808-0035 or visit www.unico.org.

HAS YOUR CHAPTER FILED THEIR FORM 990?
IRS Revoking Tax Exempt Status for UNICO Chapters

If your Chapter does not file the required information return (Form 990) for three consecutive years, the IRS will automatically revoke your tax exempt status. We have heard from several Chapters that have received the Automatic Revocation Letter from the IRS.

Once your tax exempt status is revoked, you will have to reapply for tax exempt statue by filing for a determination letter with the IRS. You will need to complete Form 1024 (which is a 19 page application) and pay a user fee of \$100.

Below are the filing requirements for nonprofit/tax exempt entities. Please make sure your Chapter complies with the filing requires in order to avoid the automatic revocation.

IRS Filing Requirements

The IRS requires every nonprofit/tax exempt entity to file an information return which is due on the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of your year end. For a June 30 year end, the return is due November 15th and for a December 31 year end, the return is due May 15th. The type of return that is required depends on the amount of the gross receipts for the Chapter.

Gross Receipts not normally in excess of \$50,000 – Must file an annual electronic notice (e-postcard) Form 990-N. This can only be done electronically and there is no paper return available for this category. This is very simple and does not require any financial information, only 5 or 6 questions that must be answered.

Gross Receipts greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 – Must file a paper return Form 990-EZ.

If you have any questions with your filing requirements or need some help in completing the required forms, please call the National Office (973) 808-0035.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

The Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National entertained our National President, Rick D'Arminio with a special UNICO Cake made for him. During the meeting the President awarded our Past President, Joe Nasello, with a Certificate of Appreciation. Through Joe's efforts, his company The Ottersedt Insurance Agency, donated the tote bags used for non-member registrants at the Convention at the Breakers, Palm Beach.



From left UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Joe Nasello and Past National President Sal Mangano.



Sitting from left: Ann Taylor and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Standing from left: Mariann Galinius, Jerry Taylor, Joe Nasello, President Marilyn Nasello, Phil Sergio, Ed Ebel and Ed Dinofrio.

The Saddle Brook Chapter and the Coccia Foundation jointly made a donation to the Saddle Brook School system to help continue the Italian Studies program in effect in the Saddle Brook Grammar School system. This is the second year that this program has been in effect. We know that with our continued support it will endure.

The Chapter then sent a delegation of six members to the UNICO National Eastern Regional Meeting. The Saddle

Brook Chapter feels that it is very important to send delegates to these meetings. There is much to be absorbed and learned at meetings like this.



Saddle Brook members at Saturday evening dinner. Standing form left: Joseph Nasello and Edward Ebel. Seated from left: Sal and Criss Mangano, Chapter President Marilyn Nasello and Joy Ebel.

SPARTA, NJ

The Sparta Chapter is proud to welcome its newest members. From left: Sparta President - Ken Carafello, New Members: Roberta Cook, Matt Pondisio and Diane Vitale and Ray Shupak.



The Sparta Chapter donated to the Jimmy "V" Foundation at the Meet the President Dinner. The event was to honor the UNICO National President. From left: Ken Carafello, Sparta President and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



The Chapter donated a fire extinguisher to the Pequannock UNICO for use in their sausage and pepper stand. From left: Ken Carafello, Sparta President; Bob Diana, Pequannock President and Ray Shupak.

CARBONDALE, PA

At the Carbondale Chapter monthly meeting, the members were proud to honor its members who are Veterans. From left: President Brian Durkin, Lucas Pollits, Chip Calabro, Rich Ruggiero, Jerry Arnese, Tony Greto, and Nunzio Gatto.

VERONA, NJ

Verona Mayor Bob Manley (l) presents a check from the Mayor's Charity Ball to Verona Chapter President Anthony Nigro (r) in support of the Chapter's major fundraiser, The Labor Day 5k Classic, which raised more than \$11,000 this year.

BROOKHAVEN, NY

The October Brookhaven Chapter meeting featured a talk by Rosemary Serra, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology at the University of Trieste in Italy. In 2012 and 2013 she was a Visiting Research Scholar at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute at Queens College (CUNY). Dr. Serra is at work on a sociological study of ethnic identity and today's Italian American Youth. Her recent publications include: "Fiori di Campus," Writings in Sociology and Social Work; "Dark Desire, Addictive Sexuality between the Pathological and the Normal;" "I Can't Help Myself, Social Aspects of Addictions;" The Poisoned Apple, Eating Addictions and Disorders," and, "Italy: An Overview of Criminology."



President Steven Bonventre and Dr. Serra.

QUEENSBORO, NY**QUEENSBORO RAISES MONEY TO HELP CHALLENGED VETERANS**

The Queensboro Chapter recently held a "Cigar Night" and raised over \$10,000, which will complete their effort to provide an All-Terrain Vehicle for a veteran.

The attendees were all given a tote bag of cigars and magazines in addition to a gourmet dinner. The weather for the evening was absolutely perfect for an outdoor event. Over 150 business people, from Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Long Island, Westchester and New Jersey gathered for this event. Over thirty restaurants, individuals and other merchants, mostly from Brooklyn and Queens, donated gift certificates, baskets

and other goods and services to make the raffles a big success. Nationally known Cigar Companies also contributed to the many prizes raffled off that night.

The all-terrain vehicle was provided by the Independence Fund. The Independence Fund, with the help of individuals and organizations like Queensboro UNICO, buys equipment which will provide Veterans with the utmost independence when they return from war without limbs and helps them lead a more independent life.

In addition to this fund-raising effort, Queensboro has established a Professorship in Italian American Studies and a separate Scholarship for students who excel in the field. They have also funded and established an After School Italian Program at PS 49 in Middle Village that teaches students of all ethnicities, the Italian language and culture. Queensboro UNICO usually meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM at Barosa's, 62-29 Woodhaven Boulevard in Rego Park. All are welcomed to attend to learn more about Queensboro UNICO. You can also visit their website at www.queensborounico.org.



The Event Chairman Frank Fabrico (l) and Co- Chairman Gaspare J. Mistretta (r) would like to personally thank all members and guest for attending and supporting this great event and helping out with this worthy cause!!! Thank You.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Page 33 - The Stamford, CT Chapter was incorrectly identified as the Waterbury, CT Chapter. We apologize for the error.

HAZLETON, PA

At a recent function the Hazleton Chapter and the Knights of Columbus honored attorney Pasco L. Schiavo as their Outstanding Italian American of the Year. David Perdi was the main speaker at the event. He spoke about the difficulty encountered and the courage of Christopher Columbus on his journey.



From left: Charles Pedri, Mary Malone, Gary Lawler, Pasco Schiavo, Molly Blasko, Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National First Vice President; Joe Yanuzzi, Mike DeCosmo, Chapter President and David Pedri.

PITTSFIELD, MA**COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT**

Pittsfield members recently assisted a Berkshire County childhood cancer support group to raise money by cooking and helping serve a polenta dinner to three hundred and thirty people.

Tom Angelini, along with his wife Penny and his kitchen crew, worked many hours preparing, cooking and serving this delicious meal. Tom has been cooking polenta at fund-raisers for various organizations for forty five years.

The polenta was served with Tom's special sauce, chicken, sausage, salad and bread as well as dessert and coffee. The event was held at the ITAM Lodge, Chapter 564, at their hall on the shores of Pontoosuc Lake.



Tom Angelini's very competent and long serving kitchen crew from left: Evio Menia, Bernie Roberts, Tom Angelini and his wife Penny, Fred Sears, Andy Pozzoni, John Demastrie and Kevin Dondi.

GARFIELD, NJ

Wednesday, November 5, 2014 Past National President Paul Alongi Sr. was honored along with his family at the Venetian Catering Hall for his numerous achievements during his 58 years of service to UNICO National. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. You are the epitome of UNICO's motto: "Service Above Self".



Garfield UNICAN of the Year Paul Alongi is pictured with his children and grandchildren.



Garfield UNICAN of the Year Paul Alongi with members of the Garfield Chapter.



Past National President Paul Alongi is honored as the Garfield Chapter UNICAN of the Year. From left: Allan Focarino, Chuck Nucifora, Paul Alongi; UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro and UNICO National Expansion Director Nino Randazzo.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio presents Garfield UNICAN of the Year Paul Alongi with a Presidential Proclamation.



Garfield UNICAN of the Year Paul Alongi is pictured with his brothers and sister. From left: Tony and Paul Alongi, Julie Palma and Sebby and Marianne Alongi.



Garfield UNICAN of the Year Paul Alongi accepts an award from David, Robert and Carol Cupoli.

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO recently held its Annual UNICO Bowl with the Clark Crusaders vs. the Hillside Comets. The friendly game has been taking place for over 18 years. Each team fights to hold the trophy for a year and bragging rights. After a close game last year, Hillside took the trophy. The Clark Crusaders fought tough for a victory and obtained the trophy back.



Hillside President Angelo Bonano (l) and Clark President Ralph Bernardo (r) fight over the trophy before the game.



From left: Sam Liff, Bob Spinella, Henry Varriano, President Ralph Bernardo, Greg Menza, Anna Pace, Maureen Manasia and Joe Arancio.



The Clark Crusaders along with Clark UNICO members pose for a photo after the game and trophy ceremony.

ELIZABETH, NJ

Elizabeth Chapter Ends Another Season

The Elmora Youth League baseball season has come to a close. This year's Little League team which was sponsored by the Elizabeth Chapter, were the Mets. The league's President, Ralph Abbate, is also a member of our Chapter. Ralph has been actively involved with Elmora Youth League for nearly 20 years, serving in various capacities including assistant coach, manager, coordinator, and league President.

Our Chapter is proud to support youth sports programs within our city and local communities. In addition to the Elmora Youth League, we also sponsor a youth bowling team, part of the Jersey Lanes Junior Bowling League, owned and operated by Chuck Fatigati. Chuck was a former Elizabeth UNICO Citizen of the Year and is actively involved in our organization.



The Elizabeth UNICO Mets!

Elizabeth vs. Union UNICO Bowl

The 2014 UNICO Bowl featuring Elizabeth vs. Union was recently played in Union. Over the past 10 years, the two Chapters have been alternating bragging rights and this year was no different. Elizabeth took an early lead and never looked back, winning 34-6. After Chapter Presidents Joe Almeida (Union) and Lou Bani (Elizabeth) along with their members, shared some food, laughs and watched the game together, they proceeded down to the field and presented the UNICO Bowl trophy to the Elizabeth High School coach and the team. We'll see what happens next year!



Surrounded by the players are from left: Lou Bani, Joe Almeida and Elizabeth Coach John Quinn.



Members of Elizabeth and Union Chapters share a meal.

CALL TO MID-YEAR BOARD

The Mid-Year Board of Director's Meeting will be held March 5-8, 2015 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Memphis Downtown, 185 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38103. All members of the Board of Directors should make every effort to attend. Registration forms and hotel information may be found on pages 26-27 of this issue.

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Middle Village, NY 11379



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.

NOVEMBER

BLOOMFIELD Doreen Benedetto Paula Zaccone	PARAMUS Ralph Marsiolia Peter O'hare Rita O'hare	SAN DIEGO James Merlini Lawrence Perna
CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN Dominic Buttitta Frank Massi	PASSAIC VALLEY Angelene Agresta Emilia D Albero	SANTA BARBARA Joseph Corazza Barbara Hill Keith Mautino Patrice Serrani
CLARK Rose De Marco	PORTLAND Patricia Amore John English Ridamar Entsminger	SCRANTON Lori Bares Annett Strubeck Alicia Kelly-Marshall Fran Li Vecchi John Menapace Nancy Menapace Patrick Pasqualichio Alexander Strubeck Ann Swarts Samuel Vitris Jr. Patrick Williams Sara Woolsey
FARMINGTON Douglas Alexander	RARITAN VALLEY Elaine Shepherd	SPARTA Evan Heller
KANSAS CITY Frank Cascone Michael Gagliano James Mesh Michael Picone Chris Schembri Salvatore Schembri	REHOBOTH AREA Frank Cappelli Terri Crovato Albert Failla Suzanne Failla Sabatino Maglione Barbara Woods	ST. JOE'S H. S. MONTVALE Joanne Anastasi Linda Del Ponte Danielle Durso
LIVINGSTON Diane Beni Maria Camille Brush Michael Buonopane Elizabeth Cassese A. Andrew Cassese Sr. Rev. Joseph Laracy	RIDGEFIELD Nancy Hroncich Gloria Morin	TWIN CITIES Gino Mateo Marchio
MERRIMACK VALLEY George Fantini Jr. William Novelline Jr. Arthur Sordillo	ROCKAWAY TWSP. Mirella Ferrante Judith Ricucci Patrick Ricucci	WATERBURY Marie Ursini
OAKVILLE/ WATERTOWN Robert Desrosiers Frederick Grasso David Guerrera Steven Malenda	SADDLE BROOK Dorothy Buonicore-Sullivan Frank Camiscioli Iii Giuseppe Cascio Lisa Cascio Lenny Cimo Robert Gelenius Bernardino Lemme Kenneth Sullivan	WETHERSFIELD Salvatore Calafiore

Welcome to the new Highland Beach Chapter Members.
The Chapter Chartered on November 11, 2014.
See pages 16-17 for the event pictures.

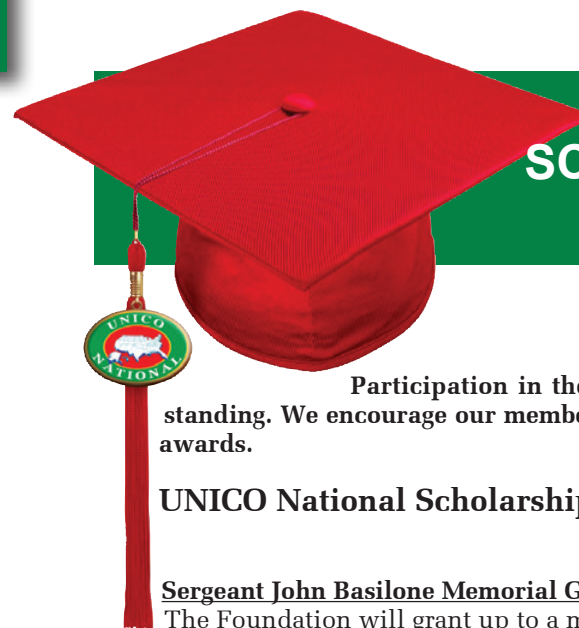
Anthony Baratta Lisa Marie Browne John Buzzallino Paul Buzzallino Ana Marie Cohen Sophie Conte Luigi De Marco Susan Dougherty Jeffrey Dussich Karen Dussich	Ralph Gengo Susan Gengo Rosaria Gismondi Vincent Gismondi Elsa Gismondi- Tufano Cleveland Guy Gail Guy Joseph Lo Re Madeline Lo Re	Anne Matarazzo Suzanne Matarazzo Thomas Matarazzo Giuseppe Riggi Scott Swallow Frank Todaro Vincenzo Tufano
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DECEMBER

ANSONIA-DERBY Agostino Filippone Domenico Filippone	PITTSFIELD Lisa Falsone-Jones
AVON Deborah Auger Philip De Pasquale Suzanne Frask Nancy Janiszewski Sandra Nistral	PLAINFIELDS' Giuseppina Gallicchio John Griesi Francesca Merendino
BAYONNE Raymond W. Greaves Richard Kaminski	PORTLAND Julie Fast
BRISTOL Eden Abrams Bill Gonsalves Joe Leary Dominic Mendolia Cory Palmisano Paul Pavano	PT. PLEASANT BEACH Robert Beddes
CLARK Maria A. Lara	QUEENSBORO Gary Gallo Robert Intelisano
DELMARVA Richard Travallini	RUTHERFORD Luciano Miceli
DENVILLE Lisa Loiacono Fila	SANTA BARBARA Donatella Lopez
GREATER RAMSEY Virginia De Palma Joan Patti Murphy	SECAUCUS David Morin
HACKENSACK Massimo Marini	SOUTHINGTON Michael Aparo Domenic Perone
HAZLETON Zachary Lee Miranda Matz Antonio Minneci	SPRINGFIELD Richard R. Veronesi
HIGHLAND BEACH Antoinette S. Carro Patricia Savides Linda J. Tufo Joseph W. Veccia Jr.	ST. JOE'S H. S. MONTVALE Joseph Carrozza Christian De Luca Justin Gatto John Muscarelle Ryan Soranno Ian Spagna
LIVINGSTON Mark Carangi	WATERBURY Joseph J. Stango
MERRIMACK VALLEY Anthony P. Salerno Daniel A. Tirone	WAYNE Vincent Albanese
NORTH SHORE Alison Luddine	WETHERSFIELD Teresa Capalbo Cari Colangelo
NUTLEY John R. Cascarano	



SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES



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

UNICO National Scholarships:

Sergeant John Basilone Memorial Graduate Scholarship

The Foundation will grant up to a maximum of \$6,000, paid out at \$1,500 per year, for a graduate scholarship. The awardee must attend a full-time, accredited program at a college/university in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Dr. Benjamin Cottone Memorial Scholarship

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

Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarships

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

Undergraduate Awards:

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

The Foundation will grant four scholarships valued at \$6,000 to high school seniors who will be attending, full-time, an accredited college/university program in the United States; paid out at \$1,500 per school year up to a maximum of 4 years. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage. Candidates are encouraged to apply for all four scholarships. To do so requires the original application and three complete copies, including attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because scholarships are judged at different locations.

DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship

The Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$1,250 each, for study in Italy. Candidates must be currently enrolled, full-time, in an accredited college or university in the United States, pursuing a degree. The study abroad program must be eligible for credit by the student's college/university. An applicant must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship

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

Louise Torracco Memorial Scholarship for a Doctorate in Science

The Foundation will grant two scholarships valued at \$2,500 each, to students enrolled as PhD candidates pursuing study of the Physical Sciences or Life Sciences. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

Ralph J. Torracco Doctoral Scholarship for the Study of Italian History

The Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students enrolled as PhD candidates pursuing study of Italian History. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

Ralph J. Torracco Doctoral Scholarship for Music Study

The Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students enrolled as PhD candidates pursuing the study of music. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL CHARTER NIGHT



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio prepares to swear in New Chapter President Frank LoRe at the Highland Beach Charter Night.



The presentation of the Charter. From left: UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan, Chapter President Frank LoRe and UNICO National Expansion Director Nino Randazzo.



The presentation of the banner. From left: UNICO National Expansion Director Nino Randazzo, UNICO National President and First Lady Richard and Manuela D'Arminio, Chapter President Frank LoRe and UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino.



The new Highland Beach Chapter!



Chapter President Frank LoRe addresses the gathering as Gail Guy (l) and Rosaria Gismondi (r) look on.



UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko swears in Chapter Officers. Officers from left: Gail Guy, Rosaria Gismondi, Madeline LoRe and Cleveland Guy.



UNICO National Expansion Director Nino Randazzo addresses the gathering.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL CHARTER NIGHT



From left: Carol Trojan, Gail Guy, Rosaria Gismondi and Madeline LoRe.



Rosaria and Vincent Gismondi.



From left: Guest, Sally Valente, Gino DeMarco, Lisa Brown, Shant Epremian and Rochelle Lecavalier.



From left: Bill and Patti Mascetti and Tom Vaughan.



Mayor Bernard Fetjerman and Andre' DiMino.



From left: Joe Riggi, Paul Buzzalino and Robert Silvani.



From left: Frank LoRe, Nino Randazzo, Dominick Nicastro and guest.



Vincent DeSastoa and Linda Tufo.



From left: Lisa Brown, Sonya Conte and Anna Cohen.



Gail and Cleveland Guy.



Bill Mascetti and Carol Trojan.



Carol Trojan Anne Matarazzo.



Shant Epremian and Rochelle Lecavalier.



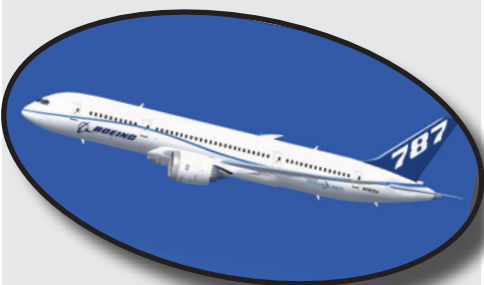
From left: Jenny DiMino, Sally Valente, Rosaria Gismondi and Carol Trojan.



Robert Silvani and Debi Rodi.

TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

Here are the UNICO National Exclusive Offer Codes you can use when booking your Air Travel to the 2015 Convention!



LAX, SNA and ONT Airports

American Airlines- Discount of 5% off published fares at www.aa.com/group Promotion Code A4775AY

Delta- Discount of 5% off published fares. Reservations and ticketing is available via www.delta.com. When booking online, select Book A Trip, click on More Search Options and enter the meeting code NMKAN in the box provided on the Search Flight page. Reservations may also be made by calling Delta Meeting reservations at 800 328 1111 Mon. - Fri. 7am-7pm CDT. *Please note that there is a direct ticketing fee for booking through the reservation number above.

United Airlines- Discount of 5% off published fares (8% off Business & 13% off First Class) when booking on line at www.united.com. Enter ZTK7168209 in the Offer Code box when searching for flights.

If you have any trouble booking your flight, please contact the UNICO National Office at 973-808-0035 or uniconational@unico.org

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

Saddle Brook Chapter Activities

The Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National has been very active during the 2014 year.

Some of our activities are the following:

We would like to announce to all that our Chapter recently received a UNICO Chapter Achievement Award for receiving over 1500 points last year. We are very proud.

1) The Chapter sponsored a Saddle Brook UNICO Street Feast in early October. This event was a major success. The feast was very well attended by the citizens of our Community. Every one enjoyed themselves. We were able to generate new membership and our name has been established better than we could have expected.

2) A group of our members attend the New York Columbus Day parade.

3) The Chapter had a full table at the NJ, NY, PA Meet The President. Past National President Sal Mangano was the chair of this wonderful event.

4) Six of members attended the Eastern Regional Meeting in Newport, Rhode Island.

5) We recently entertained our National President, Richard D'Arminio at a Chapter Meeting.



From left: Allan Focarino, Joe Nasello, Lou Verilli, Lou D'Arminio and Ed Ebel.



From left: Sal Mangano, Allan Focarino, Garfield Chapter President; Jerry Taylor, Joe and Marilyn Nasello.



From left: Ann Taylor, Ashley Nasello, Marilyn Nasello and Joe Nasello. The two little girls are Ann's grandchildren.

BETHLEHEM, PA



From left: John Ferri, Michael Guerierere, Notre Dame High; Marisia Iannelli, Bethlehem Catholic High; Brenna McCornac, Liberty High; Natalie Rold, Freedom High; Rachel Petraglia, Saucon Valley High and Gus Concilio, Chapter President.



Columbus Day Celebration Wreath laying at the Columbus Statue in Rose Garden, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. From left: Gus Concilio, Jack Spirk and Leonard Verrastro.



Chapter President Anthony Iasiello being sworn in as President by UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko.

MONTVILLE, NJ

Turkeys 4 U

On November 22, 2014, the Turkeys 4 U program once again purchased \$12,000 (approximately 825) turkeys for Thanksgiving to be distributed to churches, food pantries and individuals in need in our area. This year because of the negative economic environment and unemployment the need to help has increased. With the assistance and guidance of Montville UNICO, students from primarily Kinnelon High School and some from Montville, purchased turkeys from Mennella's Poultry Farm and distributed them directly to the Father English Food Center, Interfaith Food Pantry, Kinnelon Health Department, St. Ann's Church and St. Peter's Church in Parsippany, Montville Schools, and needy Montville residents. Montville UNICO also provided \$2000 in food vouchers in addition to the turkeys.

The Turkeys 4 U program was started in 2001 by a Kennelon High School student and has continued annually to assist individuals at Thanksgiving. It is completely a student endeavor. Students learn business practices and responsibility and any money raised by their solicitation is 100% distributed through the program. Montville UNICO Foundation is the conduit by which tax free donations are made. Donations to the program can be made to Montville UNICO Foundation, PO Box 788, Montville, New Jersey 07045.



Students gather for a picture prior to distributing the turkeys.

HAVE YOU FILED YOUR 990 WITH THE IRS?

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



From left: Raritan Valley Chapter President Joyce Walker with newly installed members Diane Pearly, Jackie Puzio, Annette DelRocco, Elaine Costa and Deacon John Pacifico did the honors.



Raritan Valley Chapter President Joyce Walker (l) and Gerry Ciccerio (r) present Laurie Richmond (c), founder of the Elle Foundation with a check for \$1168 from the Harvest Moon Dance fund-raiser that benefited Laurie's Foundation and other UNICO charities.

EAST LONGMEADOW, MA



The East Longmeadow Chapter continued its 27 year tradition of Porketta dinners. The money raised provides for local area high school scholarships.

SCRANTON, PA



The UNICO Foundation of the Scranton Chapter was honored by the Association of Fund-raising Professionals Northeastern PA Chapter as the 2014 'Outstanding Foundation' at their recent award luncheon.



Members of the Scranton Chapter recently met to finalize plans for the "Celebrating Guardia dei Lombardi" photo exhibit. The exhibit will coincide with a formal sister city declaration between Scranton and Guardia dei Lombardi, Italy. From left: Chris DiMattio, UNICO National Past National President; Mary Marrara, UNICO Scranton Chapter President; Stephanie Longo and Annie Longo.



Scranton Chapter members volunteered at the St. Joseph's Center Summer Festival Pizza Fritta Stand. From left: Patti Montalbano, Pat Yanni, Phil Marrara, Susan Marullo, Bill Waerhouse, Palma Yanni, Jack DeLeo, John Trapani and Bob Montalbano.

SAVE COLUMBUS DAY

Christopher Columbus has become the poster boy for all the evils of the new world. Many of the evils, such as slavery, cannibalism, torturing and human sacrificing was in the Americas long before the arrival of Columbus!

There are groups in the United States that are advocating that the Columbus Day holiday should be replaced by a celebration of the cultural and racial richness of the Americas. They also demand that federal, state, and local authorities begin the removal of anti-Indian icons throughout the country. Their focus is to remove Columbus statues and his name on street names, public parks, and any other public object that honors Columbus.

This year alone the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota designated the second Monday of October, the federal Columbus Day holiday, as Indigenous Peoples Day. Other cities are also renaming or replacing Columbus Day. Some states such as Alaska, Hawaii, and Oregon, do not observe Columbus Day at all.

At the UNICO National Convention in Florida of this year, the delegation refused to go to Minneapolis in 2017 because of removal of Columbus Day.

In Seattle, Washington a resolution passed unanimously that celebrates

the contributions and culture of Native Americans and the indigenous community in Seattle on the second Monday in October, the same day as the federally recognized Columbus Day.

UNICO, the Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition and other Italian American organization contacted the mayor and council with no avail. Andre’ DiMino was interviewed about Seattle eliminating Columbus Day on The Steve Malzberg Show and what happened in Minneapolis/UNICO. On October 17, 2014, I was interviewed on WBUT/ WLER FM Pittsburg Radio.

We also contacted Councilmember Nick Licata, who is Italian-American. He stated, “He didn’t see the legislation as taking something away, but rather allowing everyone to celebrate a new day where everyone’s strength is recognized.”

My response was, “Why the 2nd Monday in October? Why not the 1st or 3rd Monday”? I also reminded him that the entire month of November is Native American Month!

I asked if he and the City Council are aware that the City was named after Chief Seattle, a leader and warrior who ambushed and defeated groups of enemy raiders coming up the Green River from

the Cascade foothills, and attacked the Chimakum and the S’Klallam tribes living on the Olympic Peninsula. Like many of his contemporaries, he owned slaves captured during his raids.

Slaves and slavery were central to the Northwestern tribes. The Northwest Coast economies needed them not only for their labor but also for their value as major items of exchange.

Few Americans are aware that members of the Five Civilized Tribes - the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, and Seminoles also had slaves. Like their counterparts in the South, Indian slaveholders feared slave revolts. Those fears came true in 1842 when slaves in the Cherokee Nation made a daring dash for freedom.

If we are to quote history, it must be fairly stated that wars, the conquest of people, torture, and slavery, was not practiced by western civilization alone but by all the people of the world, both the old world and, yes, the new world.

So how can we judge people in history by the standard that we have at the present time!

By Manny Alfano
Anti-Bias Chair

Dr. Di Giovanni was “An expert on Columbus” as the “Book of Buffs-World of Almanacs” lists him.

The book was originally written in the late 1980s, but Dr. Di Giovanni passed away on July 21, 1986 before completing this task. It was finally published in 1991, through the initiative of the “Columbus Explorers Inc.” of San Gabriel, California. it was a fitting tribute to the great Navigator on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary of his discovery. This book should become required reading in all Italian Study programs.

The most important fact about Columbus remains. His discovery changed the world forever. He should be remembered for this alone.

By Sal Mangano
Past National President

Even though there were many celebrations throughout the country, the revisionists are still at work trying to discredit the history of the Great Navigator. It has become fashionable to criticize Columbus for his alleged improper treatment of the Native Americans who inhabited the lands he discovered.

It is certainly true that they were mistreated by the Europeans who colonized the new world. To blame this completely on Columbus is totally unfair and untrue.

First and foremost, in all his writings, his logs and his letters to the Royal Court of Spain, he spoke with respect and admiration for the people that were found living on the island of Hispaniola.

Let me quote some words from the book CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS, His Life and Discoveries, by Dr. Mario DiGiovanni, Past National President, who served as National President of UNICO in 1962.

On page 123, paragraph one, Columbus

states: “I want the Natives to develop a friendly attitude towards us because I know that they are a people who can be made free and converted to our holy faith, more by love than force.”

On page 330, paragraph 3; it reads: the Indians at first trade peacefully, but the sailors, a greedy and dissolute set of men, committed innumerable outrages. This provoked the Indians to break the peace. Columbus who always treated the natives with kindness and respect, tried to ease their wrath and bring peace among the factions but without success

These statements are based on facts. They are not the imagination of the author. They have been documented under footnotes in the book. This book is no longer in publication but it can be found on EBay or other internet sites for very reasonable prices. I own two books myself. I will give them to my grandchildren to read at the proper time.

COMUNICO SUBMISSION RULES AND GUIDELINES

The following are ComUNICO Rules that must be strictly adhered to in order for a Chapter and/or a Committee’s submissions to be included in an issue of ComUNICO:

1. Each Chapter is limited to 300 words per issue. This includes the number of words in a column and captions.

2. The only titles to be included in captions are for National Officers and Chapter Presidents. Do not identify other Chapter Officers by title.

3. If more than 10 people appear in a picture, do not identify each of them.

4. Abbreviations are not to be used. The only title to be abbreviated is Vice President (VP).

5. All articles and captions are to be submitted in Times New Roman font, 11 font size and in black.

6. Photo File Name should be identifiable to the corresponding caption.

7. A Chapter is allowed a maximum of 6 pictures per issue for a regular event.

8. All award recipients (ie... Scholarship, Brian Piccolo) should be included in one picture. Do not send multiple pictures from an event with one recipient per picture.

9. Only pictures attached to an e-mail will be accepted. Pictures embedded in an e-mail will be returned to the Chapter and not included.

10. All submissions should be sent to comunico@unico.org. Submissions sent to any other office e-mail address will not be included.

11. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 PM on the designated day.

12. Photos coming in after a holiday will not be included in the next issue, if deemed to be untimely. ComUNICO should reflect the current time of year.

13. Articles cannot contain copyrighted materials. All articles must be original and completely written by the person submitting the article. An article compiled from information that was cut and pasted from other sources is considered plagiarism.

The following are ComUNICO Guidelines for a Chapter to follow:

1. Photos should be sent in landscape not portrait form.

2. Do not send in blurry pictures.

3. Review all submissions prior to sending for grammar and punctuation.

The Deadline for the April 2015 issue of ComUNICO is Monday, March 9, 2015

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CARBONDALE, PA



The Carbondale Chapter recently installed two new members. From left: John Lemoncelli, Kitty Golin and Chapter President Brian Durkin.



The Carbondale Chapter held its Stuffed Pepper Dinner at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Hall. Pictured are just some of the members who helped.



The Carbondale Chapter held its first annual Ladies' Day Out at the Best Western Pioneer Plaza Hotel in Carbondale. The event was a huge success.



The Carbondale Chapter recently laid a wreath at the Christopher Columbus statue in Memorial Park.

SPARTA, NJ



The Sparta Chapter donated turkeys to five local food banks in time for Thanksgiving. From left: Ken Carafello, John Campbell, Bob Lombardo, and Glen Vetrano.

MEDIA, PA

Media Announces New Member

The Media Chapter would like to proudly announce our newest member Paul Guidone. Paul recently joined the Media Chapter and we all are extremely excited in the enthusiasm, intelligence, and energetic attitude that Paul brings to our Chapter.

PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ

The Passaic Valley Chapter presented their Annual Study Abroad Grant to Emilia D'Albero, Italian Major and Amici Club President at Montclair University. Along with Emilia was Angelene Agresta Treasurer of the Amici Club at Montclair University. They were both sworn in as new members of the Chapter.



From left: Joseph Agresti, Past National President; Cav. Mary Ann Re, from the Coccia Institute; John Barbieri, Passaic Valley Chapter President; Angelene Agresta, Emilia D'Albero and her mother and Steve Pelonero, New Jersey District IV Governor.

MONTCLAIR STATE



Participants gather after the "Teaching Italian Symposium/Workshop" at Montclair State University. From left: Past National President Joseph Agresti, Elisa Coccia, Elda Coccia, Lawrence Inserra III, Kristine Massari, Professor Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean, John D. Calandra Italian American Institute; Cav. Mary Ann Re, PhD; Past National President John Alati, Professor Teresa Fiore, Inserra Endowed Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies at Montclair State University; Cav. Uff. Joseph Sciamie, President, Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations.

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SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD, NJ

Scotch Plains - Fanwood Chapter
Columbus Day Ceremony

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter together with the Italian American Club of Scotch Plains and the Knights of Columbus Council #5730, held a Columbus Day ceremony recently in the town hall of Scotch Plains.

After a great welcome by Sal Perillo, the Invocation was given by Deacon Bob Guerske of St. Bartholomew's. Tom Donatelli led the pledge to the Flag and Isabelle DiDario of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School sang the American National Anthem. The Italian National Anthem was led by Romano DelRoio, representing the Italian American Club and who also spoke on his time coming to the country.

Grand Knight Seth McQuillan of Council #5730 spoke on the origins of the Knights of Columbus and Father McGivny. Chapter President Paul Raphael spoke on the importance of keeping the tradition of Columbus Day alive and then introduced the two winners of the

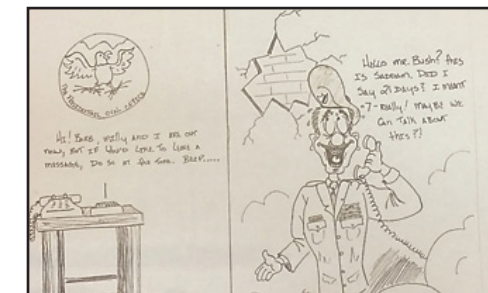
Columbus Day Essay Contest. The winners were Tiffany Acosta and Amanda Chacha, both 7th graders from St. Bartholomew Academy in Scotch Plains. Both girls read their essays and were also given an award for their efforts.

Kevin Glover, the Mayor of Scotch Plains gave a well-received speech extolling the qualities of the founding Italian Americans of this Scotch Plains generation. The main guest speaker was New Jersey District X Governor Courtney Villani. Her very astute words and memories of family settings were very appropriate for the day.

Representatives of the three organizations then presented a floral wreath at the Columbus Monument. After the closing prayer by Deacon Bob Guerske, Sal Perillo introduced the Westfield Community Band Brass Ensemble who entertained those that were present with selected Italian music. The Italian American club provided sandwiches and water, UNICO provided coffee and donuts. Special thanks was given to organizers Carmen Ponzio and Jeff Blanck, both members of the Chapter.



Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter member Ernie Hernandez recently had his art displayed at the Scotch Plains Library in a display called "52 Reasons to Love a Vet Gallery Exhibit". Ernie who served during the Gulf War, would often draw about his experiences and many of his cartoons were featured in the base newspaper.



NEWPORT, RI COLUMBUS DAY WREATH LAYING



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor freezing cold could keep UNICO from honoring Christopher Columbus. A contingent of UNICANS braved the elements the day after the Eastern Regional Meeting in Newport, Rhode Island to conduct a wreath laying ceremony at the beautiful Columbus Monument in that city. Participating in the event was Mille Grazie Award recipient Gene Valicenti, News Anchor and Radio Host as well as members of the Newport Garden Club who maintain the monument.

UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Columbus Day Chair Ralph Contini (in Columbus garb), Anti Bias Chair Manny Alfano, UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino and Valicenti all spoke about the importance of commemorating Columbus to Italian Americans and America.

Save the Date!

Mid Year Board Meeting - March 5-8, 2015

DoubleTree Downtown-Memphis, Tennessee



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| ● Knotts Berry Farms 25 miles | ● Hollywood Park Casino 25 miles, |
| ● Discovery Science Center 14 miles. | |

Tuesday - 7/28/15 Temecula Winery Tour and Tasting with Light Lunch

Questions: Frank C. Paolercio

908-531-4379

Paolercio8@verizon.net

In Memoriam

MARIO ALBINI



Mario Albini, 93, of Waterbury, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 24, 2014. He was the widower of Mary C. Albini.

Mario was born in Waterbury on August 11, 1921.

He was a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association and Past President of the Waterbury Funeral Directors Association. He was a former Waterbury Police Commissioner and member of the Silas Bronson Library Board of Directors.

Proud of his Italian heritage and the opportunities afforded to many Italian immigrants, Mario was a member of the American Committee on Italian Migration, and was invited to the White House where he and his wife met President John F. Kennedy.

He was the District Governor of UNICO National, Past President and member of the Board of Directors of the UNICO Chapter of Waterbury and was honored as Waterbury's Italian Mayor of the Day.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to either: St. Vincent DePaul Shelter, 114 Benedict St., Waterbury, Connecticut 06706 or VITAS Innovative Hospice Care, 199 Park Road Ext., Suite 102, Middlebury, Connecticut 06762.

For more info or to send E-Condolences visit: www.chaseparkwaymemorial.com

WAYNE, NJ

Wayne Chapter News

Our Chapter finished out 2014 with some important events, and planning is well underway for 2015. We installed a new member, Vincent Albanese, and would like to formally welcome him to the UNICO family. Continuing in our tradition of helping those in need in our community, we had a special guest join us. Six year old Lily LaRue Anderson, a little girl diagnosed with Diffuse

Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG) was on hand with her father Brian Anderson, who graciously accepted a \$1000 donation from our Chapter to help with medical bills. We offer Lily and her family our thoughts and prayers at this very difficult time. More information about Lily's condition and her journey can be found at www.facebook.com/lilylarue-anderson. In addition to helping Lily and her family, our members donated their time and efforts to help out the Wayne food bank. We braved the cold and collected many food items as well as money and donated it to the very appreciative food bank. Many families in our community utilize the food bank on a daily basis, and our Chapter is very pleased to be able to help them out in any way.

At our December meeting, elections were held for our new officers. The new officers are as follows: President Anthony DeGennaro; First Vice President Joe Zisa; Second Vice President Steve Calantone; Treasurer Bill Bianculli; Secretary Brian Rasa and Sergeant-at-Arms Connie Ferrigno. Please congratulate our new officers when you see them! Also, a word of thanks to our outgoing officers, particularly Steve Calantone, who did a wonderful job serving as our president the last two years.

Our Chapter will be hosting another Heritage Day event with the help of Andre' DiMino. Last year's event was very successful in growing our Chapter and we hope this year's event will repeat that success. The event will be held on Sunday, February 8th starting at 2 pm. The location is a local firehouse located at 130 Jackson Avenue in Wayne, New Jersey. If you have any questions about this event or any other topic, please visit our website at www.wayneunico.org.



From left: Anthony DeGennaro, Joe Zisa, Brian Anderson, Lily Anderson and Steve Calantone.



From left: Joe Zisa, Vincent Albanese and Steve Calantone.

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 recently which took place at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield. This is the nineteenth year of the Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame where former baseball and softball players (men and women), as well as contributors and coaches 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 Hall of Fame 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.



Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2014 inductees from left: Glen Boyer, Kate Light, Matt Torra, Nancy Ringer and Dave Eisenberg.



**2015 UNICO NATIONAL
Mid Year Board Meeting March 6 - 8, 2015**

Doubletree by Hilton, Memphis Downtown
185 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103

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Chapter: _____ District: _____ Office: _____
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**UNICO NATIONAL
2015 MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**The Dates for the Mid-Year Board Meeting are:
Friday, March 6th thru Sunday, March 8th, 2015**

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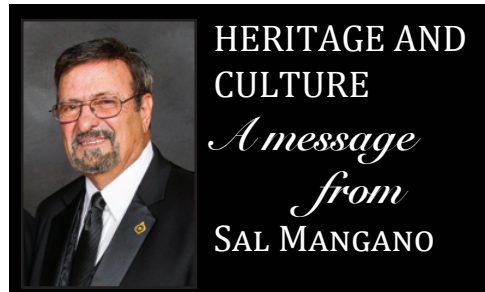
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Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail - uniconational@unico.org

HERITAGE AND CULTURE



HERITAGE AND CULTURE

A message from SAL MANGANO

The Italian Nativity Scene!

In Italy traditionally, the main focus of Christmas decorations is the Nativity scene, Crèche, Presepe or Presepio in Italian. Every church has a presepio and they can be found in squares, shops, and other public areas. Displays often go beyond the manger scene and in many instances may include a representation of the entire village. Presepe are usually set up starting December 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, but some are unveiled on Christmas Eve. They are dismantled after January 6, The Feast of Epiphany.

Many people set up a Christmas crèche in their homes as we did in my home when I was a child. Figurines for nativity scenes are made in many parts of Italy, with some of the best coming from Naples and Sicily.

Although the presepio is usually set up before Christmas, the baby Jesus is added on Christmas Eve.

The Nativity scene is said to have originated with St. Francis of Assisi in 1223, when he constructed a nativity scene in a cave in the town of Greccio and held Christmas Eve mass and a nativity pageant there. The town of Greccio still reenacts this event each year.

Carving figurines for nativity scenes started in the late 13th century when Arnolfo di Cambio was commissioned to carve marble nativity figures for the first Rome Jubilee held in the year, 1300. That nativity scene can still be seen in the museum of Santa Maria Maggiore Church in Rome.

These are some of the larger displays of Presepe you can see in Italy:

Naples is the best city to visit for their presepi. Hundreds of nativity scenes are erected throughout the city. Some crèches are very elaborate and may be handmade or use antique figures. Starting December 8, the Church of Gesù Nuovo, in Piazza del Gesù, displays nativity scene art work from the Neapolitan Nativity Scenes Association. The street Via San Gregorio Armeno in central Naples is filled with displays and stalls selling Nativity scenes all year.

Vatican City erects a huge presepe in St. Peter's Square for Christmas and is usually unveiled on Christmas Eve.

In Rome some of the biggest and most elaborate presepi are found in Piazza del Popolo, Piazza Euclide, Santa Maria in Trastevere, and Santa Maria d'Aracoeli, on the Capitoline Hill. A life-size nativity scene is set up in Piazza Navona where a Christmas marketplace is also set up. The Church of Saints Cosma e Damiano, by the main entrance to the Roman Forum, has a large nativity scene from Naples on display all year.

Bethlehem in the Grotto - an elaborate life-size nativity scene is created each year and transported to a beautiful grotto in the Abruzzo commune of Stiffe, about 20 miles from L'Aquila. The scene is illuminated and can be visited during December.

Each major city and all the small villages in Italy display large Nativity scenes in and around the center of town. In most cases there is no opposition to these Precepe, as here in America, because Italy is a Catholic Country and people accept the scenes as part of their tradition.

How enlightening!

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton Chapter welcomed new members at the September Membership Meeting held at Al Mia Amore in Dickson City.



The Scranton Chapter welcomed new members at the October Membership Meeting held at Arcaro and Genell's in Old Forge.



Lackawanna County Commissioner and Scranton UNICO member Patrick M. O'Malley presented a proclamation to Frank Pazzaglia, Scranton UNICO member, in recognition of being named Columbus Day "Man of the Year."

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All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible

PLAINFIELDS', NJ

The Plainfields' Chapter hosted its Annual Pig Roast at the Italian American Club. The event was a huge success as well over 200 people attended the fundraiser in Scotch Plains.



From left: Renato Biribin, Courtney Villani, Connie Kozachek, Bob Bengivenga, Dominick Nicastro and Lina Esposito.



Plainfields' UNICO members at work in the kitchen that fed more than 200 hungry Pig Roast visitors. From left: Fran Gervasi, Lina Esposito and Robert Bengivenga.



A view of the room.

CLARK, NJ



Clark UNICO Feast Thank You dinner. From left: Greg Menza and Moreno Rimmaudo enjoy the festivities at the dinner with volunteers.



The Clark UNICO Christmas party was held at Amiche's. Fifty members joined in on the fun including dinner, gifts and of course Santa, played by Henry Trani, shown here with Clark Chapter President Ralph Bernardo.



Clark Chapter members enjoy the party. From left: Joe Arancio, Fran Parisi, Chapter President Ralph Bernardo, Anna Pace and Santa Henry Trani.

VERONA, NJ



Verona Chapter Member Larry Colombo poses in front of the Chapter sponsored "Bounce Around" at Verona's 18th Annual Fair in the Square.

Happy Valentine's Day!

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ

The Raritan Valley Chapter recently held its annual Harvest Moon Dinner Dance. It was a big success! Not only a great fundraiser for the Chapter, it benefited The Elle Foundation, which grants final wishes for children with a recurrence of cancer. The night was filled with music, food, friends, dancing and a basket raffle.



NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV



UNICO National Officers and New Jersey District IV Officers are pictured with the National President.



The Belleville Chapter.



The Cedar Grove Chapter.



The Passaic Valley Chapter.



The Pequannock Chapter.



The Bloomfield Chapter.



The Passaic-Clifton Chapter.



Chris sings the National Anthem.



The youngest guest enjoys time on the dance floor.



And the Band plays on!

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV



Carol Cupoli tells Santa what she would like for Christmas.



Santa gets a much appreciated hug from one of the guests.



From left: Past National President Joe Agresti, Carol and Robert Cupoli and Past National President Paul Alongi.



Santa struts his stuff!



Santa and a guest show off their dance moves!



The party's over!

“Service Above Self”



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Well- this is my first “V” Foundation report in ComUNICO! I think our first order of business should be to thank Frank Paolercio for doing such a great job over the years with this organization. It will be a difficult but challenging job to continue his work!

Thus far, UNICO District and Chapter fund-raising for Jimmy “V” has us off to a great start! The New Jersey District XI Bocce Series at the end of September was a great success. Many Chapters from several states participated. It was a day for fun, food, sport, camaraderie, and charity. Try not to miss next year’s Bocce series-everyone needs to see this event at least once!

Following this, the Passaic Valley and Woodcliff Lake Chapters put together a Karaoke Night at the VFW in Clifton, New Jersey. If you were not able to attend, you missed several songs by the “Three Tenors” (Dominick Nicastro, Carmine Campanile and me) and other “local talent.”

Our Foundation has also been blessed with several other donations, among which were from our own National President Richard D’Arminio and Past National President Paul Alongi.

UNICO National was represented at several non-UNICO cancer functions. I attended the Madeline Fiadini LoRe Foundation for Cancer Prevention Gala in Jersey City where my wife and I were treated royally by representatives from the Bayonne Chapter and Frank LoRe, Charter President of the new Highland Beach Chapter. More recently, thirteen UNICO “representatives” went to Madison Square Garden to attend the Jimmy “V” College Basketball Tournament.

I am certain that 2015 will bring more fun and funds for the “V” Foundation. New York District II has a Gala event planned for late winter or early spring. New Jersey District IV will be having their annual bowl-a-thon. In addition, New Jersey District X is planning a “3-on-3” basketball tournament to benefit the “V” Foundation in June.

Most of us are familiar with the “three things you should do every day” and the “don’t give up” portions of Jimmy Valvano’s farewell ESPN speech. Please also remember- he embellished his Italian heritage throughout that famous speech. This heritage is our special connection to the “V” Foundation.

Thank you for all you do to help the fight against cancer. Please keep the “V” in mind when formulating your 2015 budget and fund-raising. No gift is too large or too small!!

Mille Grazie!!!



KEYSTONE. PA

Keystone Chapter Charter Member Frank Cimini recently celebrated his One-Hundredth birthday. A “meet and greet” reception was held in his honor. Frank stood and greeted the hundreds of guests who were personally appreciative of their connection to him. On this occasion, representatives of the Keystone Chapter presented Frank with the “Extraordinary Member” recognition certificate.



From left: James Mack, President; Mary Mack, Mark McDade, Frank Cimini, Mary Rinaldi, Michele McDade, Claire Maldonato, also a centenarian; Tom Carlucci, Annette Profera and Joe Cimini.

The Keystone Chapter recently held a coloring contest in honor of Christopher Columbus with the second grades at Dunmore Elementary Center and Saint Mary’s Elementary School. Each of the winners received a \$25 Toys R Us Gift Card and their entries were individually framed.



From left: Chapter President James Mack and coloring contest winner Camryn Kincl of Saint Mary’s Grade School. Second row from left: Mark McDade and Marilyn Vitali.



Pictured with UNICO representatives are the Dunmore Elementary Center second grade students who won the Keystone Chapter Coloring Contest. From left: Mark McDade, Chahat Patel, Abigail Kocher Venton, Jack Maloney, Max Forgione and Anthony Gambo, Marilyn Vitali and James Mack, Keystone President.



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The Voice of UNICO NATIONAL
ComUNICO

The DEADLINE for the April 2015 Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, March 9, 2015

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

ComUNICO will only accept high resolution digital photos attached to an e-mail and test in MS Word as an attachment or in the body of an e-mail.

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Save the Date!

Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting

March 5 - 8, 2015

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National Membership and Retention Chair Francine Nido welcomes everyone to the Connecticut/Massachusetts Meet the President event held in Torrington.



From left: Past National President Joe Agresti, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Past National President Tony Braico and at the Connecticut/Massachusetts Meet the President event.



From left: Terri Melo, Karen Arborio, Morris Borea, Francine Nido and Lou Gelada.



Past First Lady Terri Melo and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



UNICO National President swears in new Waterbury Chapter member Joe Stango.



Avon and Farmington Chapter members at the Meet the President event.



Waterbury Chapter is represented at the Connecticut/Massachusetts Meet the President event. The event was hosted by the Torrington Chapter in honor of the upcoming 90th year of service.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio greets Christine, Patti and Bill Mascetti. Bill and Patti have served as the Torrington Chapter President and Christina is currently the President, believed to be the only family in UNICO history to have a father, mother and daughter serve as President.



Pittsfield presents to Torrington Chapter President Christina Mascetti a basket in congratulations of Torrington's upcoming 90th year.



From left: George Pollick, Dominick Sacco, Steve Romano, Wayne Ditore and Brian Guarco.



UNICO National Second President Tom Vaughan reads a proclamation to Torrington Chapter President Christina Mascetti congratulating Torrington on its upcoming 90th Anniversary.



From left: Bill Mascetti, Brian Guarco, Mario Giovanucci and Bob Donnatelli.



Torrington Chapter President Christina Mascetti welcomes UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio to the Connecticut/Massachusetts Meet the President event.



Lia Ursini and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



Past National Presidents Tony Braico and Joe Agresti.



From left: Christina Mascetti, George Pollick and Rick Meleski.



From left: Dominick Sacco, Wayne Ditore, Richard D'Arminio, Steve Romano and Brian Guarco.



Morris Borea presents the National President with a gift.



Patti Mascetti and Terri Melo.



From left: Bob Donnatelli, Mario Giovannucci and Elyse Buonomo.



From left: Karen Arborio, Morris Borea and UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan.



Larry Ardito presents the National President with a gift.



Geno Avenoso presents the National President with a gift.



Anthony Lancia presents the National President with a gift.

SPARTA, NJ

The Sparta Chapter helps sponsor a trailer to be used by Sussex County 200 Club. The Chapter is proud to be one of the sponsors of this trailer. The 200 Clubs' primary mission is to provide immediate financial assistance to the families of first responders who lose their lives in the line of duty. "It is a pleasure for us to be able to help support their efforts" said Sparta UNICO President Ken Carafello.



SCOTCH PLAINS - FANWOOD, NJ



On Friday, November 28th, members of the Scotch Plains - Fanwood Chapter worked with members of the St. Bartholomew Church to get the Christmas Creche ready for Advent.



The Scotch Plains - Fanwood Chapter welcomes a new member. From left: Paul Raphael, Rob Nardone and Alfonso Gialanella.

KEYSTONE, PA



The Keystone Chapter was well represented at the Annual Lackawanna County Courthouse Flag-raising. Initiated by Keystone UNICO three years ago, it has become a tradition, with several Italian Heritage organizations invited. From left are Patrick O'Malley, Mary DePalma, Ted Riggi, Mary Rinaldi, Jim Mack, Chapter President; Tom Carlucci, Val Riggi, and Mark McDade, Pennsylvania District II Governor.

QUEENSBORO, NY



Queensboro UNICO Executives present a 15,000 check to The Independence Fund in support of our brave Veterans and their service to our great nation! The presentation was held at Queensboro's Annual Christmas Party. From left: Phil Joseph, Mike Mucaria, Veteran Bryan Dilberian and Frank Fabrico.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY



On behalf of Greater Binghamton UNICO, Donna Carlini, far right, presents a monetary donation to the members of the Endwell Fire Department. We appreciate all that you do for our Community!

It is the 60th Year of "Home for the Holidays" at the Roberson Museum and Science Center in Binghamton. Hundreds of Christmas trees are decorated by non-profits, community members, local businesses and organizations. These trees are found throughout the Museum, Science Center, and Roberson Mansion. This year, Greater Binghamton UNICO was able to decorate a UNICO/Italian themed tree, under the guidance of Angie Stephens-Skorko. Angie and her Committee did an outstanding job of representing UNICO and OUR Italian Culture. A must see if you are in the area! BUON NATALE!



Angie Stephens-Skorko with the UNICO Christmas Tree.

PLAINFIELDS', NJ

Father Alphonse Stephenson, conductor of The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, was awarded UNICO's Americanism Award this year. The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO presented him the plaque at the Church of the Sacred Heart in South Plainfield, where Father Alphonse performed their Christmas Concert.



From left: John D'Andrea, Robert Bengivenga, Mary Timko, Father Stephenson and Grace Bertucci.

KEARNY, NJ

KEARNY CHAPTER HOSTS CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Friday, December 5, 2014, the Kearny Chapter hosted a Christmas Party for Mentally and Physically Challenged Individuals at the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center (LCCC). Working with Pathways to Independence, the Kearny Chapter and the Kearny Ladies of UNICO provided 150 guests with food, music and gifts from Santa. Chapter members decorated the hall, served food to the guests and also served as Santa's helpers. Four high school students: Arianna and Giovanna Scrimo, Michael Rozzelle and Jared Machado assisted the Chapter with the party. LCCC members also volunteered to help serve guests at the party and assisted in running the party.

Chapter President Lou Pandolfi and Kearny Mayor Alberto Santos welcomed everyone to the party. Councilman Albino Cardoso also attended the party. Applebee's of Kearny, once again, provided all the hot food for the party and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fiore of Bedrock Stone generously provided the gifts that were distributed by Santa. Additional community support for the party came from the Kearny Ladies of UNICO, Coccia Realty, Hudson City Savings Bank, Kearny Federal Savings, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Tully of Kearny Shop-Rite and Mr. Lawrence Inserra of Shop-Rite of Lyndhurst.

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



From left: Libby McInnis, JoAnn Mitchell, Pearl Yaszczemski, Angela Varano and Theresa Trucillo serve food to the party's guests.

WATERBURY, CT

The Waterbury Chapter hosted a special intention mass in memory of all deceased UNICO members and their families in conjunction with All Souls Day. This was the inaugural launch of the memorial mass. The mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The celebrant for the mass was Reverend Father Ronald Ferraro, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and chaplain of the Waterbury Chapter. The event was organized by Bianca Daniels and Louis C. Gelada Jr., Secretary and Vice President, respectively, of the Waterbury Chapter.

Immediately following the mass, Chapter members as well as parishioners were invited to gather in the Church Hall for coffee and light refreshments.



From left: Louis C. Gelada Jr., Bianca Daniels and Father Ronald Ferraro.

The Waterbury Chapter recently swore in a new member. Chapter Vice President Louis C. Gelada Jr. and immediate Past President Joanne D'Angelo had the privilege of installing new member Rosanne Martino into the Chapter.



Rosanne Martino and Louis C. Gelada Jr.



Arianna (l) and Giovanna (r) Scrimo, students at Kearny High School helped by serving soda to the guests.



Santa makes his entrance.



Santa and his helpers enjoy a photo-op.

EAST LONGMEADOW, MA



The East Longmeadow Chapter held its annual Christmas party for senior citizens on December 5. Over 144 senior citizens attended a wonderful dinner and entertainment.



John Alati and Joe Marino.



From left: Mark McDade, Lou Pandolfi and Al Somma.



From left: Ray Shupak, Joe Verdone and Ken Carafello.



From left: Sal Mangano, Sal Benvenuti and Allan Focarino.



From left: Bob and Laura Kievit and Andre' DiMino.



From left: Sue Anzelmo and Judy and Frank Albolino.



From left: Maria Lombardino, Mary Basile and Bob Montanino.



Elyse Buonomo and Phyllis Coldebella.



From left: Mack McDade, Tom Carlucci, Richard D'Arminio and Ray Tropeano.



New Jersey District VII.



New Jersey District IV.



Frank Greco and Ralph Contini.



Shirley Tokarz and Barbara Laborim.



From left: Frank Licato, Anthony Bengivenga and Bob Tarte.



From left: Nino Randazzo, Dominick Nicastro and Andre' DiMino.



Celeste Pandolfi and Patty Hirsch.



Tom Carlucci and Ray Tropeano.



Dominick Nicastro and Richard D'Arminio.



Sue Carol and Jim Scannelli.



Rosa DiCapua and May D'Arminio.



The Ladies of UNICO.



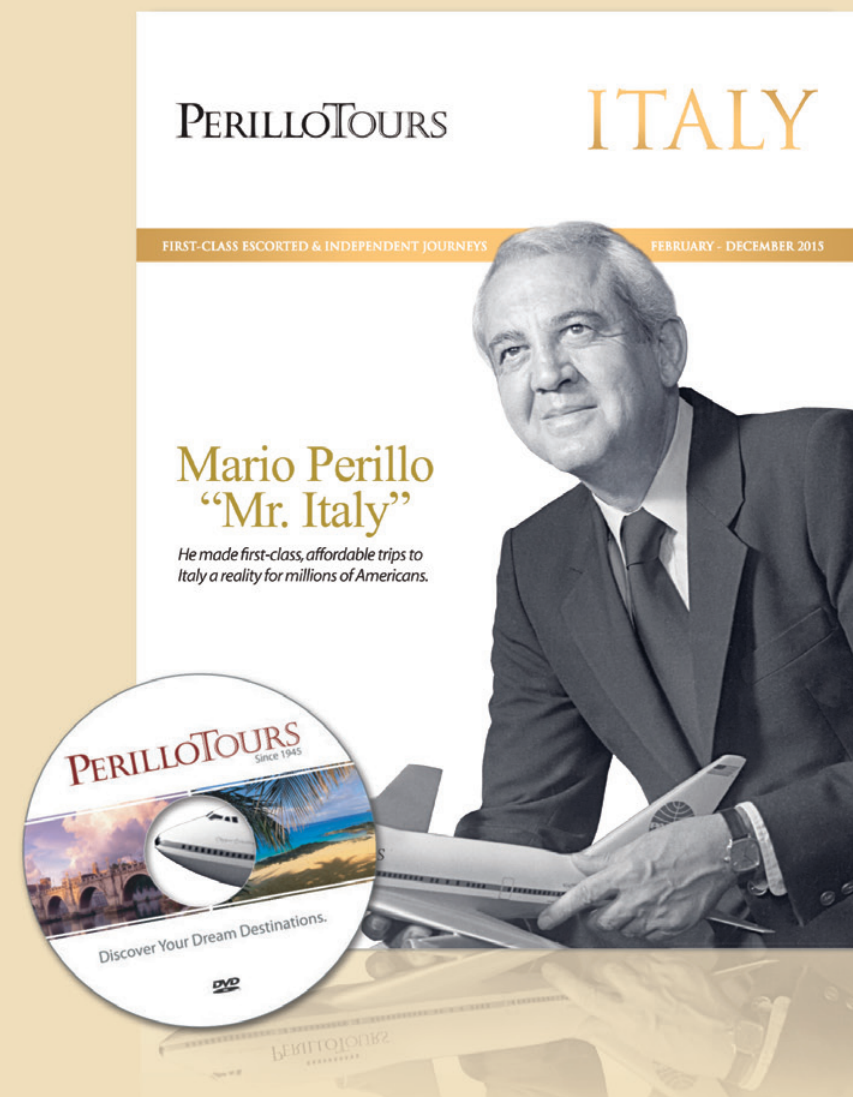
Joe Barone displays his new UNICO hat.



Dominick Nicastro and John Alati.



Joan Tidona and Pat Pelonero.



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AVON, CT



From left: Joe Gentile, Past National President Anthony Braico and Jim Serruta.



Dr. and Mrs. Doug Hope.



From left: James Tancredi and Mr. and Mrs. Greg Van Deusen. Greg serves as Avon Chapter President.



Dr. Thomas Mensi and his wife Laura.



James and Martha Fanelli.

ST. JOE'S H.S. MONTVALE, NJ

For the second year in a row, the ACES were the driving force of a collection of frozen baked ziti before Thanksgiving holiday. A total of 94 trays were collected and distributed to needy families through the Father English Center in Paterson. The Chapter will be running its first major fund-raiser on January 24, 2015 at St. Joseph Regional H. S. in Montvale. A Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament will be held with all proceeds going to the Chapter's charities. For more information visit the Chapter's web site at www.SJRUnico.org or their Facebook page www.Facebook.com/SJRUNICO.



ACES member Vincent Ferrara with his ziti donation prior to freezing!



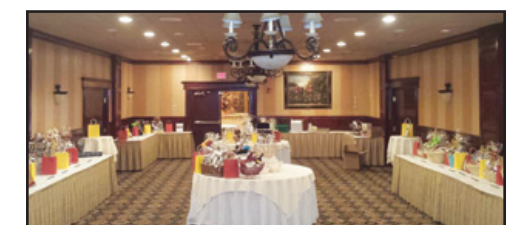
From left: St. Joe's H. S. Montvale Chapter President Robert Kievit, Marge Spataro, Mike Pisano and ACES member Vincent Ferrara attended the Meet the President's Dinner.

MEDIA, PA

3rd Annual Beef and Beer

On Saturday, November 15, 2014, the Media Chapter held its Third Annual Beef and Beer. Approximately 152 family and friends came out and shared this lovely night. It was filled with great laughs, prizes and live music by Sir Rod (Rod Stewart Impersonator) that made people get off their seats and dance. The prizes consist of a 50/50 and approximately 40 different gift baskets.

More importantly, everyone attended because they knew it was all for a great cause. With this event we were able to generate approximately \$5,000 to donate to different charities that the Media Chapter has been donating to for many of years. Thank you to everybody that attended and everyone that helped sponsor this special event.



Overall Photo of the Gift Baskets.



Dancing and Having Fun.



Sir Rod Lighting up The Dance Floor.



National Officers.



New York District II Officers.



National Guests.



Joe Vessio and John Alati.



From left: Manuela D'Arminio, Anna and Al Crecco, Ann Walko and Anthony and Rachel Bengivenga.



The Brookhaven Chapter.



New York District II Governor Joe Corsini present UNICO Nation President Richard D'Arminio with a check.



From left: Joe Corsini, Anthony Stanziale and Ellen Leone.



From left: Liz Hansen, Joe Corsini and Frank Macchio.



The Brookhaven Chapter.



The Brookhaven Chapter.



The Queensboro Chapter.



A Merry Christmas toast to New York District II.



From left: Rose Bowman, Mimi Ren, Phil Joseph, Donna Joseph and Sheila.



From left: Rachel, Rita and Gerard Corsini.



Mr. and Mrs. Al Gentile.



The Brooklyn and Islip/Smithtown Chapters.



From left: Joe Vessio, Joe Corsini and Frank Macchio.



Joe Corsini and Joe Bonventre.



From left: Frank Bianco, Craig and Rosemarie Montalbano and Leo Galante.



Annemarie Giuffre and Diane Picucci.



From left: Michael Rizzotto, Annemarie Giuffre, Diane Picucci and Vivian Rizzotto.



From left: Joe Rudd, Gerard Corsini and William Simi.



The National President selects a raffle winner.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

Several members of Greater Binghamton keep busy making fleece blankets for Veterans Day 2014. Thirty blankets representing members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines were delivered on Veterans Day by member Maria Pezutti. The new blankets owners are residents of The New York State Veterans Home at Oxford.



Pictured: Donna Carlini and her brother-in-law Army SPEC 4 Lawrence Potter with his newly received Army blanket.



What a handsome group of gentlemen!! These humble Veterans are part of Greater Binghamton Chapter. We THANK YOU for your "Service Above Self." We are fortunate to have you in our Organization!! From left: Don Gioia, Professor Frank Cardullo, Robert Stacconi, Jerry Staeuble and Tony Pettinato!!

The monthly meetings of Greater Binghamton include a guest speaker. The past two meetings, we had to look no further than to our own members to expand our knowledge base. Dr. Felix DeSio presented "Italians in Medicine." The following month, Professor Frank Cardullo presented "Italian Scientists and Engineers: From Da Vinci to Today: A Presentation of Love of Heritage." Both distinguished gentlemen captivated the audience.



From left: Professor Frank Cardullo and Dr. Felix DeSio.

FOLiver's Oils & Vinegars partnered with Greater Binghamton to do a fundraiser with the Chapter. Members and guests were able to taste the Oils and Vinegars of FOLiver's, make purchases and share recipes. FOLiver's donated a basket of goodies, and those in attendance were able to purchase raffle tickets. Laurie Adams was the lucky winner of the "Goodie" basket.



From left: Courtney Stees of FOLiver's and Laurie Adams with her Prize Basket.

SOUTHINGTON, CT

Southington UNICO donated \$1,000 to the Salvation Army during the holiday season in order to help fund the town of Southington's food pantry located at Southington Community Services.

The donation has become an annual occurrence in connection with a Salvation Army bell ringing fund-raiser at Southington WalMart, which matches all donations collected during the two-hour event.

According to Community Services Assistant Director Mark Fazzolari, UNICO's donation will help Southington families in myriad ways including the purchase of food and heating oil.

"Southington UNICO is very generous throughout the year to Community Services and the organization's ongoing support is of tremendous benefit to families in

need in our community," said Fazzolari, who is also a UNICO member.

Southington UNICO President and State Representative David Zoni agreed, further noting that the Chapter's members, of which there are more than 80, overwhelmingly support the town's food pantry and its mission.

"This is just one of several donations we make throughout the year to Community Services in order to help those less fortunate," said Zoni. "As a service organization, we are committed to contributing to the well-being of our community."



From left: Southington Community Services Assistant Director Mark Fazzolari, Connecticut State Representative. Rob Sampson, Nick Botsacos, Mike Fasulo and Connecticut State Senator Joe Markley.

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO held its first Annual Bus trip to see the Brooklyn Lights and Cannoli tour. Fifty-one UNICANS and guests enjoyed sandwiches on the bus made by Mrs. Gallo and wine, cookies and snacks were donated by Joe and Andrea Arancio. After touring many blocks of homes in Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, we made a stop at Mona Lisa Bakery for cannoli and coffee. The Clark Chapter treated for the bus. A great time was had by all, but we did miss our Angela. Special thanks to UNICANS Fran Parisi and Anna Pace for coordinating the entire trip.

PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ**UNICO Youth Honor Italian Heritage Month**

Point Pleasant Beach Chapter Aces along with their teacher leader Marena Lobosco welcome Youth member Jeff Bryant to October Italian Heritage Night.

Jeff a 2014 UNICO Scholarship recipient was unable to attend June Awards dinner since he was receiving chemotherapy for a recently diagnosed illness. All Youth Chapter members wore bracelets with his name on it to this event in support of Jeff's determination and courage. All Youth then led adult members and guests in a rendition of Volare, which ironically only the students were able to sing fluently in Italian.

Speakers for the evening were Chapter Italian Heritage Chair Michael Zeke Zaccaro and New Jersey Italian American Commission Chair Robert Di Blasé. Special guests for this event were UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio and First Lady Manuela.

This group of 70 teenagers marched in the Columbus Parade with the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter. They also have plans for a clothing drive and Christmas stockings for residents of Valentine House in addition to most of them attending this Italian Heritage Night Event.



Point Pleasant ACES attend Italian Heritage Night Dinner with their teacher Marena Lobosco and fellow Youth member Jeffrey Bryant.

REHOBOTH AREA, DE**TEA at HARBOR HEALTH**

The Rehoboth Area Chapter sponsored a "tea" at Harbor Health Rehabilitation facility in Lewes. Residents,

staff and UNICO members sang classic and favorite tunes such as "It Had to be You", "When You're Smiling", "That's Amore" and many more.... accompanied by Carol Wolek, accordionist, who graciously donated her time and talent.

The residents were also treated to desserts and "tea" provided by UNICO Rehoboth Area and served by members and the Harbor Health staff.

The event was enjoyed by everyone as a wonderful way to welcome the holiday season.



UNICO Rehoboth Area members and friends lead the residents of Harbor Health in song. From left: Joan Boraski, Marge Cintavey, Aline Palese, Veronica Dannerhoj, Rosemarie Flanders, John Boraski, Carol Wolek and Don Cintavey.



UNICO members Rose Canavan, Mary Louise Bogia, Rose Marie Patin and Marge Cintavey sing along with residents.

HILLSIDE, NJ

Hillside UNICO through the efforts of Chapter President Angelo Bonanno, organized a breakfast thanking veterans for their dedication and sacrifices for our Country.

MARIN, CA

Our holiday dinner was held on December 10, at Marin Joe's in Corte Madera. American Field Service (AFS) gave a presentation on their exchange program and Natalia Derossi from Torino talked about her experience living with an American family and attending high school here. Members brought gifts which were distributed to needy local children.



Norwegian exchange student Vegard Dalen (with glasses) and on his left Italian exchange student Natalia Derossi from Torino.



From left: Ron Benjamin, President; Bill Asiano, Leo Copetta, Gee Kampmeyer and Giulio Boeri.



A rare silence with a room full of Italians eating!



FARMINGTON, CT



Meatball Night is a favorite event for our Chapter. In preparation for our Annual Pasta Dinner, members and their families come together to prepare the meatballs following a recipe from our ancestors. From left: Isabella and Frank Dolce, Doug Alexander, Ray Lavendier, Tom Filomeno and Mary Alexander.



Our 45th Annual Pasta Dinner was enjoyed by friends and families of Farmington UNICO. This year's event was chaired by David DeNuccio. From left: David DeNuccio, Lisa Sweeney and Anna Pizzoferrato.



From left: Geno Avenoso, Luke Howes, Todd Piro and CJ Howes selecting and announcing the names of the lucky raffle prize winners.



Members and their guests celebrated the holiday season at our Christmas Party held at Cugino's of Farmington. At this event, members donate gifts for distribution by The Klingberg Family Center. Ginny Mugavero (l) and Lea Marcello (r) with some of the gifts donated this year.



Enjoying the Christmas Party from left: Lucien and Anne-Marie Dallaire, John and Marilyn Caruso, Lisa Sweeney and Tony Secombe.

ELIZABETH, NJ



Elizabeth UNICO Members Celebrate Memorial Mass at St. Anthony's Church with Deacon Joe Caporaso.



Elizabeth Chapter Members join Executive Director Andre' DiMino for a Christmas Group Photo.



Andre' and Jenny DiMino (seated) enjoy the company of from left: the Abbate's, DiPaola's, Bani's and Chiari's at the Elizabeth Chapter's Christmas Party.

OAKVILLE - WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville - Watertown Chapter hosted its annual pasta dinner for the Watertown Area Association for Special Citizens headed by Rocco Calabrese on Tuesday, December 9th at the VFW on Davis Street in Oakville, Connecticut. About 100 people attended the event.



From left: Dick DiMaria, Fred Grosso, Bob Desrosiers, President Rich Gubbiotti, Paul Rinaldi, Bob Ruscitto, Joe Masi, Mike Daddona, Stanley Masayda, Joe Polletta, and Elaine Cieslewski.



From left: Fred Grosso, Paul Rinaldi, Vinnie Dorso, Joe Longo, Mark Gubbiotti, Elaine Cieslewski, Bob Ruscitto.



MEMPHIS, TN

The Memphis Chapter presented the UNICO Foundation check for \$5,000 to the Madonna Learning Center for the purchase of an additional Smart Board. Executive Director Jo Gilbert is holding a new laptop donated by the Memphis Chapter to operate the Smart Board. Madonna reports that the best tools they have for achieving positive results with the students are the Smart Boards and PC's. It's amazing to be in the classroom and see how the students respond to lessons and activities on the Smart Boards. The three Smart Boards donated by UNICO are truly making a difference for these special children.



From left: Past National President Michael Spano, Ron Giometti, Jo Gilbert and some happy students.

On December 6, 2014 the Memphis Chapter treated the kids of Madonna Learning Center to Pizza with Santa. The event was attended by 50 people that were a mix of students and parents. There were treats for the kids, dancing, and Christmas songs with plenty of pizza and of course a visit from Santa! One of the keepsakes provided were cups donated by the Memphis Chapter and the Memphis Bocce Club. Nothing puts you into the Christmas spirit more than the youthful innocence and excitement of children when Santa comes for a visit. Buon Natale e felice anno nuovo from your friends in Memphis.



From left: Regina Giometti, Alicia McKenzie, Robert Raiteri, Ron Giometti, Kerry Krag and Linda Spano.



Linda Spano displays the souvenir cup.



Santa AKA Jacob Holden and some of the Madonna students.



Additional workers Bryn Holden, Michael Spano, Jacob Holden and Elise Holden.



Santa, the entire work crew and a couple of students.

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GARFIELD, NJ

On December 3, 2014 Steve Cusmano Jr., was chosen and honored as Garfield chapter Man of the Year. The ceremony was hosted during the Garfield UNICO annual Christmas party at the Venetian Catering Hall. Steve is the Garfield UNICO Chaplain, and his late father Steve Cusmano Sr., was a long time, outstanding member of Garfield UNICO. His family was proudly at Steve's side during the event.



Honoree Steve Cusmano Jr. and his mother, along with Garfield UNICO Chapter members.



Pictured with Honoree Steve Cusmano Jr., along with his mother holding the roses are other family members.



From left: Allan Focarino, Chapter President; Honoree Steve Cusmano Jr., and John Caravello.

Garfield UNICO had an incredible turnout for the distribution of 48 food baskets which were donated to needy families in Garfield, annually for the last 38 years. Thanks to our chairperson Sal Militello, his lovely wife and member

Val, and our newest addition, their son Paulie Militello. Along with numerous Garfield Chapter members, there were also three National Officers in attendance: New Jersey District VII Governor Joseph Kovacs, Eastern Regional District Governor Elyse Buonomo and National First V. P. Dominick Nicastro. There were also four students from Kean University - Nu Sigma Phi fraternity, and two students from Garfield High School also in attendance. After distribution of baskets, all members were invited to the Garfield Civic Center for the annual "Christmas breakfast with Santa", hosted by several Garfield Fire companies. Thank you to everyone who had participated this year, it was an incredible success.



Garfield Chapter UNICO Officers, Members and additional participating guests.

NEWBURGH, NY



As the photograph can attest, the members of the Newburgh Chapter who worked at The Sal Cracchiolo Memorial Clambake, had as much fun as the guests. The event was in memory of one of the Chapter's most hard-working and beloved members. Proceeds from the event helped the Newburgh Chapter continue their benevolent and charitable activities in the Newburgh area, such as medical research, scholarships, literary projects, donations to veterans' organizations, and community service.



President Vincenzo Napolitano (left) at the November meeting of the Newburgh Chapter presented an award to Nick DeMaro, (right) in recognition of the service he has given to the Chapter as Treasurer, from 2004 until 2014.



2014 has been a busy and productive year for the Newburgh Chapter. The Chapter members, joined by the Marlboro Chapter did guest bartending at the Newburgh Brewing Company. Within three hours the members earned over \$300 in tips from generous patrons and had a tremendous amount of fun in the process. They are eager to do it again in 2015!!

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X



New Jersey District X members and officers join in the festivities at the annual Plainfields' Chapter Pig Roast fund-raiser. From left: Joe Almeida, President of Union Chapter; Bob Tarte, Mike Colucci and Anthony Bengivenga, President Westfield Chapter.

LIVINGSTON, NJ

Livingston UNICO has had a steady growth in membership that has doubled the Chapter over the past four years to well over 80. We are now in the top 10% in Total Membership with a corresponding increase in attendance at monthly meetings and work on our annual events. Our success is due to members bringing in "family and friends"; and making membership meetings interesting with focus on Heritage.

We had a presentation by award winning Mozzarella Maker, Roseann Cammarota, proprietress of "Tutto Fresco". She surprised all 50 attendees by providing an assortment of Italian antipasti specialties to begin the meal.

Our Second Annual Fall Fund-raiser was a joint effort at local restaurant owned by a fellow UNICAN, Joe Ottaiano, Calabria's, to honor the Livingston's First Responders, was a huge success. We raised over \$4,300 that was equally split between the Volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad. Congratulations to the chairs, who are all new members, and worked on this event: Rich Calbi, Joe Ottaiano, Mike Anello and Kevin Francione.

A Heritage presentation was made by Dr. Teresa Fiore, PhD, from Montclair State University. She gave an attention grabbing presentation on Italian migration worldwide with specifics on immigration to America. This meeting was attended by almost half of our membership. All left with a better appreciation for the motivation forces behind our ancestor's migration. The presentation was accompanied by visuals that made an impact on the audience.



New members from left: Mike Buonpane, Josephine Ciatti (joined her UNICAN husband, Fernando) and Al Branchi, President.



New members from left: Annamarie Parillo and Rosemarie Montesano, Al Branchi, President; Marion Schiazzano (joined her UNICAN husband, Jerry, and brought in the other ladies in photo) and Lucille Lenzi.



Roseann making the mozzarella, surrounded by UNICANs.



Fall fund-raiser attendees: Joe Ottaiano, M. Silverman, Town Councilman; Al Anthony, M. Reiber, Town Mayor and Kevin Francione.



Dr. Fiore (c) with Carol Branchi and Al Branchi, President.

GREATER RAMSEY, NJ



The Community Service Day Christmas Luncheon at the Woodlands. Past National President Andre' DiMino joins members of the Greater Ramsey Chapter. This was the eighth year of the event that was organized by Dorothy and Joe Verdone (center).



The Greater Ramsey Chapter's Christmas Dinner was held at The Brick House. From left: Chapter President Ron Targove and Second Vice President Nancy Girgenti present checks to beneficiaries: Michele Campbell, Meaningful Movements; Jeanne Martin, Pascack Valley Meals on Wheels; Harris Recht, Ramsey Responds and Jim James, Center for Food Action.

MONTVILLE, NJ



Once again, as we have done for over 25 years, Montville UNICO has lent a helping hand to area families in need this holiday season. This year we distributed over thirty \$40 gift cards for children and \$25 food cards for families. From left: Paul Henke, Tony Speciale, Vivian Cleffi, Tony Malanga and Jim Cleffi.

NATIONAL AWARDS AND GUIDELINES

The Anthony P. Vastola Award

The Vastola Award is granted to a member of UNICO on the following basis: He or she must have been a member of UNICO National for at least ten years and must have performed exceptional service on behalf of UNICO on the national level. The candidate should be a person who has performed this service above and beyond the call of duty, has shown initiative and originality and performed such service without monetary reimbursement. Such a person must have demonstrated the belief in and practice of the ideals of UNICO National.

Antonio R. Rizzuto Award

The Rizzuto Award is granted to a non-Unican on the following basis: The person must be a non-Unican, who has either made a definite contribution in services, or otherwise, to UNICO; or, may have contributed to the general betterment of mankind through the sciences, music, drama, etc.; or may have contributed in some way to the welfare and advancement of Italians in our country or abroad; and has shown service to all Americans regardless of race, creed or religion.

The Rizzuto Award is the highest award presented by UNICO National to a non-member.

Joseph P. Cianci Humanitarian Award

The Humanitarian Award named in his honor is presented to an individual exemplifying those qualities of exceptional dedication and service to mankind without remuneration or recompense. The recipient must have demonstrated by word and deed a definite concern for and commitment to serve his fellowman. That unselfish dedication must have touched all people without regard to race, color, creed or national origin.

Dr. D. M. Nigro Amatuer Athletics Memorial Award

Nominees MUST be Americans of Italian Ancestry or Naturalized. Nominees can be either male or female. Nominees can be submitted for any athletic sport. Nominee must be a collegiate athlete, or an amateur athlete (not necessarily having been a collegiate athlete, or anyone who is associated with collegiate and/or amateur athletics in a paid capacity is not eligible for the Dr. D. M. Nigro Memorial Award.

Vincent T. Lombardi Professional Athletics Memorial Award

Nominees MUST be Americans of Italian Ancestry or Naturalized. Nominees can be either male or female. Nominees can be submitted for any athletic sport. Nominee must be one who attained the status of a professional athlete, or one who is associated with professional athletics, such as a coach, manager, owner. One who is associated with college athletics in a PAID capacity, such as a coach, athletic director, etc.

Joseph Coccia, Jr. Award

The Joseph Coccia Jr. Heritage, Language and Culture Award is bestowed upon any individual who has demonstrated exceptional efforts by word and deed in promoting and preserving our Italian Heritage, Language or Culture. The Award Nominee may be any person who has demonstrated exceptional efforts in preserving and keeping alive our Italian Heritage, Language and Culture.

Marconi Science Award

The Applicant must be a living, US citizen of Italian descent and involved in the physical sciences, such as electronics, physics, chemistry, etc. Applications will be judged on a number of factors including education, area of expertise, patents, publications, awards and a brief written essay.

Philip Mazzei Americanism Award

Grand Patriot Award is presented to an individual in recognition:

- For carrying the torch of freedom that our forefathers handed down to us, so that freedom shall always remain in our hearts.
- For spreading goodwill as the best method for the creation of a stronger brotherhood of man.
- For enhancing the interest of his fellowmen in the public welfare of his community, and for cooperating with others in its civil, social, commercial and industrial development.
- For his endeavors to render patriotic service to our country, in war and peace.

William Paca is presented to an individual:

- For researching historical facts and contributions made by our founding fathers and the many unsung heroes who have given their lives for our country, and whose sacrifices have helped to shape the destiny of the United States of America.
- For his desire to acquire more knowledge and a better understanding of the American Constitution, its designers, and those people who have upheld it.

Civis Illustris is presented to an individual:

- For professional achievement in the arts and sciences to benefit humanity
- For enhancing the interest of his fellowmen in the public welfare of his community, and for cooperating with others in its civil, social, commercial and industrial development.
- For protecting and advocating high cultural standards and family dignity.
- For protecting and believing in the rights of liberty and happiness as gifts of God. To do so is to believe that freedom must be safeguarded by law. Under God this nation was created; under God his nation shall endure.

Deadlines for National Awards that will be chosen at the Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting need to be submitted to the National Office by February 15, 2015.

50

January 2015

UNICO National

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News

NATIONAL AWARDS AND GRANT GUIDELINES

Basilone Freedom Award

The Basilone Freedom Award is to be given to a member of our armed forces who has served in a foreign theater of war. He or she must be or has been a member of the uniformed services of the United States. The Basilone Award should go to a member of the United States Naval Services (Coast Guard, Navy & Marine Corps). This award, although preferable, should not be restricted to an Italian-American.

Louis Attilio DeFillipo an American Hero Award

The De Fillipo American Hero Award is to be given to a member of our armed forces who has served in a foreign theater of war. He or she must be or has been a member of the uniformed services of the United States. The DeFillipo Award to a member of the Army or Air Force. This award, although preferable, should not be restricted to an Italian-American.

Ralph J. Torracco Food Bank /Shelter Fund Grant

- Mission: To feed the hungry and provide shelter for those homeless or the indigent.
- Funding Criteria: To provide funds through community established food/shelter programs that provide food and shelter to those in need.
- Who is Eligible: Food Pantries or soup kitchens/shelters that serve people in need. Agencies supporting communities through rescue efforts. Community based innovative efforts aimed at reducing hunger and assists the needy to find shelter. Organization seeking grant must be a 501(c)3
- Grant Guidelines: The program should not be located in a private home, and must meet all local and State health department regulations. The

food/shelter program should have an established track record of providing food and or shelter to low-income clientele. Food Pantries, Soup Kitchens or Shelters should use 100% of the grant to purchase food or provide shelter not for operating or salary costs. The program must be located in the United States and serve people in the United States.

- Deadline: Grants must be received by the UNICO National Office 60 days prior to each Board of Director's meetings which occur in March and July/August. The UNICO National Office can provide those dates.

Mental Health Grant

UNICO's commitment is to underwrite meaningful projects in the areas of research, diagnosis, treatment, education, and training related to mental health issues. The UNICO Foundation, through funding by UNICO chapters, districts, personal contributions and corporate sponsors, continues to donate thousands of dollars to diversified mental health programs. UNICO's objective is to effect a noticeable difference in the lives of challenged individuals and their families.

Cooley's Anemia Grant

Grants are available through the UNICO Foundation for research in an effort to find a cure for a disease that affects people of Mediterranean ancestry. UNICO National have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in an effort to find a cure. Funds are still needed for research, treatment, transfusions, and medical costs that burden family resources while they await a cure. Deadline: Grants must be received by the UNICO National Office 60 days prior to each Board of Director's meetings which occur in March and July/August. The UNICO National Office can provide those dates.

Italian Studies Grant

Grants are available through the UNICO Foundation for programs and studies fostering the Italian language, heritage and culture. Deadline: Grants must be received by the UNICO National Office 60 days prior to each Board of Director's meetings which occur in March and July/August. The UNICO National Office can provide those dates.

Deadlines for Grant Applications to be heard at the National Convention in Newport Beach, California need to be submitted to the National Office by June 1, 2015.

Donate to the UNICO FOUNDATION Today!

Send tax-deductible checks to: UNICO Foundation 271 US Highway 46 West Suite F-103 Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

UNICO National - UNICO Foundation Pledge/Donation Form

Meeting Location: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Chapter: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

☐ Chapter Pledge ☐ Personal Pledge

Amount Pledged \$ _____

Payments to be made in: ☐ 1 Year ☐ 2 Years ☐ 3 Years ☐ Other _____

<input type="radio"/> 21st Century Campaign	<input type="radio"/> Mental Health
<input type="radio"/> Calendar	<input type="radio"/> Scholarship
<input type="radio"/> Cooley's Anemia	<input type="radio"/> UNICO Foundation
<input type="radio"/> Italian Studies	<input type="radio"/> "V" Foundation

Make all checks payable to UNICO Foundation

We accept American Express/Discover/Mastercard/Visa

Credit Card Number: _____

UNICO National

January 2015

51

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter celebrated Veterans' Day with a special recognition ceremony. All members who are veterans of the U.S. military were honored. The guest speaker was Lieutenant Colonel Stephanie Aaron. Lt. Aaron is the Operations officer of the 514th Logistics Readiness Squadron, an Air Force Reserve mission partner at Joint Base McGuire Dix, Lakehurst, New Jersey. She has been the recipient of many major awards and decorations during her 26 year career in the military.

Members Dan Marucci and Sal Corvino are coordinating a project to identify the town or city in Italy that each member or their ancestors came from before emigrating to the U.S. Each area has been identified and noted on a large map of Italy. It is interesting to see the major common areas that many immigrants who settled in the New Jersey-New York area came from. Looks like we may all be related somehow.

New members sworn in in November were Petrer Ardito, Angela Blasi, Dan Carnicella, Mary DePalma, Johanna De Sordi and John V. Kelly III.

The annual Christmas Party was held at Nanina's in the Park. Debbie Bellucci coordinated the party which was attended by 85 members and guests. The entertainment was provided by member John Cafone. The food was great, music timely and entertaining and the "trade-off" raffle a great success. Toys were also brought to donate to needy children.



Nutley Membership Chair Bob Montanino (r) and President Phyllis Coldebella (3rd from left) swear in new members.



Nutley members who were recognized for their military service.



Nutley President Phyllis Coldebella, exchanges gifts with members of the Italian Carabinieri.

NEW FEATURE

The UNICO National Office has had many requests from members wishing to participate in Novenas that require publication. These types of Novenas appear in other publications such The Italian Tribune, FraNoi and local community newspapers.

We are now offering this feature to our readers. If you would like to participate, please send a check for \$20/issue and your initials to:

ComUNICO Prayer
271 US Highway 46 West
Suite F-103
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004



Al Ferrara and Mike Italiano display a large map of Italy which is being used to identify the towns and cities of Italy that the Nutley members' families come from.

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin



NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL — (1X)
Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3X)
Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3X) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal, you who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. (Say this prayer three consecutive days and after three days, your request will be granted. Publication must be promised.)

LAA	SA	AD	TFP
IPP	SP	JD	RAW

TO OFFER A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER send a Check for \$20, made out to UNICO and your initials to:
ComUNICO Prayer
271 US Highway 46 West
Suite F-103
Fairfield, NJ 07004

SAN DIEGO, CA



The San Diego UNICO Christmas Brunch was held at Convivio Society.



From left: John Orsini, Bree Caccimise, Valeri Orsini, Carluch Caccimise, Frank Caperino and Tony Prete.



President Valeri Orsini and Past National President Frank Caperino as Santa.



The San Diego UNICO Board. Top row from left: Jim DeSpenza, Matteo Risi, Valeri Orsini, Steve Codraro and Joe Russo. Bottom row: Frank Caperino.



On the left: Lia Piancone, Kim Piancone, Jennifer DeSpenza and Michael Piancone. Right side: Patty Risi, Matteo Risi, Tony Prete and Sandro Piancone.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



The Rutherford Chapter is pleased to welcome new members Jean and George Dzurillay, shown being installed by President Frank Tidona.



The Rutherford Chapter presented Thanksgiving gift cards to the Community Pantry. From left: Barbara Laborim with Social Service Director Genevieve Kacmarcik.



BEST WISHES for a HAPPY and HEALTHY NEW YEAR from the Rutherford Chapter. Rutherford UNICO presented a Christmas donation for Social Concerns to St. Mary Pastor Rev. Michael Kreder.



Army Specialist Joseph Fiorito was presented with the Rutherford Chapter Mille Grazie Award, in recognition of his exemplary service to our country and his commitment to helping others. He is pictured with his parents Joseph and Jennifer Fiorito, along with members of the Mille Grazie Committee.



Rutherford members present a Christmas donation to the Food Pantry. From left: Shirley Tokarz, Jim Basile, Dolores Gennaro, Pantry Volunteer, Barbara Laborim, Vinnie DeCesare, Social Service Director Genevieve Kacmarcik.

KEYSTONE, PA



At Keystone Chapter's Annual Christmas Party at Fiorelli's, over 100 toys were donated by members and guests for the Marine's Annual Toys for Tots Campaign. John Mecca brought in Marine SSGT. David Ciero of Marine Wing Support Squadron 472 in Wyoming, Pennsylvania to accept the donations. All of our current and past Service Men and Women were recognized and took a photo with Marine Ciero. President Jim Mack and his First Lady Mary supplied candy treats that decorated the dinner tables. Entertainment was presented by Jim Cerninaro. It was a great evening!

SECAUCUS, NJ

Secaucus Visits Nursing Home

The Secaucus Chapter made their annual visit to Hudson Manor Nursing Home to bring some Holiday Cheer and gift bags to the residents. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2015 to all.



First row from left: Sophia Vogel, Samantha Vogel and Samantha Nesheiwat
Second row: Joe Arena, Melissa Vogel, Mrs. Claus (Deb Santoro), Ann Arena, Tina Nesheiwat, and Gerry Dowd.



Mr. and Mrs. Claus made an appearance at Secaucus Chapter's First Annual Pancakes with Santa Breakfast. Special shout out to Restaurant Depot for donating all the supplies to make a delicious and enjoyable morning. Santa (President Ed Rucki) and the Mrs. (Deb Santoro) are reading ComUNICO in between listening to the children's wishes.

WESTFIELD, NJ



The camera caught Rachel Bengivenga, UNICO National Executive V. P. Ann Walko and First Lady Manuela D'Arminio by surprise at the New York District II Gala Holiday Celebration.

Westfield Christmas Party

Westfield UNICO held their December Christmas dinner meeting at LaFamiglia Sorrento Restaurant where the UNICO 2015 Heritage Calendars were distributed to all the festive members as you can see in the three photographs of the merriment of the night.



From left: Tony Valles, Dave Lovato, Mark Lo Grippo, Bob Centrella, Dominick Lombardi and John Chiesa.



Seated from left: Vinnie Tomasso and Rachel Bengivenga. Standing: Anthony Bengivenga, President Westfield Chapter; Mike Colucci, and Bob Tarte.



Seated from left: Carmela Giuliano, Joanne LaRosa, Sandy Giordano, UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko and Gino Janotti. Standing from left: Bob Caruso, Rich Esposito, Mike Colucci and Vinnie Tomasso.



UNICO members of Westfield, Plainfield, and Union Chapters enjoy the UNICO National Christmas Party. From left: Past National President Frank Licato, Anthony Bengivenga, Bob Tarte, UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko and Joe Almeida.



Westfield Chapter members attended the Garfield Chapter banquet honoring Past National Paul Alongi. From left: Giacomo Pedrini, Anthony Bengivenga, President Westfield Chapter; Past National President Paul Alongi and Michael Walko, Armed Services Committee Chair.

KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone UNICO sponsored Race #10 for the Arc of Northeast Pennsylvania's KNIGHTS AT THE RACES" Fund-raiser at Pocono Downs. The Arc is the leading provider of services for consumers with Down's Syndrome and those with other mental challenges. Dinner, wagering and camaraderie were the highlights of the evening.



Pictured with the winning horse, "Anndrovette" are from left: Michele McDade, Joe Michalczyk, a race track employee, Lenore and Ed Latarewicz, Mark McDade, jockey Ron Pierce and Tom Carlucci.

ITALIAN CONFERENCE

UNICO National Officers and members attended the annual New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission Congress at Mercer County College on Saturday, November 8, 2014.

Richard D'Arminio, UNICO National President was a guest speaker.



Richard D'Arminio speaking at the Congress from the podium about UNICO's aim to preserve our Italian Culture and Language.



Seated from left: UNICO National Executive VP Ann Walko, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Robert Tarte and Manny Alfano, UNICO National Anti-Bias Committee Chairman. Standing: Rachel Bengivenga and Anthony Bengivenga, UNICO National Culture and Heritage Committee Co-Chairman.

CALENDAR



During his recent trip to Italy, Westfield Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga (r) presents the UNICO 2015 Italian Heritage Calendar to Antonio Buti, Vice Mayor of the city of Terno D'Isola (Bergamo) Italy. Anthony distributed several calendars to the staff there and emphasized all that UNICO does to preserve the Italian culture and language in America.

WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ



From left: Paul Camella, Donna Brown and Mike Pisano.



From left: Barbara Pisano, Pat Pelonero and Andre' DiMino.



Santa (Andre' DiMino) and Paul Camella.



From left: Gene Santoli, Tom and Maria Janicelli, Pete Alaniello, Paul Camella, Mike Pisano, Donna Brown and of course Santa.



Pat Pelonero, Santa and Steve Pelonero.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

Rockaway Township UNICO Makes Donations

In November the Rockaway Township Chapter made two donations to very worthy causes.

First we visited the offices of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in New York City and donated \$500 to help their cause.

In addition, the Chapter visited the Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance and donated \$250 to help their efforts.



Matt Mustachio, President of the Rockaway Township Chapter presents a check to Anneka Meyer of St. Jude Children's Hospital.



Mike Puzio of the Rockaway Township Chapter (second from the right) presents the check to members of the Rockaway Township Substance Abuse Alliance who from left: Michelle Johanson, Jack Elmore, Judy DelGreco, Lil Wexler, Garry DelGreco, Les Wexler, and Captain Marty McParland.

GREATER HARTFORD, CT

Greater Hartford Cultural Dinner

The Greater Hartford Chapter recently held its annual cultural dinner featuring the region of Basilicata. “Una Serata Basilicata” celebrated the southern region of Italy known as the ‘instep’ of Italy’s boot. A presentation by Dr. Sebastian Mozzicato highlighted the culture and history of this region which covers an extensive part of the southern Apennines and is known for manufacturing Fiat automobiles, bucolic settings, and archaeological treasures. A dinner featuring the cuisine of Basilicata was followed by the music of the Tommy Faienza band. Attendees also had the opportunity to be photographed with a vintage Fiat 500.



UNICO members from Connecticut pose with UNICO National President Richard D’Arminio at the Greater Hartford Chapter’s Annual Cultural Dinner.



Members of the Greater Hartford Chapter pose in the “piazza” with President D’Arminio.



Greater Hartford Chapter President Dan Falotico helps serve up gelato to attendees at the Annual Cultural Dinner.



Father Michael Galasso reads the UNICO prayer before the Greater Hartford Chapter’s Cultural Dinner. Sebastian Mozzicato and Rose Ciarca stand next to Father.



From left: Connecticut III District Governor Morris Borea, Mario Giovannucci, UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan and Rose Ciarca. Seated: Michele Vaughan, President D’Arminio, and MaryJoan Picone.



Over 300 people enjoyed dinner and dancing during Una Serata Basilicata, Greater Hartford UNICO’s major fund-raiser.

MONTVILLE, NJ



Montville Chapter President Anthony Malanga swore in new Second Vice president Danielle Speciale. Danielle is one of our youngest members and is enthusiastic about working to enhance our motto “Service Above Self”.

WETHERSFIELD, CT



Wethersfield UNICO just had our annual carol sing-along at local convalescent homes. We visited two locations, Apple Healthcare in Rocky Hill and Ellis Manor followed by a dinner at Ficara’s.



We were rewarded by many happy and smiling faces from the residents at the two locations.

UNICO GETS IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Thank you John DiNapoli for your support, the quick response of Chris DiMattio, (as Chair of the Food Bank Grant Program), all of the Foundation Trustees who unanimously approved and of course, the generosity of Ralph Torracco, we are providing food for 524 needy children! And, at the same time, furthering our mission by securing valuable publicity with 40 radio commercials in the Chicago Area.

This was an outstanding opportunity brought to us thanks to Paul Domico and shows what we can do when we work together, expeditiously!

Everyone involved, and in fact, all members of UNICO, can be proud of this effort!

Something to contemplate in the Christmas Season, this was truly a gift for all of us!

SAVE THE DATE - UNICO TO HONOR SETON HALL NURSING STUDENT

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015

TIME: 12:00 PM



WHERE: PRUDENTIAL CENTER,
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
AT THE SETON HALL BASKETBALL GAME

WHY: TO HONOR STEPHANIE DESIMONE
A SETON HALL NURSING STUDENT, BY
PRESENTING HER WITH A BERNARD &
CAROLYN TORRACO NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FOR HER
HEROIC ACT IN SAVING THE LIFE OF A FELLOW
PASSENGER WHILE FLYING BACK FROM ITALY.

ST. LOUIS, MO



The St. Louis Chapter's Christmas party was held at the Tapawango National Golf Club. We had a great evening beginning with a wonderful dinner, music by Joe Tucci, dancing and lots of holiday cheer. Nina Lancia-Held welcomed UNICO members and guests.



President John Mandala presented a check in the amount of \$3,000 to John L. Trotter MS Center Project. From left: President John Mandala, Dr. Francesca Cignarella, Dr. Claudia Cantoni and Jim Ferrante.



President John Mandala presented a check in the amount of \$3,000 to Our Little Haven. From left: Nina Lancia-Held, President John Mandala, Kathleen Hummel and Scott Hummel.



President John Mandala and Nina Lancia-Held display the St. Louis Chapter's 2014 recognition Star received from Siteman Cancer Center St. Louis. The Siteman Cancer Center and West County MS Center were unable to attend the Christmas Party. Both charities received a check for \$3,000.

HAZLETON, PA

At Sunday morning's Hazleton UNICO Breakfast with Santa, Applebee's Restaurant in West Hazleton was as busy as Santa's elves were at his workshop at the North Pole. Santa Claus and Congressman Lou Barletta thought it would be a good chance to invite the Grinch for breakfast and talk with him about the true meaning of Christmas - sharing food, fun, and laughter with the ones you love. As you can see, it worked because the smiling Grinch promised Santa, Congressman Barletta, and UNICO President Mike DeCosmo that children like Gianna Cerullo and Giada Reggie-DeCosmo can sleep soundly Christmas Eve, because the gifts Santa delivers all night long will be found waiting for them under their Christmas trees on Christmas morning.

For information about UNICO membership contact Joe Cerullo (570-579-4179) or via his e-mail at jcerullo@epix.net.



A smiling Grinch is pictured with Congressman Barletta, Chapter President Mike DeCosmo and Gianna Cerullo and Giada Reggie-DeCosmo.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

The Saddle Brook Chapter recently scheduled their annual Christmas Party/ Meeting Dinner. The event was well attended. Members brought donations for Toys for Tots.

Celebrating with us were UNICO National First V. P. Dominick Nicastro, Eastern Regional District Governor Elyse Buonomo and her husband Bob and District Governor, Joe Kovacs and his wife, Mariann.

It was announced that \$400 in food gift cards will be donated to needy families from our Chapter and the 50/50 raffle proceeds from this meeting will be donated to some special Charities.



Seated: Dominick Nicastro and Elyse Buonomo. Standing from left: Joe Nasello, President Marilyn Nasello, Joy and Ed Ebel and Bob Buonomo.



Seated Criss and Sal Mangano, Past National President with Joe Nasello.



Toys donated to the Toys for Tots program.

NEWBURGH, NY

Back to the Community

The Newburgh Chapter, in a gesture of neighborliness and charity during the holiday season, once again presented gifts to the patients at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital, in Newburgh. This is a yearly Chapter event.

The Chapter also gave monetary donations to local agencies that see to the needs of the less fortunate, and to charitable organizations, and also veteran's organizations during the holiday season. However, the Chapter makes it an important undertaking to assist many organizations and scholarship programs throughout the year.

The Chapter sponsors events to raise money for scholarships, service organizations and local ministries that assist the poor and needy in the local area.



From left: Antonella Lazar, a member of the Chapter who suggested the idea; a St. Luke's Cornwall hospital staff member and "Santa Claus" President Vincenzo Napolitano.

BROOKHAVEN, NY



Anthony Bocchimuzzo of the Brookhaven Chapter attended the Good Shepherd Hospice Tree Lighting ceremony. Bocchimuzzo presented a donation to the Hospice. Mary Ellen Polit, Chief Administrative Officer accepted the check for the Hospice.

PLAINFIELDS', NJ

Past National President Renato Biribin, Bob Bengivenga, Robert Bengivenga Jr. and Debbie Boyle distribute UNICO Calendars to the first South Plainfield High School Italian Class. The UNICO executive board prepared an Italian Grant application with former Superintendent Steve Genco, which produced a \$15,000 Grant for the South Plainfield High School Italian program. School Officials, UNICO and the entire community worked together to bring Italian to South Plainfield High School. In the future, UNICO is looking for the Italian language to be offered to the grammar schools.



From left: South Plainfield High School Italian Teacher Raquel George, Bob Bengivenga, Rob Bengivenga, Past National President Renato Biribin and Debbie Russo Boyle.



Students receive their calendars.



The Chapter sponsored a Holiday blood drive. From left: John DeAndrea, Bob Bengivenga, UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino, Fran DeAndrea, Past National President Renato Biribin.

CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN, IL



Santa gifting children at the Chapter's annual Christmas party.



UNICO National 2015 Italian & 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.

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

Visa, MasterCard and American Express
accepted





**SHARE YOUR
ENTHUSIASM!**

Join us Today!

UNICO National is the largest Italian American Service Organization in America. With 127 local Chapters in 18 states and more being formed right now, we have an unparalleled track record of giving that dates back to 1922.

Through the UNICO Foundation, we donate annually to cancer and Cooley's anemia research, mental health initiatives and scholarships.

Through our many National Award Committees, we present awards in literature, science, amateur and professions athletics and military service.

Through our Anti-Bias Committee, we promote positive images of Italian Americans and battle negative stereotypes.

Through our local Chapters, we provide countless volunteer hours and support worthy causes of all sorts.

If you are looking to celebrate your heritage, serve your community and build lifelong friendships, UNICO National is the organization for you!

To find out more,
call 973-808-0035
Or visit www.unico.org



◀ SWEET SUCCESS

In January 2007, a former Italian electronics retailer by the name of Oscar Farinetti opened a 30,000-square-foot food emporium in Turin called Eataly. The revolutionary store combined the elements of a European market with a classroom. His goal was to make high-quality Italian foods available to everyone at fair prices in an environment where people can shop, taste and learn. In 2010, Farinetti joined forces with celebrity chefs Mario Batali and Lidia and Joe Bastianich to open a 50,000-square-foot store in New York City. Three years later, they opened a 63,000-square-foot store in Chicago. There are also 16 stores in Italy, one in Turkey, 11 in Japan and one in the United Arab Emirates, with future outlets in the works for Boston, London, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Mexico City and Washington, D.C. With Valentine's Day right around the corner, Eataly is serving up some of Italy's finest artisanal chocolates for your sweetie. www.eataly.com

Luca Monersino is Eataly's founding pastry chef as well as the creator of Golosi di Salute (gluttons for health) in Monticello d'Alba, Piemonte, which conjures up healthier pastries and confections. All of these chocolate bars are made without preservatives, hydrogenated fats or refined oil. \$5.80

Giuseppe Gobino started producing high-quality chocolates in Torino in 1964. Today, his son Guido is considered one of the most talented chocolate artisans in Italy. All of their chocolate comes from Africa and South America. Their chocolate hazelnut bar features Tonda Gentile IGP hazelnuts from the Le Langhe hills in Piemonte. \$62

Renowned Italian chocolatier Domori uses only prized cocoa plants from around the world. This single-origin bar is made with a Sambirano cocoa from Madagascar that sports a mild and round flavor with a hint of red fruit. \$4.80

Founded in Asti, Piemonte, in 1883, the D. Barbero family is famous for its torrone, including this chocolate covered crunchy incarnation. \$6.80

Since 1968, TARTUFLANGHE founders Domenica and Beppe have been selling fresh truffle products from Piemonte. This selection of sweet truffles includes white chocolate, dark chocolate, I.G.P. hazelnuts from Piemonte, coffee, amaretto biscuit and peppermint from Pancalieri. \$18.80



▲ MARIA LAURINO

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

Well into the new millennium, Americans have an uneasy sense that not all of modernity is healthy or pleasing to the senses, while also knowing they would not replicate a life forged in part by Old World superstitions or one that shuns geographic mobility. One inclination would be to meld elements of the Old World with the New, but to accomplish this delicate feat without being trapped by the distorting effect of nostalgia, Italian Americans — and all other Americans — might want to explore this rich and varied past. 'Un'altra cent'anni! To another one hundred years!'

The Italian Americans: A History

by Maria Laurino

■ **Pages:** 320
 ■ **Cost:** \$35 (hardcover)
 ■ **ISBN:** 13: 978-0393241297
 ■ **Visit:** www.norton.com

Maria Laurino is the author of "Were You Always Italian" and "Old World Daughter: New World Mother."

Want more reviews? Visit www.franoi.com

Pursuing DEEPER TRUTHS

by Fred L. Gardaphe

Many books have been produced in both popular and academic formats that try to synthesize the rich and varied stories that comprise Italian-American history. For years, the most successful of these has been Jerre Mangione and Ben Morreale's "La Storia: Five Centuries of the Italian American Experience," published in 1993. While "La Storia" served as a decent starting point, over time, its many weaknesses betrayed its usefulness. Students and scholars alike have been waiting for something new that would not only update developments, but also fill in the lifestyle, gender and historical gaps created in that first great leap into making what Van Wyck Brooks coined as "a usable past," in his 1915 "America's Coming of Age."

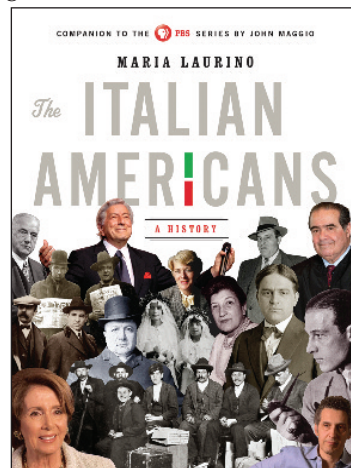
While not a candidate for replacing "La Storia" in history classes, "The Italian Americans" does provide us with a new view of the same materials covered in most earlier histories. The great difference is Maria Laurino's lean, journalistic style, which renews even the most mundane information, and her willingness to cover the darker side of Italian-American history, which sees print in only a handful of the best of studies of Italian American culture.

As in any attempt to capture an entire culture in one book, there is more left out than included. While not deep in substance, Laurino's broad overviews set up possibilities for future, in-depth discoveries. Those who want more, and everyone should, can consult her adequate bibliography to learn about the vast cultural presence forged by Italian-American writers and critics, artists and independent filmmakers, where her coverage is especially light.

One of the strengths of this book is the acknowledgment of her inability to get it all done in one shot. Her ability to shed light on some of the more unknown and obscure aspects of Italian-American culture should be applauded. She enables readers to move beyond the superficial conclusions that have been drawn from more popular presentations that have distorted the imaginary and limited the ability of most Americans to grasp the larger good done by the common citizen of Italian descent. As she writes:

"Myths about Italian-American culture run deep into the fabric of American life, obscuring the complicated, nuanced, centuries-long story of the Italian-American experience that demands to be told. One of the goals of this book — alongside telling this history — is to tease the myth from reality and uncover a more complicated story and deeper truths."

Designed and written to accompany John Maggio's four-part PBS-supported documentary film, from which Laurino's book takes its title, this history is a pastiche of Laurino's essays joined to well-printed archival photos, illustration and documents, including newspaper accounts, letters (including a few written by "Black Hand" extortionists), magazine articles, book excerpts and brief interviews with the likes of Gay Talese, Dion, David Chase and John Turturro. The result is a beautifully designed tome that is not only worthy of coffee table permanence, but rewards close reading. There is more to our story than meets these pages, but together with Maggio's documentary, we have ways of moving beyond the stereotypes and into a greater knowledge of the rich stories that make up the contributions of the Americans of Italian descent.



Three generations OF JAZZ

by David Witter

With her affinity for bossa nova, jazz singer Gretchen Parlato is often asked if she's Brazilian, to which she replies, "No, I am very proud of my Italian-American heritage." In fact, the award-winning vocalist represents not two, but three generations of Italian-American jazz artists.

Her grandfather Charlie Parlato was a veteran trumpeter of the big band era, having played with the Kay Kyser Big Band and Lawrence Welk Orchestra.

"I remember when I was little we used to watch reruns of the 'Lawrence Welk Show' and everyone would yell out, 'Look, there's Papa Charlie!'" Parlato recalls. "He also sang tenor and performed as a backup singer on 'You Send Me.'"

Her father, Dave Parlato, was the longtime bass player for Frank Zappa and also played with Henry Mancini, Barbara Streisand and Buddy Rich.

"My dad was always practicing at home, and when we were teenagers we used to go to his gigs and listen and watch," Parlato says from her apartment in New York. "I definitely grew up in an artistic household, and even though I was not pushed into becoming a singer, there was also never any pressure to get a 'real job.'"

It is no wonder that Parlato, who recently had her first child, chose jazz as her artistic outlet over the rock and metal of her generation.

"I grew up in the '80s in the Valley," the Los Angeles native explains. "In high school, I always sang and did a lot of musical theater, but jazz was stuck in my blood, having grown up listening to

not only my relatives, but the Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan records that were played in my house."

In 2003, after moving to New York to pursue her career full time, Parlato won the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The judges included Quincy Jones, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Kurt Elling.

In 2005, she released her first CD, the self-titled "Gretchen Parlato," to critical acclaim, including a 5-star rating in Downbeat. In 2009, her second solo album was named the Best Vocal Album by the Village Voice. But 2011 was her

breakout year, as her CD "Lost and Found" earned her the rankings of No. 1 Rising Star Female Vocalist in Downbeat, No. 1 Vocals Jazz Album in the Jazz Critics Poll and No. 1 Jazz Album of the Year on iTunes.

This wave of acclaim is a tribute not only to Parlato's background and training, but also her unique musical tack. While many jazz vocalists and pop diva's wow the audience with a vocal hurricane, showcasing their vocal range and volume, Parlato's gentler, more melodic approach comes across like a fresh spring breeze blowing across the ocean. This is especially true in her original compositions, as well as her renditions of the works of bossa nova composers like Joao Gilberto and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

"Sometimes less is more," Parlato says. "I don't have a voice that's super strong with a lot of volume, but what I hope to do is let the audience hear everything, not only the music, but every different texture of the note and the song."



▲ IN THE SPOTLIGHT ▼

LIVE IN NYC

by Gretchen Parlato

From bossa nova to ballads, from soft scat to sensual swing, Gretchen Parlato's "Live in NYC" shows a range of talents, styles and textures that take you on a softly turning musical tour. It also offers an original take on jazz, vocals and music in general.

The first track takes Herbie Hancock's "Butterfly" on a soft scat journey that lightly floats across the room. Parlato then turns the tables, offering a curvaceous version of the ballad, "All That I Can Say." "Alo, alo" cranks up the bossa nova beat, with jumping samba percussion and vocals that are reminiscent of the music of Brazilian greats like Tom Ze.

Parlato then delivers an unexpected version of "Holding Back the Years." Made popular in the 1980s by the band "Simply Red," it adds a dash of pure pop to Parlato's tapestry of musical colors.

Her final tracks, "On the Other Side" and "Better Than," are sung with a sad, sweet, sigh that paints a picture of a night without moonlight. Whispering lyrics like "this precious heart, broke apart, just leave it there, and let it go" have a quiet power that shines like distant stars that may seem out of reach, but end up within our grasp.

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LIVING THE DREAM ▶

Growing up, Samantha Cristoforetti always dreamed of reaching the stars. She got a little closer to them on Nov. 23, when she became the first Italian female astronaut in space and only the seventh Italian overall. The 37-year-old from Malè, Trento, will be working from the International Space Station for more than six months on a project nicknamed “Futura.” The program includes experiments in physical science, biology and human physiology, as well as radiation research and technological demonstrations, including the use of the space station’s first-ever espresso machine. Education also is a big part of Cristoforetti’s work, as students ages 8 to 12 from 25 countries follow her “Mission X: Train Like an Astronaut” video lessons covering her preparations for life in space.



◀ A SPECIAL VINE

Over the centuries, farmers on Pantelleria have learned to cope with the harsh climate and brutal winds that buffet this small island off the coast of Sicily. So much so that UNESCO has included the islanders’ ingenious methods as part of its World Heritage List — making it the first agricultural practice to be included among the list’s prestigious ranks. To grow the zibibbo grapes — from which excellent moscato wine is made — local vintners build miles of stone walls and terraces filled with “vite ad alberello” (little tree vines). “The fact that Pantelleria’s vite ad alberello has been recognized underscores our country’s specificity,” said Italian Agriculture Minister Maurizio Martina after the announcement was made in late November.



A SPY IN ROME ▶

James Bond has a soft spot for Italy. The iconic spy will return to the country in “Spectre,” the latest installment of the movie franchise, performing a parachute landing from a helicopter onto Rome’s Ponte Sisto. Actor Daniel Craig won’t have much time to take in the gorgeous view from Trastevere, though, as he dashes through narrow streets near the Vatican, dodging the heavy traffic clogging the main arteries running along the Tiber river. Filming at the main Italian sites — including a stop at the Reggia di Caserta — will take place between Feb. 19 and March 12. Directed by Sam Mendes, the film will also feature Italian actress Monica Bellucci. Bond is a frequent traveler to Italy. The most recent visit dates back to 2008’s “Quantum of Solace,” when the spy engaged in a series of chases in the medieval center of Siena.



◀ BIG DIG

Rome’s third underground subway line is taking forever to complete, but it’s not always the construction companies’ fault. Archeological findings jump out from underground every day. In early December, scientists announced the discovery of what appears to be the largest Roman water basin ever found. Right below the new San Giovanni train station not far from the Colosseum and very close to the former heart of the Empire, the basin served a vital purpose in ancient Rome according to the dig’s director, Rossella Rea: “On the basis of the size that has been determined so far, it could hold more than 1 million gallons of water,” she explained. “Most likely, it served as a water reservoir for crops as well as an area that made it possible to cope with overflows from the nearby river.”



A people’s STORY

by Jim Distasio



Photo courtesy of Ben Meadows

▲ JOHN MAGGIO

Dedicated to stripping away the stereotypes that enshroud our community, he has produced a documentary that serves as an epic fable of the primacy and power of family.

240-minute runtime. Narrated by Academy Award nominee Stanley Tucci (“The Devil Wears Prada,” “Big Night”), the series deftly touches on Italian immigration, assimilation into American society, the challenges of a sometimes-hostile native population, World War II and beyond.

The film is packed with interviews from prominent Italian-American historians, authors, politicians and celebrities, including Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, singer Tony Bennett, actor John Turturro, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and journalist Gay Talese.

But to Maggio’s credit, the series isn’t a parade of famous talking heads. Each of the four episodes contains smaller, more intimate stories of Italian Americans both past and present. Yes, there’s the requisite visit to New York City’s Little Italy, whose current incarnation of Mulberry Street is hilariously called a “‘Sopranos’ theme park” by one subject, but the series also travels to Italian enclaves in big cities like Chicago and smaller towns like Roseto, Penn.

Maggio even broadens the story to talk about Italian migration to the West Coast, an area that’s often overlooked. We get the opportunity to spend some time in present-day San Francisco with a family of Italian-American men who have fished the Bay waters for more than 100 years.

Also in San Francisco, the series recounts the unbelievable story of Amadeo Giannini, a banker who helped Italian fam-

Continues on page 66 ...

The opening seconds of “The Italian Americans,” a new PBS documentary chronicling the Italian-American experience, are a real nail-biter.

As the film fades in, there’s Vito Corleone promising singer Johnny Fontane that he’s going to make that equestrian-loving studio boss “an offer he can’t refuse.”

Uh oh. Less than a minute into a sprawling two-part, four-hour epic on how Italian-Americans helped redefine this country, and Nino Rota’s famed “Godfather” score and Marlon Brando’s cheek prosthetics are somehow front and center. Once again, the journey from the poverty of the Mezzogiorno, to burgeoning Little Italys across the country, to scaling some of the highest heights in business, politics and entertainment, must be interpreted through the cultural lens of a 1960s airport paperback potboiler-turned-American cinema classic.

But after a few more minutes it becomes apparent what the documentary’s writer and producer, John Maggio, is attempting to do. There’s little doubt movies such as “The Godfather” or “Goodfellas” have a gravitational pull on popular culture and, despite their pedigree, can contribute to the unfortunate stereotyping of Italian Americans as hoodlums. Yet they also are celebrated for their glimpses of authenticity and insights into the non-criminal elements of Italian-American culture. At one point in the series, an interviewee bluntly calls “The Godfather,” for better but mostly worse, “the de facto history of Italians in America.”

Maggio’s four-episode series masterfully squares the circle by not denying or marginalizing the power of the myth surrounding facets of Italian-American life and instead uses it as a springboard to speak, as

the film boldly proclaims, of the Italian-American story as “the epic fable of the primacy and power of family.”

“Our series strips away the stereotypes about Italian Americans to reveal a complicated and rich narrative, little understood by most Americans,” says Jeff Bieber, the



documentary’s executive producer. “As we have shown in all our initiatives on immigration, American history is far more muddled and chaotic than what is typically taught in school. The more we understand our sometimes troubled past, the stronger we become as a people.”

Created with the PBS affiliate WETA and a promotional partnership with the National Italian American Foundation, “The Italian-Americans” is an engrossing, fully-realized telling that smartly compresses more than 120 years of history without ever feeling overstuffed, despite its

ilies get back on their feet after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Following the disaster, Giannini, who founded his Bank of Italy in the city barely two years earlier, rolled barrels of money to the areas most in need and loaned it out in handshake deals. His bank was affectionately dubbed “the institution for little fellows,” because at a time when Italian immigrants were naturally suspicious of American institutions, Giannini’s bank not only drew these hard-working men and women into the U.S. economy when no one else would, it also helped them acclimate to American life. Giannini’s Bank of Italy transformed the banking industry as an early pioneer of branch banking and outreach to the middle class, and under its founder’s auspice the institution would rename itself the Bank of America, which today is the second largest in the nation.

There’s also ample time devoted to the labor struggles of the early 1900s, the enduring importance of patron saint festas, and the anarchist movement circa-World War I that led to the Palmer Raids and the

execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. Later episodes of the series dive into Joe DiMaggio, New York City Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, World War II, and the post-war era when Italian-American culture went mainstream thanks to crossover luminaries such as Frank Sinatra, Vic Damone and even Chef Boyardee.

The final chapter, aptly titled “The American Dream,” spans 1945 to today and discusses contemporary issues of Italian-American identity, debates the lingering stigma of organized crime head on and ultimately takes stock of just how far we’ve come. From tenements to Hollywood, coalmines to the suburbs, internment camps to the highest seats in government, the rise of Italian Americans was hard-fought and well-earned. And while the series chronicles a single ethnic group, the narrative of how immigrant groups redefine America every few generations is universal.

“When our NIAF leadership team first had the opportunity to view this film, we were so thrilled to find a project that told

our community’s story in an objective and engaging manner,” says NIAF President John M. Viola. “John Maggio has created the film that I had wished to see for so many years, and I believe that everyone in our community who tunes in will find something of themselves and their family in this wonderful project.”

It’s almost impossible to watch parts of “The Italian Americans” without recognizing the parallels to today’s America and its ever-evolving immigrant population. These similarities make the series’ overarching story feel more immediate and vital than ever. The Italian-American immigrant experience isn’t a relic of the past; its struggles, its triumphs and its ability to inspire are now tightly woven into the fabric of American society and stand as an enduring testament to this country’s one-of-a-kind place in the world.

“The Italian Americans” airs on local PBS affiliates at 9 p.m. Eastern Time on Feb. 17 (Part One) and Feb. 24 (Part Two). Visit your local PBS station’s website for more details.

First, WE FEAST!

by Dolores Sennebogen

“A Carnevale, ogni scherzo vale.” During Carnevale, anything goes. The winter celebration of Carnevale is an excuse for costumed Italians to dance in the streets and to play pranks on their neighbors, all in good fun. The Tuscan town of Viareggio has a 140-year-old tradition of pre-Lenten partying that rivals the Carnival of Venice for its merrymaking. This year, Carnevale di Viareggio will be held from Feb. 1 through Feb. 22, with colorful seaside parades, known as “corsi mascherati,” held on three successive Sundays as well as on Martedì Grasso, the day before Ash Wednesday. For an entire year, local artists and craftsmen have been designing and constructing elaborate 50-foot-tall floats that often satirically depict politicians or well-known Italian personalities. During the parade, these depictions come to life as unseen mechanics within the floats cause their limbs to flail and their eyes to

roll. A wide range of cultural and sporting activities heightens the good mood. Stalls selling sweets are everywhere and many local restaurants present indulgent Carnevale menus as a final fling before the deprivations of Lent.

LASAGNA DI CARNIVALE

(Carnival Lasagna)

- 1 (28-ounce) can Italian plum tomatoes
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 pound fresh mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium clove garlic, minced
- 1 (6-ounce) can tomato paste
- 1/2 cup water or wine
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 3/4 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley



- 1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach
- 9 cooked lasagna noodles
- Cheese Sauce and Topping:
 - 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon butter
 - 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups whole milk
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/8 teaspoon white pepper
 - 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 - 1-1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
 - 1/2 cup grated Parmigiano cheese

For the meat sauce: Press the tomatoes and their liquid through a sieve into a bowl. Discard the seeds. In a ten- or twelve-inch skillet, cook the meat in the olive oil over medium-high heat, breaking up the beef into fine pieces. Continue cooking 8-10 minutes or until browned. Stir in the mushrooms and onions and cook until the onions have softened. Add the minced garlic and sauté a few minutes more. Stir in the tomatoes, tomato paste, water or wine, salt, oregano, basil and pepper. Heat to boiling and then reduce heat to low. Simmer, covered, stirring occasionally for 40 minutes. Uncover and simmer another 15 to 20 minutes for the sauce to thicken. Set the sauce aside. Thaw the spinach and squeeze dry between paper towels. Set aside.

To prepare the cheese sauce, melt 1/4 cup of the butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Remove from the heat and stir the flour into the butter creating a roux. Return the pan to the heat and gradually add the milk, stir-

Continues on page 68 ...



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ring constantly, until the sauce thickens and bubbles. Let it bubble only 1 minute and then remove the pan from the heat. Stir in the salt, white pepper and nutmeg. Blend in 1 cup of the mozzarella and 1/4 cup of the grated cheese. Stir until smooth and set aside.

Spread the remaining tablespoon of butter on the bottom and sides of a 12x9-inch baking dish. Arrange 3 of the cooked lasagna noodles in a single layer, overlapping slightly, in the bottom of the dish. Top with half the reserved meat sauce and spread it evenly. Spread half of the reserved cheese sauce evenly over the meat sauce. Repeat layers once, using 3 more noodles, the remaining meat sauce and the remaining cheese sauce. Break up the spinach and sprinkle it loosely over the cheese sauce in an even layer. Pat down slightly. Arrange the remaining 3 lasagna noodles over the spinach. Mix together the remaining 1/2 cup of the mozzarella and remaining 1/4 cup of the grated cheese. Sprinkle the mixed cheeses evenly on top of the lasagna. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven until the top is golden and the edges are bubbly, about 40 minutes. Let the lasagna stand about 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

— Dolores Sennebogen

COSTOLETTE AL LIMONE

(*Veal Chops with Lemon and Capers*)

1/3 cup grated Parmigiano cheese
1/2 cup freshly made fine bread crumbs
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1 egg
1 small clove garlic, pressed
1 teaspoon water
1/3 cup flour
1/8 teaspoon ground sage
4 (6-ounce) veal chops, 1/2-inch thick
5 tablespoons olive oil
Juice of 2 lemons
3 tablespoons capers, rinsed and drained

Combine the cheese, bread crumbs, salt and pepper in a shallow pan or bowl, mixing well. Whisk together the egg, water and pressed garlic until blended. Spread the flour on a plate and whisk in the ground sage. Coat the chops on both sides in the flour, tapping off the excess.



Dip them into the egg mixture and then into the cheese mixture, making sure to coat both sides evenly. Set the chops aside on wax paper for 15 minutes, turning once. Heat the olive oil in a heavy-bottomed skillet over medium heat. Add the chops and fry, turning once, until a golden crust has formed, about 3 minutes per side. Reduce the heat. Cover and cook until cooked through. If you like the chops still faintly pink in the middle, this will only take about 3 to 4 minutes. Place the chops on a warmed platter and pour off all but 1 teaspoon of the oil from the skillet. Add the lemon juice and scrape up any brown bits on the bottom of the skillet. Add the capers and stir over low heat for about 30 seconds. Pour the lemon juice and capers over the chops and serve immediately.

— Dolores Sennebogen

CROCCHETTE DI PATATE

(*Potato Croquettes*)

3 pounds Idaho or russet potatoes
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
1/3 cup milk
1/4 cup fine dry bread crumbs
2/3 cup grated Romano or Parmesan cheese
1 clove garlic, pressed
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
Salt and pepper to taste
2 eggs, beaten
3/4 cup bread crumbs
1/4 cup flour
Oil for frying

Pare the potatoes and cut them into cubes. Place them in a pan with salted water to barely cover. Cook until a fork pierces the potatoes easily. Drain the potatoes and return them to the pan. Mash them, adding all of the ingredients

through the beaten eggs. Allow to cool. Form into golf-ball-sized balls. Combine 3/4 cup bread crumbs with the flour and roll each potato ball in the mixture. Heat about 1/4-inch of oil in a skillet, and when sufficiently hot, add the potato balls without crowding them.

Using 2 forks, carefully turn the potatoes to brown on all sides. Drain them on paper towels. You may want to wipe the skillet after cooking half of the potato balls, then continue with fresh oil. This helps keep all the croquettes a uniform golden color.

When ready to serve, warm the croquettes in a pre-heated 375-degree oven. These may the frozen and stored in tightly sealed containers. They will require extra warming time.

— Ann Sorrentino
“From Ann’s Kitchen”

ORECCHIETTE CON RAPINI E SALSICCIA

(*“Little Ears” with Broccoli Rabe and Sausage*)

Extra-virgin olive oil
5 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
8 ounces loose Italian fennel sausage
1 small onion, chopped
1 (one-pound) bunch broccoli rabe, cleaned and trimmed
1 pound orecchiette
Grated pecorino cheese

Add 3 tablespoons of oil to a 12- to 14-inch skillet. Sauté the sliced garlic and red pepper until the garlic begins to take on a light golden color; do not let it brown or burn or it will add a bitter flavor. Discard the garlic and add the sausage, mild or hot, according to your



taste. You may use link sausage that has been removed from the casing and broken up. Brown the sausage over medium heat. When it is half done, add the chopped onion and continue cooking until the sausage is nicely colored and the onion is beginning to soften.

Meanwhile, drop the pasta into a large pot of boiling salted water and cook, stirring frequently, until al dente. While it is cooking, chop the rapini into 2-inch pieces and sauté it with the sausage and onion until wilted and tender. Add additional olive oil if needed. Drain the pasta, reserving a ladleful of the cooking water. Add the pasta to the skillet with about 3 tablespoons of grated cheese; stir and toss with the sausage over medium heat, adding more olive oil or a little of the cooking water if the pasta seems too dry. Transfer to a warmed serving bowl and sprinkle with additional cheese.

— Dolores Sennebogen

TORTA DI RICOTTA

(*Ricotta Cake*)

1 cup golden raisins
1-1/2 cups superfine sugar
1 stick butter, room temperature
4 large eggs, room temperature
Grated zest of one orange
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon almond extract
6 tablespoons potato flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2-1/2 pounds fresh ricotta, well drained
Confectioners’ sugar for dusting

Soak the raisins in hot water for 15 minutes to plump them. Reserve 1 table-

spoon of the superfine sugar for later. Beat the butter with the remaining superfine sugar until pale and creamy and then add the eggs, one at a time. When all the eggs have been incorporated, mix in the orange zest, cinnamon and almond extract. Stir in the potato flour, baking powder and salt. Press the ricotta through the small-hole disc of a food mill, or through a sieve, directly into the other ingredients. Do not use a food processor as it will not aerate the ricotta. Fold the ricotta thoroughly into the mixture. Drain the raisins, pat them dry with paper towels and fold into the mixture.

Generously butter a 10-inch spring-form cake pan and sprinkle with the reserved superfine sugar to coat the bottom and sides. Spoon the ricotta mixture into the pan and bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 1 to 1-1/4 hours, or until the cake is done. It should shrink away from the sides of the pan slightly. Let cool in the pan. When completely cool, unmold the cake and place on a flat serving dish. Sprinkle with an abundance of confectioners’ sugar just before serving.

— adapted from Anna Del Conte

FRITTELLE DI RISO

(*Sweet Rice Fritters*)

2-1/2 cups rice
2 cups plus 4 tablespoons water
2 cup plus 4 tablespoons milk
1 orange, sliced
1/2 lemon, sliced
1-1/2 cups sugar
3 eggs plus 2 egg yolks
Grated rind of 1 orange
Grated rind of 1 lemon
4 ounces Vin Santo or other sweet wine
4 tablespoons flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
Oil for deep-frying
Confectioners’ sugar

Combine the first five ingredients in a large saucepan and set over medium-high heat. When the mixture begins to boil reduce the heat to a simmer. When the rice is half cooked, add the sugar and continue to cook until all of the liquid is absorbed and the rice is tender. Remove from the heat and discard the orange and lemon slices.

Cool the rice and then add the whole



eggs and extra yolks, the grated orange and lemon rind, the sweet wine, flour and baking powder. Combine well and let rest.

Drop the batter into hot oil using a tablespoon and brown on both sides. If the fritters break apart in the oil add a little more flour to the remaining batter. Place the browned fritters on paper towels. To serve, arrange on a tray and dust with confectioners’ sugar.

— Giuliana Castellani Koch

▼ COOK’S TIP ▼



Fresh bread crumbs are not the same as dry bread crumbs, and the difference can affect your recipe. If you want to make your own dry bread crumbs, dry slices or strips of bread in a warm oven, about 175 degrees. Cool them and then grind them. Fresh bread crumbs, sometimes called moist breadcrumbs, are just that — made with fresh bread. Remove the crusts, let the bread sit on the counter for a while, and it should be easy to crumble coarsely.



Italy's CHOCOLATE sweet tooth

by Mary Ann Esposito

La Festa di San Valentino (Valentine's Day) is nearly here and the rush is on for chocolate and roses to shower those we love. Did you ever wonder how chocolate arrived in Italia? We have Christopher Columbus to thank.

To show the Spanish Court his appreciation for financing his expeditions to the New World, he brought back cocoa beans, among other treasures, which eventually found their way to Italy. Ground cocoa beans began appearing in stews and sauces, and cocoa is still an ingredient in traditional Sicilian caponata.

Chocolate festivals are popular all year long in Italy. In February, Turin hosts a festival where chocolate makers show off their skills. My favorite there is gianduiotti, made with chocolate and hazelnuts. And why not, since the Piedmont region is loaded with hazelnut trees.

In Sicily, which has a gigantic sweet tooth, Modica puts on Modicamento, a festival that spotlights such intriguing pastries as mpanatigghi, a meat and chocolate filled empanada, another Spanish influence.

In October, the city of Perugia in Umbria hosts the famous Eurochocolate fair. Perugina chocolate is famous here and made not far from the city, which brings confectioners from around the world to showcase their artistic skills. One of my favorites was an entire miniature orchestra crafted from chocolate that was on display in the window of Sandri's pastry shop on Croso Vannucci in Perugia.

The story of chocolate also brings us to San Valentino, the man responsible for confections of affection on Valentine's Day. History tells us he was a priest during the reign of the Roman Emperor Claudius, a brutal ruler who persecuted young people, forbidding them to marry based on the notion that if soldiers married, they would be too distracted by their wives and children and their warrior skills would be lacking.

But Valentine ignored this edict and performed many marriage ceremonies for which he was tossed into prison and then martyred. Legend says that one of his last written messages, sent to young couples that he had befriended, was signed "from your Valentine." He is remembered on Feb. 14 when people all over the world wear their hearts on their sleeves and give gifts of cards, flowers and chocolate to those they love.

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY OLIVE OIL CUPCAKES

Makes 2 dozen

Cake

3 cups unbleached all purpose flour
2 cups sugar
6 tablespoons baking cocoa
2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup light olive oil
2 tablespoons white vinegar
2 cups cold water

Preheat the oven to 350F. Mix the flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt together in a large bowl. With a hand



mixer on low speed, beat in the olive oil, vinegar, vanilla and water until smooth. Divide and fill two non-stick cupcake tins or muffin pans three-quarters full with the batter.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes or until a cake skewer inserted in the center of the cakes comes out clean. Place the tins on cooling racks, and cool for 15 to 20 minutes before removing the cupcakes from the pans to cool completely. Frost when cool.

Frosting

Two 8-ounce packages Philadelphia Lite Cream Cheese, at room temperature
3-1/2 to 4 cups confectioners' sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon oil
or 1 tablespoon almond extract
Crystalized white sugar for sprinkling

Beat the cream cheese in a bowl until smooth; gradually add in enough of the sugar to make a smooth frosting that is not runny. Stir in the cinnamon oil, or the almond extract.

Recipe from "Ciao Italia in Umbria"

A smart, red, FAT CITY

by Judith Anne Testa

No Italian city boasts more nicknames than Bologna. It's been called "La dotta" (the intelligent/educated), "La rossa" (the red) and "La grassa" (the fat), each nickname calling attention to a different aspect of this many-faceted city. The qualities that gave birth to the nicknames are still there to be enjoyed.

One of the wealthiest cities in Italy, Bologna is also among the oldest. There's been a settlement on the site since at least 1,000 B.C. By the 8th century B.C., it had become an Etruscan town called Felsina, but in the 300s B.C. a Celtic tribe from Transalpine Gaul (the ancient name for the region just north of the Alps) overran the area. That group settled and mixed with the locals, creating a culture that lasted until 196 B.C., when the Romans conquered the region, destroying villages and importing 3,000 Latin families to populate a new town they called Bononia, the origin of the city's current name. The town grew into one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire, but after the fall of Rome it faded, passing through the hands of a succession of conquerors.

After various ups and downs, by the 1100s Bologna was flourishing. During this period, the city's famous towers began to be built (more about them below), and the city also became an im-

portant commercial center, thanks to the construction of a system of canals (now gone) that allowed ships to reach its unusual inland port. Along with the trans-



port of goods, hydraulic energy derived from the canals helped run numerous textile mills. The 1200s saw the city torn by Guelph-Ghibelline strife, with the former faction supporting the Church and the latter the superiority of the Holy Roman Emperors. Despite the violence, many of Bologna's finest public buildings and churches were built during that time. In the 1300s, Bologna fell into the hands of the aggressive Visconti dynasty of Milan, and later in that century it came under papal control.

In 1401, the Bentivoglio family emerged as the city's rulers. Their origins are obscure. One story says they began as peasants, another claims they were related to northern European royalty, but



▲ BOLOGNA

As rich in nicknames as it is in history, this ancient metropolis weathered centuries of internal strife and assault from without to become one of the wealthiest in Italy.

the most charming tale asserts that the first Bentivoglio was the son of a nobleman and a local girl he wooed with the words "Ben ti voglio": I love you. The I-Love-You family wasn't always loved by the citizens of Bologna. During the first half of the 1400s, three successive ruling members of the family met death at the hands of their enemies. Like every Italian city of that era, factional violence was Bologna's curse.

Giovanni I Bentivoglio took power in 1401 with help from his former enemy, Duke Giangaleazzo Visconti of Milan. But Visconti turned against him, and Giovanni died in battle against the Milanese in 1402. During subsequent decades, Bentivoglio fortunes remained uncertain. The son of Giovanni I, Antongaleazzo, assumed power in 1420, but was quickly overthrown. He became a mercenary soldier and was assassinated by papal forces in 1435. In 1438, Annibale I, perhaps a son of Antongaleazzo (his mother was said to be uncertain of the boy's paternity, and the matter was decided by a roll of the dice), led the city in revolt against the papacy. Annibale took power in Bologna in 1442, but was assassinated in 1445 by a rival who had

Continues on page 72 ...

the support of Pope Eugenius IV. Annibale’s successor was Sante, also of dubious paternity, but alleged to be a son of Ercole Bentivoglio, a cousin of Annibale. Sante ruled Bologna from 1442 to 1463. Supported by Cosimo de’ Medici, the unofficial ruler of Florence, Sante Bentivoglio ushered in a period of political tranquility. Sante was succeeded by Giovanni II, a son of Annibale.

In 1506, Pope Julius II and his army brought the Bentivoglio to ruin. That ambitious warrior-pope expelled Giovanni II from Bologna and permanently ended Bentivoglio rule in the city. During the extended battle, the Bolognesi melted down a huge bronze statue of the hated pope — a work of Michelangelo, no less — and used the metal to cast a cannon and a batch of cannonballs. They named their weapon “La Giulia” in sarcastic honor of Pope Julius, and fired it at the pope’s forces. But the papal army prevailed, and from that point until the late 18th century Bologna remained part of the Papal States. The Inquisition, with its book-burnings, intimidation of liberal-minded scholars and persecution of Jews, arrived in Bologna in 1553, damaging the city’s university and authorizing the founding of a ghetto. After a brief period of Napoleonic rule followed by a return to papal sovereignty, in 1860 the city joined the new Kingdom of Italy.

Well before Bologna became known as “The red” or “The fat,” it had established its reputation as “La dotta” — the educated or intelligent — and for an excellent reason: Bologna is the site of the oldest university in the Western world. Founded in 1088, it began as an international center for the study of Roman law. For its first century it was a law school, and only after long and bitter battles was another branch added, called “Artisti,” consisting of students of medicine, literature, philosophy and mathematics. This is the origin of our term “arts” and the reason we grant university degrees such as bachelor and master of “arts.”

A most unusual aspect of Bologna’s university is that women were admitted on equal terms with men, something unheard of when universities developed elsewhere in Europe. Beginning in medieval times, women also held professorships there. A long honor roll of distinguished individuals have studied in Bologna, among them Thomas Becket in the 1100s, Dante in the 1200s, Petrarch in the 1300s, Erasmus of Rotterdam in the 1400s, Copernicus in the

on which the dissection of bodies took place. Students observed the lessons from their seats around the theatre. The site was destroyed by an air raid during World War II, but after the war it was rebuilt using pieces recovered in the rubble of the building.

The original reason for calling Bologna “La rossa” has to do with an easily visible feature: the predominant use of rosy-red brick and roof-tiles in so many of the city’s buildings. Shades of terracotta-

principal church, San Petronio, stand at right angles to one another in the Piazza Maggiore. Both continue the terracotta brick theme, although S. Petronio, begun in 1390, was intended to have a cladding of white and pink marble that never rose past the first story. The interior continues the “rossa” theme, with terracotta-hued cluster-columns upholding the nave. Although the church is dedicated to the patron saint of the city, Petronius, a bishop of Bologna in the

monument) and the young Michelangelo, who in the mid-1490s contributed two small but impressive statues. His St. Proculus, although clothed, bears an uncanny resemblance to the artist’s later, monumental “David.” Over the years, the church has been enriched with works by many major artists. In addition to those who worked on the Arca, the church contains works by Filippino Lippi, Guido Reni, Ludovico Carracci and Guercino. In the second half of the 20th cen-



Archiginnasio, historical seat of the University of Bologna



Piazza Maggiore



Palazzo D'Accursio, Bologna's City Hall



Asinelli and Garisenda towers



Tagliatelle al ragù (with Bolognese sauce)

1500s, and more recently the great Italian scientists Luigi Galvani (discoverer of biological electricity) and Guglielmo Marconi, the pioneer of radio technology. The university, now almost a thousand years old, remains one of the best in Europe.

Today, the university’s many facilities are spread across the northeastern sector of the city. In addition to offices, classrooms and laboratories, they include a number of interesting and unusual small museums, among them the unique (and temporarily closed) Museo europeo degli studenti, about the history and culture of university students from the 13th to the 20th century. Also fascinating is the Anatomy Theater, which was once one of the main rooms of Bologna’s medical school. The theater, constructed entirely of spruce wood between 1733 and 1736, is in a building called the Archiginnasio. The carved wooden statues that decorate the theater walls represent eminent physicians of ancient times, such as Hippocrates. Two statues of “spellati” (skinned men — that is, bodies prepared for dissection of muscles) uphold the canopy surmounting the impressive cattedra del lettore, or teacher’s chair. In the center stands the white marble table

red and red-orange still compose the palette of the city, ranging from the exterior of churches and palaces to the ordinary walls on every little side street. A remarkable architectural feature of the city, its 25 miles of covered porticoes, continues the color scheme. The rapid expansion of the city in the medieval centuries led to the practice of building the floor above street level out over the street on wooden supports. These were later replaced with stone columns in the same reddish tones. An edict of 1288 required that porticoes for all new buildings be deep enough for a man to lie down under them without his feet sticking out into the street and high enough for a man on horseback to ride under them without bumping his head.

Among the buildings that give Bologna its “rossa” reputation are the few towers that survive from medieval centuries, when families fought each other and every neighborhood was an armed camp. The most famous are the centrally located Asinelli and the Garisenda towers, both built in the early 1100s, and both now leaning at alarming angles. The taller of the two, the 330-foot Asinelli, is open to the public, and visitors can climb its 498 steps. Bologna’s city hall, the wide and stately Palazzo Comunale, and its

fifth century, construction was a communal project, not one sponsored by the bishops. The property remained a symbol of communal power, and it wasn’t transferred from the city to the diocese until 1929. After centuries of secular ownership, the basilica was finally consecrated in 1954.

The true art treasure house among Bologna’s churches is S. Domenico. On the exterior, it’s another terracotta brick building with the austere character we’d expect of a monastic church, but the interior was renewed in the 1700s in the florid late Baroque style. This church plan became the prototype of Dominican churches throughout the world. It’s divided in two parts: the front part, called “internal church,” for the use of the monastic brothers, and the church for the faithful, called the “external church,” connected to the monastic church by a ramp. St. Dominic, founder of the Dominican order, died in Bologna in 1221 and was buried in the earlier church, over which this one was built. His body now reposes inside an elaborate shrine known as the Arca di San Domenico. Begun by Nicola Pisano around 1270, it has later additions by Arnolfo di Cambio, Niccolò della Arca (so named for his contributions to this

tury, the nickname “La rossa” took on a second, political meaning: Bologna became the stronghold of Italy’s communist party. Among Italian cities, Bologna has the largest percentage of self-declared communists. Between 1945 and 1999, the city had an uninterrupted series of communist mayors, although none of them made any attempt to interfere with the city’s thriving capitalist economy. Even though the appeal of communism in Italy has faded in recent decades, Bologna retains a reputation for fiery left-wing politics, and it takes pride in the modern connotation of “La rossa.”

Bologna’s third designation, as “La grassa” — The Fat — has a simple origin: it refers to the city’s reputation for excellent, robust (and fattening) food. The city’s signature dish, which the locals call ragù, is what the rest of the world calls bolognese: a hearty pasta sauce made with several kinds of ground meat as well as vegetables. Another classic Bologna dish is tortellini in brodo — little parcels of pasta filled with minced pork and served in a rich chicken broth. In addition, there are cheeses, prosciutto, salami (but no “bologna”), breads, wines and desserts heavy on whipped cream, all guaranteed to taste wonderful and make you “grassa” or “grasso.”

▼ TRAVEL TIPS ▼



Sanctuary of the Madonna di San Luca

HOW DO WE GET THERE?

Bologna is one of Italy’s most important rail hubs, so there’s frequent train service from major Italian cities and, with train changes, from most smaller ones. Bologna is two hours from Rome, and half an hour from Florence or Venice via the fast Frecciarossa trains.

WHAT SHOULD WE SEE?

Bologna has more sights worth seeing than can be covered in a day trip or in this article. The city’s main square, Piazza Maggiore, holds the impressive Palazzo Comunale (the city hall), which also houses an art museum, and the church of S. Petronio, dedicated to the city’s patron saint. Another important church, S. Domenico, is where St. Dominic is buried, and it contains a vast selection of works by important artists. Make a point of finding the youthful Michelangelo’s little statues on the Arca di S. Domenico: an angel holding a candle and a tough-looking St. Proculus. You can climb to the top of the Asinelli tower, or make the three-mile winding walk up the Portico di San Luca to the Sanctuary of the Madonna di San Luca, which holds an image of Mary supposedly painted by St. Luke. If fancy cars are your thing, take a bus to the suburb of Sant’Agata Bolognese, where you’ll find the Lamborghini Museum, dedicated to the world’s most sought-after luxury sports car.

WHERE DO WE EAT?

Bologna is famous for its food, so it’s hard to go wrong. Just make sure to avoid places with “menu turistico” signs.

Storming the BEACHES

by Nicola Orichuia

Most coastal towns in Sicily boast beautiful beaches and crystal clear waters. But few have the historical pedigree of Licata, which has witnessed some of history's most pivotal battles.

In 310 B.C., Greek tyrant Agathocles was defeated by the Carthaginians just outside today's town limits, prompting a retreat that paved the way for Carthaginian rule over the island. But that rule was short lived, as the Romans soon began battling their North African rivals for control over Sicily. In 256 B.C., Rome's naval fleet defeated its powerful counterpart in the battle of Cape Ecnomo, right across from Licata.

Licata also has a place in more recent history. On July 10, 1943, the beaches all around the town of 38,000 souls became the target of history's largest one-day landing of troops. The date marks the launch of the Italian campaign — dubbed Operation Husky — by the Allied Forces against the Fascist and Nazi regimes occupying Europe during World War II. In all, 180,000 U.S., British and Canadian troops were deployed, 20,000 more than were unleashed on D-Day almost a year later.

All of that, as they say, is history. Modern day Licata is well known for its

series of gorgeous beaches tucked inside various coves. It is also a pilgrimage destination for devotees of St. Angelus of Jerusalem, whose remains are interred inside the same church where he was stabbed to death in 1220.

On the foodie front, the town is well known for its muffuletti — a special bread flavored with cinnamon, anise seeds and other spices and baked in honor of Good Friday. The loaf is made only during Holy Week, so culinary pilgrims from the surrounding areas make it a point of stopping by Licata during the Easter break.



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