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Com **UNICO**

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<small>MEMO</small>		Bernard & Carolyn Torrann Nursing Scholarship Fund		<i>John DiNapoli</i> John DiNapoli, President	

UNICO Honors Nursing Student

PAGE 53

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 21, 2015	Proposed Amendments due to General Counsel, Frank T. Blasi
April 25, 2015	National Community Service Day
May 1, 2015	Scholarship Applications due to the National Office
May 11, 2015	Committee Request due to National Office
June 1, 2015	Grant Applications due to the National Office
June 8, 2015	July ComUNICO Deadline
July 29 - Aug. 1, 2015	National Convention

For more events, visit www.unico.org

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**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
RICHARD D'ARMINIO

The winter will hopefully be behind us when I finish writing my message. It should definitely be over by the time you receive this issue, but it has not stopped us from doing the great things to assist others in need while promoting our Italian Culture and Heritage.

The Mid-Year Board meeting in Tennessee was a success. While Mother Nature prevented many of you from getting there, those of us that made it assisted me in getting our business done and having another successful Marconi Awards Dinner. Congratulations to Dr. Piero Rinaldo of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Prior to this meeting, the Budget Committee had a busy meeting at the National Office chaired by our National Treasurer Sam Prudente. Some of our committees were able to meet in Tennessee, while others concluded their work via the telephone and meetings back home. The Foundation meeting had to be held at the National Office, but we completed it in the spirit of UNICO friendship as some grants were awarded to the Mental Health and Italian Studies Committees.

Congratulations are in order to the award recipients. Especially Ralph Continini of the Hackensack Chapter for receiving the Vastola Award. I congratulate both you and Mike Veselka, the Chair Person for getting our business done. It is my hope every year that more Chapters will participate in submitting worthy candidates. My thanks also to all the committee members who served. We get things done when we work together.

The Mid Year is usually indicative of half the year gone. My administration has only four months left before the Annual Convention! It's hard to believe but let's assess where I think we are at:

We are re-establishing a corporate sponsorship program. Many of you

know by now our relationship with Perillo Tours. Our goal is to obtain more sponsors, so that we lessen the burden on you as members, while at the same time offering you some benefits. Look for further information on our UNICO National website and also on piazzaunico.

Piazzaunico.us was unveiled in October/November and our registrations have increased nicely, but we still need your assistance in making sure that all members sign up. We sincerely believe that it will assist us in all aspects of doing our UNICO business from managing our Chapter affairs to communicating with our Chapter members and other Chapters more quickly and efficiently. We will share fund-raising ideas, share stories, promote our Culture and Heritage, and promote our sponsors. It can be a very useful tool for all committees to conduct their business and meetings. It will also accomplish one of my goals in communicating with other Italian American organizations in joining forces when necessary to fight discrimination, and collaborate on matters such as Saving Columbus Day. UNICO should be proud that they introduced this tool, as it is a first among Italian American Organizations.

If you own a business like I do, we encourage you to join our business directory and tell our members Nationwide about your service. Our goal once again is to give back to our members.

Our Italian Studies, AP Testing, and Culture and Heritage committees are working as a united group this year. Visits and more programs are happening at Montclair State University. A recent event was held at Seton Hall University where UNICO gave a Nursing Scholarship to a student who saved a person's life on an airplane. These events make UNICO stand out and I wish to thank our Office Manager, Pat Pelonero for organizing this.

Our Expansion and Membership and Retention committees are active. I congratulate Chapters such as Verona, Wayne, and others such as my own Greater Ramsey for hosting our Heritage event. We have introduced a new UNICO song that many of you have heard by now. If not, you can hear it on both our UNICO website in the photo gallery and piazzaunico.us. I would encourage all

Chapters to play the song right after the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Lady Manuela and I have had the privilege of making some visitations to the Westfield Chapter's Pig Roast, Scranton's Citizen of the Year Dinner, Nutley's Annual Scholarship Dinner, New Jersey District VII Carnevale and visits to Chapter's such as Fairfield, Sparta, Bloomfield and Secaucus for the first time. We will be in Avon, Connecticut for the first time soon for their dinner raising money for Cancer Research.

It doesn't matter what type of event your Chapter holds since our mission is the same. We assist those less fortunate and give out scholarships, we honor students and others, we raise money for charitable causes, etc. We promote our Heritage and Culture through various programs. I hope that everyone saw the PBS Documentary on THE ITALIAN AMERICANS in February. This is who we are and represent to others.

In closing, I wish to thank all of you for your friendship and hospitality. The First Family was recently honored with a New Jersey Presidential Ball and we celebrated all the great things we do with many family, friends and UNICANS. My thanks to both Past National Presidents Paul Alongi and Joe Agresti for all the work they did and for serving on the Executive Board. They go that extra mile, even when I tell them to stop.

I have four months to go and I won't stop. I hope you will join me as I travel to other areas of our Country.

Things to Remember:

- Amendments
- 990 IRS Filing
- Dues Payments
- Chapter Reports
- District Reports
- Register for Convention



**EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
DR. ANN WALKO

"All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination!" (Inspirational quote-Earl Nightingale)

Over the last several years, I have had a plan of action, a roadmap, if you will, to lead this organization into the 21st century. We are making some headway. Little by little, you are becoming familiar with my leadership style. Our roadmap is leading us to CHANGE, change which is good for UNICO. A number of initiatives have been instituted and have met with success.

The roadmap is also leading us to greater ACCOUNTABILITY. We need to know that we are achieving desired results. My thanks to the committee chairpersons who responded to the first report request.

We are making strides in achieving another initiative, that of more COMMUNICATION. There is no sense in having standing committees that do not meet and where leaders do not communicate with the members. Keeping members interested in serving on committees and involved equals those who will stay with the organization. Effective leadership is the key to maintaining members.

In this issue, we are asking that you share with us where you would like to be involved in terms of committee work. Please adhere to deadline or suspense dates. This year our aim is to have all committees in place by the Convention.

On the road to change will be more communication between National Officers. There is a great deal of work that needs to be done, therefore, officers will be totally immersed in the UNICO process. The goal is to develop a high-performing team to accomplish the business of running an organization.

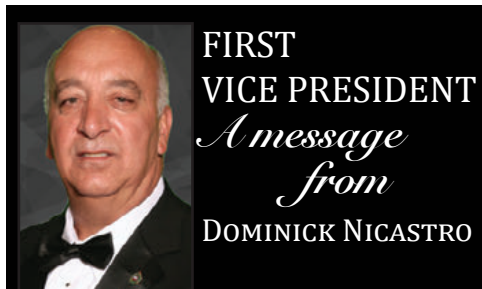
Membership must be our Number One priority. Losing members means less revenue and less person-power! This initiative is everyone's responsibility.

Although the weather did not cooperate with our Mid-Year meeting,

through accommodation and collaboration-we managed to get a great deal of work accomplished. Special thanks to the Mid-Year Chairperson and committee members for doing a mammoth job. More elaboration can be found in the Vice-President's Forum which will be distributed after this issue of ComUNICO.

As we move to our final destination-we must begin to think differently. Those in leadership positions must continue to be the stewards of our organization and the members need to be our Partners in Progress. We must now demonstrate the COURAGE to move forward in this time of change and accountability.

I am looking forward to seeing you all as we convene in Newport Beach, California where a host of activities have been planned for your enjoyment and as we gather to complete the work of UNICO. I am proud to become only the second female president in our 93 year history and I look forward to working with you as we follow the roadmap into the 21st century. Thank you for all that you do to make lives a little bit better for others.



**FIRST
VICE PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
DOMINICK NICASTRO

Socializing with old friends and meeting new people, I am always encouraged by the quality of people involved in our organization.

One of my duties is to ensure the Districts are working properly and that there are not any problems. As of right now, according to the District reports that come in, and phone calls to the District Governors, we have a few manageable issues to work through.

One problem we are facing, is trying to get new members to join. Membership is down again this year, mostly

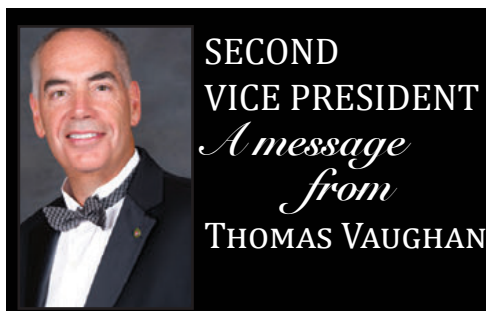
because of aging members. We need to continue to work closely with Chapters, Districts and National to support the efforts for new membership and retention. Reach out to family, friends and neighbors and invite people that will work together with us to maintain robust Chapters. One very strong and positive tool is an Italian Heritage Program designed and offered by our Past National President and Executive Director Andre' DiMino. This program is proven to bring in new members. Through mailings and a personal presentation within your community, he reminds people of their proud heritage and why they enjoy being Italian. If you would like more information, please contact Andre via e-mail andre@unico.org, or phone 973-808-0035.

The National Budget has been finalized and while everything is in order and going well, the numbers have been adjusted to reflect the decline in membership.

I was looking forward to attending the Mid-Year Board Meeting in Memphis where I would have made suggestions to the Executive Board, on ways to consolidate workshop and training time spent at our meetings and conventions. It is time to reform the present format and improve the content in meetings. We can still do business while making better use of people's time. This will allow for more free time to enjoy the event and socialize with families and fellow UNICANs from other states; thus promoting Unity and Neighborliness at a National level.

Lastly, I am looking forward to seeing you all at the National Convention in Newport Beach, California this summer and to ask all of you for your support to be elected to Executive Vice President.

Thank you and God Bless UNICO and all of us.



**SECOND
VICE PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
THOMAS VAUGHAN

Whew! Just flew back from Memphis (and boy are my arms tired: ba-dum-bum). As I told President D'Arminio, no one will ever forget the Memphis Mid-Year Board Meeting. My adventure started out on Wednesday with my travel partner Mario Giovannucci postponing his flight just before I found out my flight was cancelled because of bad weather in Memphis. Thursday morning I joined Morris Borea and Francine Nido on their flight. As we landed in Chicago we learned that our flight to Memphis was postponed for eleven hours. After being reassured that our luggage would make it to the later flight, we decided to make a day of it in Chicago. We called Past National President Mike Veselka to get some ideas, and then we took the train downtown. After stopping at the Water Tower Place Mall so Francine could purchase sneakers (to

replace the slippers she was wearing for the flight), we took the Hancock Tower elevator to the lounge on the 96th floor. We had a couple of drinks, enjoyed the views on a clear (but cold) day and enjoyed some antipasti. We then had deep dish pizza at Giordano's before taking the train back to the airport. Our flight that evening had Mario connecting with us and the four of us flew into Memphis. So we made the best out of the situation and got to our destination, but our luggage didn't! Three of us spent the next day in our travel clothes wondering if, or when, we would get our suitcases. Morris and I walked around Friday morning looking to buy some necessities and found the streets and sidewalks in Memphis covered in inches of ice, most of the stores closed and the walking treacherous. But we persevered, and though many other UNICANs had similar travel stories (Lee Norelli and Debbie went from Philadelphia to Memphis via Houston!), those of us that made it found the meetings very productive and the social events fun. Special recognition goes to Past National President Mike Spano and the Memphis Chapter for all they did to make the meeting successful despite the difficult circumstances.

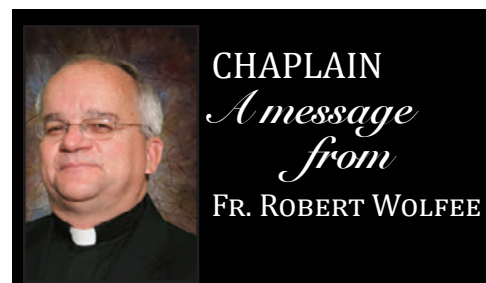
At Saturday's Board Meeting, I had the pleasure of co-presenting, with Peter

Watts of Solutionize, about the piazzounico web site. The piazzaunico Committee worked on a training video for members which explain the advantages of registering for the web site. Peter and I gave an overview of the video and provided a live demonstration. We received a lot of great feedback and ideas from those in attendance.

I am still working with President Rick on the personal contact with Chapter Presidents' initiative. If you are a Chapter President, please let me know if you have not been contacted by your District Governor, Past District Governor, or other National Officer. Let me know if you are having any Chapter issues you would like help on, or if you want me to attend any of your meetings or events. Ci vediamo presto!



From left: Connecticut III District Governor Morris Borea, Membership and Retention Director Francine Nido and UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan at Giordano's, one of the restaurants you can get Chicago's famous deep dish pizza.



CHAPLAIN
*A message
from*
FR. ROBERT WOLFEE

The lives of Jesus' followers had been enriched by their friendship with this extraordinary person. So, they were devastated when he was crucified. Then, on that first Easter Sunday some people reported the unthinkable, the unbelievable --- that he was not dead after all; that he was raised from the dead! Consider what it would have been like if Mary Magdalene did find Jesus' body in the tomb that morning. Imagine how she and the other disciples would have lived the rest of their lives: broken, confused, bitter, scattered. How different would our lives be? I do not think we can even

begin to fathom the answer.

Although no one actually saw Jesus rise from the dead, his resurrection is the central belief of the Christian faith. All that Jesus had said about himself before his death had come to pass. At the heart of our belief is the promise of life instead of death, victory in place of defeat. Without that belief, there would be no Catholic Church, no Christianity. If Jesus had not risen, it would have only been a matter of time before he would have been forgotten.

Unlike the apostles, we have not physically seen Jesus. We have to believe in him based on the Bible, the teachings of the Church and the working of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. In addition, we have the witness of the apostles' lives! We have the stories of how they devoted themselves to building up the Church, the sacrifices they made, the persecutions they endured and even the martyrdom that many of them suffered. It is

very unlikely that they would really go through all of that just to keep a "myth" alive!

The message of Easter is that, just as Jesus conquered all, so can we if we place all our trust in him. Our faith is a gift, which we are to share with others by the witness of our lives. We must carry our faith into our homes, our schools, our places of work, our neighborhoods and wherever else we find ourselves. Expressing our faith can take many forms. The witness of the apostles was very public and bold, but most people express their faith in more subtle ways. Regardless of how we do it, we must be willing to show others that Jesus has made a difference in our lives. His resurrection made it possible for all of us to have eternal life. That is more than enough reason to rejoice.

God bless.



I am so grateful for April and the spring season! Bad weather and long winters throw such a monkey wrench into the best laid intentions. Not that it stops the work of UNICO from happening, it just makes it harder to achieve the end results. However, as usual, UNICO National prevails and is able to accomplish many good deeds despite the obstacles along the way.

I have to say I am sorry to have missed the Mid-Year Board meeting due to the weather, as many other members did. It is always nice to see everyone and catch up. That will have to happen at

the Convention in Newport Beach, California. I want to thank all the members that called to say they missed me in Memphis. It is like meeting up with family at the UNICO events and I missed seeing all of you as well.

As you will see on the front page, the UNICO Foundation awarded Stefanie DeSimone a Seton Hall nursing student a Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Nursing Scholarship. Stephanie saved a passenger's life on an airplane returning from a trip to Italy. UNICO wanted to award Stefanie for her quick response and skills that she applied to save a life. It is always great to see such a young Italian American role model. I wish to congratulate Stefanie again for the action she took to save a life.

The National Office will be sending out dues billings as of May 1st, 2015. We ask that you review your Chapter's roster for correct spellings, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and that you have the

number of members stated correctly. If you have any questions, or need assistance in the process, please do not hesitate to call the National Office and we will gladly help you with all your needs. Please remember that the first half dues and election form are due to the National Office by July 1, 2015.

Andre' DiMino, myself and the staff at UNICO National want to wish Joyce O'Hara a fond farewell. After seven years of dedicated service to the UNICO National Office, Joyce has decided to resign her position as bookkeeper with UNICO National. We wish to thank Joyce for all she accomplished in her position as bookkeeper and wish her all the best.

Lisa and I sure hope that you are growing accustomed to the new format, as we have had an over whelming positive response from many members. Have a great spring season, the next addition will be in July!



**ARE YOU TRAVELING TO ITALY IN THE NEAR FUTURE?
IF SO, CONSIDER SUBMITTING YOUR PICTURES
FOR THE 2016 ITALIAN & ITALIAN AMERICAN
HERITAGE CALENDAR!**
SEND ELECTRONIC ENTRIES TO: UNICOPICTURES@GMAIL.COM



What a winter we have had this year! I cannot wait for spring to officially arrive and thaw out the snow.

In spite of all the snowfall, Rick and I managed to attend several dinners and events. In January we attended the New Jersey District X's Americanism Awards Dinner and the Sparta Chapter's dinner meeting. The Scranton Chapter's Citizen of the Year Award dinner was held in January honoring Blaise Alan Dente, one of the Chapter members. Congratulations to Mr. Dente. It was a fun night and our

thanks again to Chris DiMattio and the entire Chapter for the wonderful gifts Rick and I received.

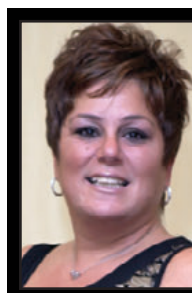
In February, the Nutley Chapter had their scholarship awards dinner and we met such well deserving recipients. Elyse and Bob Buonomo were crowned king and queen of Carnevale. Such a fun night, with lots of food, drinks and decor.

For Rick's Presidential Ball, we were surrounded by so many family members and friends to continue the celebration of being UNICO National President and First Lady. We also had three young men, Chris Watts, Mike Watts and Nick Everett perform a song they wrote called "Proud to be an Italian American". Thank you gentlemen for your song and dedication to performing this at many of our events. They even drove all the way to Memphis for the Mid-Year meeting with their dad, Peter Watts.

My heartfelt thanks to Paul Alongi and Joe Agresti for their diligence in making our night so special. I will make good use of that jewelry box!

Even though, the snow and bad weather detained us and many others from arriving in Memphis for the Mid-Year meeting, we had enough attendees for the meetings and festivities. The Memphis Chapter greeted us so warmly. Many thanks to Linda and Mike Spano for their hospitality and hard work in organizing such a fantastic evening of fun, dancing and food. I especially loved the DJ, he knows how to spin his music! Rick and I were not able to tour St. Jude's Hospital due to the inclement weather, but we did get to see Elvis Presley's Graceland on Sunday.

Looking forward to more exciting events.



**MEMBERSHIP
& RETENTION**
*A message
from*
FRANCINE NIDO

Spring. For each of us this word brings many thoughts to mind. Spring forward, means changing your clocks. Next is the spring cleaning ritual when we open windows to let the closed-in winter air out and bring in new fresh air. Spring also means the renewal of the gardening cycle. We rush outdoors to remove the last remnants of winter, trimming away dead growth from last year's plants and shrubs, raking the debris accumulated during winter storms. We bring in new mulch for the flower beds; turning the soil in anticipation of planting this year's selection of annuals to brighten our landscape.

Many of us, inspired by the warmer days and fresh air, find our way outdoors to walk/bike. We reenergize our

bodies through exercise, and hopefully renew our physical selves and our spirit to meet the challenges of everyday life. I want to suggest a new rite of spring: UNICO-RENEWAL. In an attempt to live by design, not default, we should all evaluate our commitment to UNICO and plan our involvement for the rest of the UNICO season. Ask yourself - Am I giving my Chapter my all? Is there something more I can do? Is there a way I can be more productive and supportive? This is the time to get involved. Commit to attending more meetings or supporting Chapter/District events. Make plans to attend the National Convention. Volunteer to serve on a District or National Committee. Register on piazzaunico.us. Contact fellow members who you haven't seen in a while. And most importantly, ask someone to attend a meeting with you and join UNICO.

Membership growth and retention of members is an on-going concern. But in order to attract highly motivated new members, we need to be sure that our existing members are renewed in their commitment and are ready to serve as

evangelists for UNICO.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have or attend your Chapter activities including special events, meetings, open houses, membership drives or heritage nights. Feel free to reach me via email at UNICODoll@gmail.com and my phone number and mailing address are available on www.UNICO.org.



From left: Connecticut III District Governor Morris Borea, Membership and Retention Director Francine Nido and UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan made the most of their 12 hour delay in Chicago to the Memphis Mid-Year Meeting. Here they are visiting the Lounge on the 96th floor of the Hancock Tower.



SCHOLARSHIPS
*A message
from*
JOAN TIDONA

Neve o Non Neve

Anno di neve, anno di bene! Snow year, good year! I read somewhere that this is an Italian adage. I was a bit skeptical. Snow in Italy? Of course it snows in the Alps, but I decided to look it up. I learned that in 2015 not only did the boot of Italy have snow, but Sicily did as well. This is almost unheard of. Kind of like snow in Southern California. Of course, most of us have had more than our share of the frozen stuff. We all deserve a good year. When it comes to the UNICO National Scholarship Program, every year is a good year.

UNICO Scholarships are greatly valued and clearly sought after. As the cost of higher education continues to es-

calate, the importance of the assistance we provide deserving young students is widely recognized. So many of our applicants express gratitude for the opportunity to be considered for our prestigious awards.

By the time you read this article, the 2014-2015 scholarship season will be nearing completion.

Since many applications are submitted through UNICO Chapters, I thank all who have nominated candidates. It requires diligence to confirm that applications have been properly prepared and all required documents are included. Your efforts are appreciated.

While the National Scholarship Program continues to be a great success and brings to UNICO outstanding recognition, funding has become an area of concern. Newly established scholarships are fully underwritten by our patrons. Earlier programs are funded by interest generated by the dedicated corpus account, supplemented by member donations. Owing to careful investments and Chapter support, this system has proved quite successful. However, there have

been times, in the past, when contributions were insufficient. This meant the corpus was invaded.

Should this situation reoccur, our traditional scholarships could be in jeopardy. I don't think any UNICAN wants to let that happen. To maintain the strength of our program, Chapter, District and individual donations are essential. Do what you can, but please provide some support.

To acknowledge the generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund, we will continue to issue certificates of appreciation to those donating \$500 or more. We hope you will display the certificate in your scrapbook. Chapters contributing \$1,000 and better will receive a banner patch.

Our National Scholarship Program is an integral part of the UNICO identity; historically, our first philanthropic endeavor. I ask all Chapters to do your best to enable us to retain this important and valued tradition. With your help we will continue to have good years, neve o non neve.

SAVE THE DATE

Convention 2015 Fund-raising Events

April 16, 2015 - Fashion Show at the Gran Centurions Banquet Hall. Tickets \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door.

May 21, 2015 - Cocktail Reception and Dinner honoring Dr. M. Ann Walko. contact Anthony Bengivenga at anthony@bengivenga.com

May 28, 2015 - Cigar Night at the Mayfair Farms, contact Frank Paolercio at paolercio@verizon.net

June 21, 2015 - Bowl-a-Thon, contact Paul Alongi at palongisr@firstmco.com for more information.

TBA - Wine Tasting Party, to be held in Pennsylvania, contact Joe Cerullo at jcerullo@epix.net



**FOUNDATION
PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
JOHN DINAPOLI

GREAT NEWS

Recently, Ralph Torracco donated an additional \$125,000 to the RALPH TORRACO FOOD BANK & SHELTER FUND.

Robert J. Tarte established a new Scholarship in his name. The Scholarship is for a full time student in an accredited college or university in the United States and presently engaged as a major or minor in the field of Italian Studies or Italian Language. The first Scholarship will be awarded in 2016.

We would like to thank Ralph and Robert for their generous contribution to the UNICO FOUNDATION.

Over the past several years contributions to other UNICO projects have been on the decline. The following is a list of charitable projects:

COOLEY'S ANEMIA
ITALIAN STUDIES
MENTAL HEALTH
UNICO GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP
ARMED SERVICES
ANTI BIAS
HERITAGE CALENDAR
"V" FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Please consider making donations to the above mentioned projects. Contributions to the UNICO FOUNDATION, a 501 (C) (3) CORPORATION, are tax deductible.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported the FOUNDATION and I hope you will continue to fund all of the outstanding projects.

If anyone has a question concerning the UNICO FOUNDATION, please feel free to contact me.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUEST FORM

From: Dr. M. Ann Walko- Executive Vice President

Dedicated members who are interested in serving on UNICO National Committees should complete the form at the right as we are beginning the process early in order to have a complete listing by the 93rd Convention.

To facilitate this process please return this form by MAY 11, 2015 to:

UNICO National
Attn: Dr. M. Ann Walko
271 U.S. Highway 46 West
Suite F-103
Fairfield, NJ 07004

Please note: Preferences may or may not be approved as requested. Every effort will be made to honor each request and assign individuals to the committees of their choice.

Yes, I am interested in becoming a committee member!

NAME: (please print) _____

CHAPTER _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

1. Committee _____

2. Committee _____

3. Committee _____

4. Committee _____

CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN, IL**Chicago West Suburban
Hosts Party**

The First Annual Chicago West Suburban Christmas Party for our kids was a wonderful success. Over 40 young people, future UNICANS, ages up to 12, met Santa Claus and Elmo, who showered them with gifts and candy. An idea started by member John Panvino, owner of Trattoria Porretta's of Chicago, grew into an exciting event for the entire family.

Together with their parents, over 120 attended this party. A fantastic face painter was on hand placing bigger smiles on all the young ones and most young ladies got make up for the first time. The Balloon Guy was unbelievable. He is a young man working to help put his sister through school. Our own photographer, Jessica Rifis, was on hand taking pictures for families to access later, free on her web site.

The event was sponsored by Chicago West Suburban, Trattoria Porretta's, M.E.N.D. Services, Mario's Red Hots, and Palermo Bakery, along with donations from some of the members. Robert Brady of the local Chicago Fire House, gave us coloring books and firemen hats. The kids loved them, especially the Red Hats.

A special thanks to the event committee members, John Panvino, Loreto LoCasio and Joe Mollica, along with a shout out to our President Joe Madonia, Executive Vice President Mario Veltri, Second V. P. Donato Ancona, Mid-West Regional Governor Paul Domico and Treasure Rich Caifano for attending and for their donations.

What an exciting way to close off this year's events and fund-raisers. Next year we can only hope to get bigger and better with the help from our membership and sponsors.

**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV**

New Jersey District IV Presidents and National Officers gather for a picture at the District meeting hosted by the Wayne Chapter. From left: Bob Diana, Pequannock; Anthony DeGennaro, Wayne; New Jersey District IV Governor Steve Pelonero, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, UNICO National Jimmy "V" Chairman Dr. Frank DeFrank, Greg Tufaro, Cedar Grove; John Barbieri, Passaic Valley and Dave D'Arco, Passaic/Clifton.



Chapters and members received Certificates of Appreciation for their "Service Above Self" from Past National President Joe Agresti. From left: John Barbieri, Passaic Valley President; John Morano, Passaic Valley Chapter; Dave D'Arco, Passaic-Clifton President; UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio; New Jersey District IV Governor Steve Pelonero; Greg Tufaro, Cedar Grove President and Past National President Joe Agresti.

WAYNE, NJ

New Jersey District IV Governor Steve Pelonero swears in and passes the Wayne Chapter Gavel to the incoming President Anthony DeGennaro.



From left: Jeff Fossati, Anthony DeGennaro, Chapter President; Steve Calantone and Steve Pelonero, New Jersey District IV Governor.



From left: Brian Rasa, Joe Zisa, President Anthony DeGennaro, Bill Bianculli, Steve Calantone and Connie Ferrigno.

**WETHERSFIELD, CT**

From left: Connecticut District III Governor Morris Borea, Wethersfield new members Teresa Capalbo and Cari Colangelo, Wethersfield Chapter President Mark Console and UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan.

ELIZABETH, NJ**Elizabeth's Citizen of the Year -
Onofrio Vitullo**

The Elizabeth Chapter was proud to honor the Director of the Elizabeth Fire Department, Onofrio (Nof) Vitullo as its 2014 Citizen of the Year.

Throughout the years, Nof showed a dedication to helping others, and he credits his close and loving family for instilling in him a proud Italian heritage and unyielding work ethic.

Nof joined the Navy as an electronics technician and achieved the rank of Second Class Petty Officer. Upon concluding his tour of duty with the Navy, Nof joined the Elizabeth Fire Department and proudly served for thirty years. As a result of his leadership and dedication, he and his crew have been awarded numerous citations, commendations, and awards. Nof notes, "My career with the Fire Department has always been a deep source of pride for me. I have been truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such an honorable and dedicated group of individuals." During his tenure in the City of Elizabeth, Nof has served as both Firefighter and Captain. In 2005, Nof was appointed by Mayor J. Christian Bollwage to serve as the Director of the Fire Department.

Nof takes great pride in being named UNICO's Citizen of the Year. It seems that this is just one more achievement that adds to an illustrious career that is marked by leadership, service, and dedication to his fellow man. The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO could not be more proud to congratulate Onofrio Vitullo, our 2014 Citizen of the Year.



Nof and Family Members along with Elizabeth Chapter President Lou Bani (2nd from right) and George Marretta (3rd from right).



Onofrio Vitullo with Chapter President, Lou Bani and National Executive V. P. Ann Walko and First V. P. Dominick Nicastro.

STAMFORD, CT

Joe Pampena, Connecticut Immediate Past District Governor from the Stamford Chapter, speaks about UNICO's many contributions to the Stamford Italian American Community at the first Heritage Italian American Heritage Celebration hosted by the University of Connecticut Stamford Campus. Other Stamford's Italian Clubs and Societies also had a display of their own heritage and costumes.

MONTVILLE, NJ

Chapter President Anthony Malanga recently swore in Second Vice President Danielle Speciale. Danielle is one of our youngest members and is enthusiastic about working to enhance our motto "Service Above Self".

HAZLETON, PA**Hazleton Past President
Angelo Porreca Honored**

Past Hazleton UNICO President Angelo Porreca, was honored for his dedicated year of service to the organization at a dinner at Edgewood.

Some of the highlights of community outreach during his presidency were a motorcycle raffle, motorcycle run and the Bell' Italia Festival. In its role as a "Service Above Self" organization, the Italian American service organization works on fund-raisers during the year to support various agencies and organizations in need of funds to do their work such as: The American Cancer Society, Helping Hands, Jimmy "V" and Hazleton Little League.



Congratulating Angelo Porreca, to his left, is Mike DeCosmo, current Hazleton UNICO President.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Page 14 - Highland Beach Chapter Member Joan Buzzallino was incorrectly identified as John Buzzallino.

**The Deadline for the
July 2015 issue of
ComUNICO is
Monday, June 8, 2015.**

**Please send all submissions to:
comunico@unico.org**

PITTSFIELD, MA

Community Service Event Bell Ringing for the Local Salvation Army

Every December, members of the Pittsfield Chapter volunteer two days of their time to ring the bells at the Salvation Army collection kettle in front of the local Walmart. They work in two hour shifts from nine in the morning to nine at night. Usually the temperatures are below freezing and the wind is blowing.

This volunteer time is very productive for the Salvation Army as over twenty three hundred dollars was collected. The proceeds are used by the Salvation Army to fund their various community support programs which usually depend entirely on donations.

This event is one of several conducted by the Pittsfield Chapter in December.



Members of the Chapter's ACES group man the kettle on the late afternoon shift. From left: Vin Marinaro, Tess Sorrentino and Jack Quattrocchi.

SCRANTON, PA

The Scranton Chapter recently held the exhibit, "Celebrating Guardia dei Lombardi" at Lackawanna College as a part of First Friday December. During the exhibit, Scranton Mayor William Courtright declared a formal sister city relationship between Scranton and Guardia dei Lombardi, Province of Avelino, Italy. The exhibit featured photos of immigrants to Scranton and Lackawanna County from Guardia so that people could get a glimpse of what their lives were like upon arrival to the United States. Lackawanna County commissioner Patrick O'Malley also declared Friday, December 5 as Guardia dei Lombardi day in Lackawanna County.



UNICO Scranton Heritage Committee members gather with Lackawanna County commissioner Patrick O'Malley following the Celebrating Guardia dei Lombardi exhibit at Lackawanna College in December. From left: Bernie Brutto, Pennsylvania District I Governor; Annie Longo, Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Patrick O'Malley, Lackawanna County Commissioner; Marry Marrara, Chapter President and Stephanie Longo.



UNICO Scranton Heritage Committee members gather with Scranton Mayor William Courtright following the sister city declaration with Guardia dei Lombardi. From left: John Baldino, Mary Marrara, Chapter President; William Courtright, Mayor of Scranton; Stephanie Longo and Annie Longo.

PLAINFIELDS', NJ



Plainfields' UNICO members meet with Highland Beach UNICO in Florida! From left: Highland Beach President Frank Lo Re, John G. DeAndrea, Rosaria Gismondi, and Past National President Renato Biribin.

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MANCHESTER, CT



Manchester UNICO in appreciation to the merchants, banks and suppliers thanks them for their time, contributions and support in helping UNICO throughout the years in raising money for local charities and scholarships. Thank you to: Connecticut Lighting Centers, Frank Addabo; Farmington Bank, Laurie Brooks; First Niagara Bank, Kim Mauro; Highland Park Market, Tim Devanney; October Kitchen, Paul and Alison Finney; Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, Brenda, Wallace and Debbie; Shady Glen, Annette and Bill Hoch; Suburban Subaru, Michelle and Rick Manus; John F. Tierney Funeral Home, Kathy and Tommy Tierney, Sr. and Manchester UNICO President, Peter Miller.



Manchester sponsors "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" play held at Cheney Hall in Manchester. From left: Jeff Gentlcore, Bernie Giovino, Peter Miller and Nate Agostinelli. Since this play takes place in a school gym, setting the UNICO banner was displayed as part of the background for all performances.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The guest speaker at a recent meeting of Greater Binghamton UNICO was Therese Walsh. Therese is the author of "The Last Will of Moira Leahy" and "The Moon Sisters", and daughter of member Judy Staeuble. She enlightened members on her journey as an author, and how

her Italian heritage inspired her novel script. "The Moon Sisters" is Therese's second book, and it has received 71 5-star reviews on Amazon. Therese is the Co-founder and Editor in Chief of Writer Unboxed, an award-winning website and online writing community. Among other accolades, Writer Unboxed was named one of the top 101 sites for writers in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 by Writer's Digest. At the end of the evening, members and guests were able to obtain signed copies of both books.



From left: Judy Staeuble, Author Therese Walsh, and Jerry Staeuble.

SPARTA, NJ



From left: UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio swears in new members Niel Spidaletto, Linda Grinthal and Ginnie Littell.



Ginnie Littell and Chapter President Ken Carafello.



From left: Niel Spidaletto, Ginnie Littell, First Lady Manuela D'Arminio, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Linda Grinthal and Chapter President Ken Carafello.

BLOOMFIELD, NJ

Bloomfield UNICO, Foley Field Foundation and Saint Valentine's Athletic Club partnered to purchase two of the defibrillators needed for the Bloomfield School District to meet a new state mandate. The three Bloomfield Township civic organizations came together at the Bloomfield UNICO Christmas Party to present the two new defibrillators to the Bloomfield High School Athletic Department.



From left: Saint Valentine's Athletic Club Trustee Dave Soto, and Treasurer Jim Bell, Bloomfield UNICO President Mike Sisco, Bloomfield School District Assistant Superintendent Jaynellen Jenkins, Superintendent Sal Goncalves, Bloomfield Varsity Athletic Director Steve Jenkins, Saint Valentine's Athletic Club President Ken D'Onofrio, Foley Field Foundation President Mike Napolitano and Al Crincoli.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

JANUARY

BLOOMFIELD
Mario DiMasi

BRICK
Marianna Pontoriero

BROOKHAVEN
Richard Romano

ELIZABETH
Filippo Russo
Francesco Zeppieri

FARMINGTON
Dan Bellantuono

HACKENSACK
Richard Conte
Anthony Mazzei

HIGHLAND BEACH
Monica Campanella
Peter F. Campanella
Joseph A. Ferrara
Frank Geraci
Donna Scarpetti Rizzo

NUTLEY
Frank Giordano
Robert Vangieri

RARITAN VALLEY
John Andreyko

REHOBOTH AREA
Patricia A. Basili
Victor R. Basili
Arthur Chomas
Bernardine Chomas

SAN DIEGO
Jessica Fusco
Michael Fusco

SANTA BARBARA
Marilyn Acquistapace
Kevin C. Osburn

SPARTA
Anthony Berardi
Linda Grinthal

SPRINGFIELD
Mark J. Albano
Gary J. Bacchiocchi
Thomas A. Gentile, Sr.
Joseph W. Kosliklii

TWIN CITIES
Marykay Rulli Dzik
Thomas W. Dzik
Anthony G. Martino
Jessica Mehle
Ottavio A. Savina

WATERBURY
Carol Anelli

WEST ESSEX
Mauro G. Tucci, Jr.

WEST SPRINGFIELD
Josephine M. McConkey

FEBRUARY

BAYONNE
Brian Dellabella
Vincent Mastromonaco
Vincent Sita

CEDAR GROVE
Thomas Perri

GREATER PHILADELPHIA
Matthew Huffman
John Mazzola
John Palella
Berardino Varallo

HACKENSACK
Darren Porcaro

HIGHLAND BEACH
Carl Cosenzo
Jeanette Cosenzo
Lawrence Mangano
Robert Silvani

KANSAS CITY
Michael George
Sam Guadagnano
Nick Mannoni
Ralph Migliazzo
Anthony Rizzi
Daniel Tira

NUTLEY
Pasquale Di Palma
Danielle Manganiello

PASSAIC VALLEY
Jean Chomko

**SCOTCH PLAINS/
FANWOOD**
Katie De Prospero
Keith Guarnuccio
Daniela Sellinger

SOUTHINGTON
David Carrier
David Daddona
Michael Gaudio
Marc Mathieu
Meghan McNicholas-Leggett

SPARTA
Peggy Cofrancesco
Virginia Littell

TWIN CITIES
Jeff Rossi

WAYNE
Charlie De Vito

MARCH

BLOOMFIELD
Michael Spinella

BROOKHAVEN
John J. Malinconico
Michael Trentacoste

GREATER PHILADELPHIA
Henry Amanto

GREATER RAMSEY
Linda Lembo-Alonso

HACKENSACK
Joseph Barricella
Christopher Pisacane

HIGHLAND BEACH
Angela Guarnieri
Joseph R. Lagana

MONTVILLE
Mark Romeo
Daria Senaldi Romeo

PEQUANNOCK
Cheryl Addino
Rita B. Di Pasquale
Nadia Garcia
David Lambo
Donna Perillo
Vincent Pignatiello Jr.
Jeff G. Turi
Joseph Zeppetelli

PT. PLEASANT BEACH
Jeffrey Bryant
Dominick Leyda

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP
Marysue De Paola
Thomas H. De Paola

ROSETO
Emile B. Guida

SANTA BARBARA
Andrew Lo Russo

SPARTA
Victoria B. Caruso
M. Johanna Koenig

ST. JOE'S H. S. MONTVALE
Bryan Francis



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.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII CARNEVALE



The Queen and King of Carnevale - Elyse and Bob Buonomo.



"Red Mike" Festival Band



The Garfield Chapter.



The Rutherford Chapter



From left: Gaeton DiNapoli, Elyse Buonomo, Joanne DiNapoli and Bob Buonomo.



Past Kings and Queen of Carnevale.



From left: Marie Solimo, Bob and Elyse Buonomo and Phyllis Coldebella.



From left: Joe Kovacs, Bob, Elyse and Craig Buonomo.



UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan and May D'Arminio.



From left: Michael DeBenedetto, Ralph Contini, Don Onorato, Mike Mariniello and Joe Iula.



From left: Sal Mangano and Elyse and Bob Buonomo.



From left: Dominick Nicastro and Elyse and Bob Buonomo.



From left: Claudine Cacace and Elyse and Bob Buonomo.



From left: Allan Focarino and Elyse and Bob Buonomo.



Al and Linda Masullo and Elyse and Bob Buonomo.

WAYNE, NJ-HERITAGE EVENT



Wayne Chapter members join Andre' DiMino for a picture before the Heritage Event.



From left: Brian Rasa, Steve Pelonero, Anthony DeGennaro, Mayor CJ Vergano, Jeff Fossati and Steve Calantone.



From Left: Emilio Baldino, Billy the Mozzarella Guy and His assistant and Geraldine Gillio.



The kitchen crew at work.



Chapter President Anthony DeGennaro.



Maria and Emilio Baldino

The Wayne Chapter had a very successful Italian Heritage Day with the help of Andre' DiMino, Steve and Pat Pelonero, and all of our Wayne Chapter Members. This year's event featured a mozzarella demonstration and also, some authentic Italian music and dancing from our guests. Our members and guests had a chance to listen to Andre's discussion and rediscover their Italian heritage and learn about the great things we do at UNICO. We had a lot of interest and involvement from our guests, and hope to have them attend one of our upcoming meetings, and hopefully join our Chapter.



Pasquale and Joe Gencarrelli.



From left: Andre' DiMino, Anthony DeGennaro and Mayor Vergano .



From left: Emilio Baldino and Joe and Pasquale Gencarrelli.



Anthony DeGennaro and Andre' DiMino.



A view of the room.

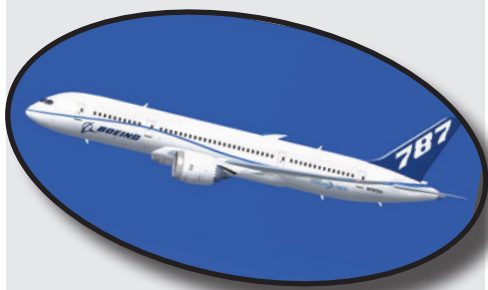


Emilio Baldino dances with a guest.



TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

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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

PLAINFIELDS', NJ

The Plainfields' Chapter recently celebrated the presentation of UNICO's Americanism Award to our Chapter nominee, Donald J. Zolkiwsky. His name may not be Italian but Donald grew up with his maternal grandparents who had emigrated from Italy. He is a long time resident of South Plainfield and has a distinguished military career. Among other awards, Donald was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received in 1968 in Vietnam. Don retired from AT&T Bell Laboratories as a Director with 27 years of service. The list of Don's achievements is long but to name a few he was active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, and is a former Deacon at Trinity Reformed Church in North Plainfield. The Plainfields' Chapter takes great pride that Donald Zolkiwsky has been selected for this award which honors patriotism and public service.



Bob Bengivenga presents the Americanism Award to Donald Zolkiwsky.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ

From left: UNICO National Membership and Retention Director Francine Nido, new member Judy Copt and Chapter President Joyce Walker. The Chapter received a banner stand from Francine Nido for having the largest membership gain in October.

CRESSKILL, NJ

The Cresskill Chapter recently held its annual Christmas Party for local groups of special needs children and adults. Nearly 200 people attended the party representing seven local area groups providing services to people with special needs. The groups are treated to a hot lunch, a visit with Santa and a gift. Following lunch, there is music and dancing provided by one of the Chapter members, who is a professional DJ.

The Cresskill Chapter was assisted by seven members of the Cresskill High School Italian Club who volunteer their time to help at several events sponsored by the Cresskill Chapter throughout the year.

This is one of several events held annually by the Cresskill Chapter to benefit the disadvantaged in the area.



Lunch being served by the Cresskill Chapter at the annual Christmas party being held at the Cresskill Community Center.



The line to visit with Santa stretches around the Cresskill Community Center gymnasium. Everyone got a turn with Santa and a gift following lunch.



Cresskill Chapter member Angela Caserta prepares to serve lunch to the nearly 200 guests at the annual Christmas party.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA

Things are kicking into high gear for the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. And again, the Chapter is doing great things.

The Man of the Year Dinner honored Robert E. Fenza, EVP and COO of Liberty Property Trust with its Community Leadership Award. Mr. Fenza joined Liberty's predecessor company, Rouse & Associates in 1984. In 2000, he was appointed chief operating officer. Active in numerous charitable, educational and community development efforts, Mr. Fenza is retiring to increase time devoted to public service.

At the dinner, over 300 people ate, danced, laughed and bid on donated auction items. Again the event was an outstanding success. It generated enough funds for the Chapter's annual Thanksgiving Dinner give away, Christmas shopping for over 100 needy children, along with making donations to local charities and many Philadelphians in need.

The Thanksgiving Basket Give Away saw over 125 full Thanksgiving dinner baskets delivered to armed service personnel and local families, who otherwise might not have had a Thanksgiving dinner. In return, the recipients offered hugs, thank yous and even some tears to our brothers. No doubt, all bellies and hearts were full this Thanksgiving.

The Chapter chaperoned 125 needy, inner city children shopping for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. The day started with breakfast at the Bourse Building. From there, the children were driven to Target where they each received \$150 towards Christmas gifts. Afterwards, the children were taken back to the Bourse Building where they were again well fed and entertained by clowns and Philadelphia String Band and Mummers. They also had their pictures taken with Santa and had help wrapping their presents.

The Chapter takes enormous pride in helping those who fall between the cracks that larger charities cannot fill. We do so in a quiet, respectful dignified manner. Our Chapter takes great pride in giving back to those who need a hand, in the hopes that someday, they will, in turn, "pay it forward" and do the same.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X



New Jersey District X recently held their Americanism Award Dinner. Award recipients are from left: Amy Lovato, Westfield; Joyce Walker, Raritan Valley; Ernesto Hernandez, Scotch Plains and Donald Zoliwsky, Plainfields.



From left: Bill Hearon and Anthony Bengivenga congratulate Amy Lovato.



Master of Ceremony Bob Bengivenga.



UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro presents Raritan Valley President Joyce Walker with the Americanism Award.



From left: Paul Rafael presents Ernesto Hernandez the Americanism Award.



From left; New Jersey District X Governor Courtney Villani, Linda Villani, Anthony Bengivenga, Amy Lovato, UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Joyce Walker, Paul Rafael, Ernesto Hernandez Donald Zoliwsky, Bob Bengivenga, Bill Hearon and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.

PORTLAND, OR

Members of the Portland Chapter put together hygiene bags for our homeless street children. Oregon rates as number one with this homeless problem. The Chapter teamed with Braking Cycles, a street ministry that provides temporary food and shelter. The bags consisted of warm socks, batteries, flashlights, energy bars, hygiene items, razors and some personal touches from our Chapter.



From left: Katie Surbrook, Toni Rizzo, Julie Fast and Lisa Amato serve a hot meal.



Homeless children stuff their pockets with some basic necessities.



Braking Cycles provided haircuts to the guests.

PITTSFIELD, MA

Pittsfield Chapter Supports NAMI

On Thursday, February 5, the Pittsfield Chapter prepared, cooked and served a fund-raising dinner for the Berkshire County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) at the ITAM Lodge in Pittsfield. The menu consisted of both red and white pasta, oven baked chicken, Italian green beans, salad and bread. Dessert consisted of a variety of specialty cupcakes donated by several local bakeries. Approximately one hundred and fifty people were served. Proceeds from this event will be used for Crisis Intervention Training (used to educate law enforcement personnel), support groups, and educational classes.

The Berkshire County Chapter of NAMI has been active in the area for twenty eight years assisting the mentally ill and their families.



Past Pittsfield Chapter President and NAMI advocate Wayne Ditore (l) pauses from the event preparations for a photo with local NAMI Chapter President Deborah Sadowy-Dargie (r).



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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 July 2015 issue of ComUNICO is Monday, June 8, 2015

Save the Date!

93rd Annual Convention

July 29 - August 1, 2015

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REHOBOTH AREA, DE

UNICO Rehoboth Area features
"PASTA CHALLENGE" and
"ITALIAN MOVIE NIGHT"

Sixty area UNICO members and guests enjoyed great food, and a movie in Italian with English sub-titles. The event was held on Thursday evening, January 15.

This was the first "mini" fundraiser of the year for the local UNICO Chapter which has been featuring an annual "movie night" in January for the past five years.

This year the "pasta challenge" was an added feature. Four UNICO members prepared their favorite pasta dish and provided a "taste" for everyone to judge and to vote for their favorite pasta. The "challengers" were: Nick Ruggieri, representing the DELMARVA Chapter, with a hand-made vegetable lasagna, stuffed with traditional cheeses and herbs; Frank Cappelli, Arthur Chomas and Suzanne Failla, all representing the Rehoboth Area Chapter,

submitted these excellent pastas respectively: hand-made spaghetti with clam sauce; pasta with red sauce, peas and prosciutto; and cavatelli with broccoli and mushrooms.

Nick Ruggieri was the winner, with a slight margin over the other competitors. He will be awarded a \$75 gift certificate to a pasta specialty shop.

Attendees provided a "pot luck" meal for the evening with a variety of "antipasti", main dishes (secondi), and desserts (dolci).

Eight new members were installed into the Rehoboth Area Chapter: Frank Cappelli, Arthur and Bernadine Chomas, Veronica Dannerhoj, Albert and Suzanne Failla, Sabatino Maglione, and Barbara Woods.

Professor Sabatino Maglione addressed the group, explaining the theme of the movie *L'Ultimo Bacio* and its relationship, not only to Italian culture, but to "humankind" - sighting examples from World Literature and Philosophy.



UNICO members are served samples of the pasta challenge entries: From left: Monica Viana and a guest, Ed Mason, challenge coordinator and competitors Nick Ruggieri, Frank Cappelli, Arthur Chomas and Suzanne Failla.



Professor Maglione addresses the participants prior to viewing - "*L'Ultimo Bacio*".

Save the Date! 93rd Annual Convention - July 29 - August 1, 2015
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PLAINFIELDS', NJ



The Plainfields Chapter installed new members during a recent monthly meeting. Chapter President Connie Kozachek completed the swearing in for the new members. From left: Santi Buscemi, Robert Bengivenga Sr., new members Anne Demico, Dominic Demico Jr., John Griesi, and Chapter President Connie Kozachek.

GARFIELD, NJ



Garfield Chapter President, Allan B. Focarino (right) met author Maria Laurino and receives an autographed copy of her novel, 'The Italian American History' at the Greater Ramsey Chapter's film premier of the accompanying film 'Italian Americans.'



Lou Di Palo presents Allan Focarino, Garfield Chapter President, an autographed copy of his novel 'Di Palo's Guide to Essential Foods of Italy' that features the Di Palo Family restaurant in New York City's Little Italy.

SECAUCUS, NJ

The Secaucus Chapter was visited by UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, UNICO National Executive Director Andre DiMino and UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro who gave an enlightening presentation on co-coordinating a successful membership drive.



Chapter members attending the event are pictured with from left: Andre' DiMino, Richard D'Arminio and Dominick Nicastro.

MONTVILLE, NJ

On Tuesday, February 24th at the monthly meeting of the Montville Chapter, a check was presented to Montville residents Anna and Mark Landgrebe for their fund-raising efforts to continue their charitable work of feeding the homeless. For the past 22 years, "Homeless Bus" would travel to New York on a weekly basis to help feed homeless people.

Recently, their bus broke down and they set up a program to repair or replace the bus and continue their work. In keeping with the Montville UNICO Foundation motto of "Our Family Helping Your Family" Montville UNICO donated \$500.



From left: Karen Arakelian, Chapter President Anthony Malanga and Anna and Mark Langrebe.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL

Highland Beach Chapter Hosts Wine Pairing Fund-Raiser

The recently chartered Highland Beach Chapter, kicked off its first fund-raising activity with a Wine Pairing Dinner held at Arturo's Italian Restaurant in Boca Raton. The Board asked Ann Soranno Carro, and Rosaria and Vincenzo Gismondi to co-chair the event. Just under 100 guests attended and were greeted by tuxedo clad Captains and waiters serving butler service hors d'oeuvres and Prosecco. The attendees dined on an impeccable four course dinner paired with marvelous wines, which were masterfully presented. Raffles were sponsored by generous donations from: Joan Buzzalino, Rosaria Gismondi, Anne Matarrazzo, Susan Gengo and Gail Guy. The event raised a little over \$4,000 which the Chair people presented to the Chapter's President, Frank LoRe, for the Chapter's Charity Fund. The Board voted and sent a check to National for \$500 for Cooley's Anemia Research.



Sitting from left: Marilyn Blumenthal, Donna Ewen and Terry Liss. Standing: Becky Berger, Cindy DuBoff, Chapter President Frank LoRe and Ann Soranno Carro.



Vincent LeVien and Rebecca Berger.



Rosaria Gismondi(l) and Ann Carro (r) display some of the wines used in the pairing.

VERONA, NJ



Chapter President Anthony Nigro presents a donation to Verona High School International Weekend faculty advisor David Fogel.



Chapter President Anthony Nigro presents donations to Verona Fire Department representative Ken Gerlac, Verona Rescue Squad's Sandy Bowman and Verona PBA representative Anthony Condorelli.



Chapter President Anthony Nigro presents a donation to the Verona Public Library's Italian and Italian American book collection. Accepting on behalf of the Library is Chapter Member Nancy Magrans.



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| ● Universal Studios 40 miles | ● Mission San Juan Capistrano 19 miles, |
| ● 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

BLOOMFIELD, NJ

BLOOMFIELD CHAPTER 3RD ANNUAL BOWL-A-THON

The snow, ice, wind and frigid cold did not keep the many Special Needs young adults from showing up for a great morning of bowling and a pizza luncheon on Sunday, February 15th, at the Van Houten Lanes in Clifton. In attendance were District Governor Steve Pelonero, President Mike Sisco and sixteen Chapter members. Everyone assisted and cheered on the young adults with their competitive bowling. The members took great pride in serving all of the participants their well-deserved pizza luncheon. Prizes were given to all bowlers. Mike B. received a \$25 McDonald's gift card for his high game of 127. All other bowlers each received a \$10 McDonald's gift card.

Our heartfelt thanks to the many generous sponsors who made this event a financial success; the Chapter realized \$5000 in net proceeds for many charities.

This year the Chapter will celebrate its 60th Anniversary.



Chapter Members.



The Chapter receives a big thank you from their guests!



Event Chair Paul Alongi thanks all the participants.

KEARNY, NJ



Chapter members and guests gathered inside American Legion Post 99 for "coffee and" prior to departing for Atlantic City. Bingo and a 50/50 raffle made the trip down the Parkway "go faster." Once in Atlantic City, everyone enjoyed a full day of gaming. An "in-flight" movie and snacks made for an enjoyable ride home.



Kathy and friend enjoyed playing bingo on the ride down to the Tropicana Casino.



From left: Dot and Joe Sgalia and enjoyed the ride to Atlantic City.



Members of the Kearny and Rutherford Chapters enjoyed a Sunday Dinner at Carmine's during a "lull in the action." From left: Ida Nigro, Frank Tidona, Vinnie Laborim, Denise Ficeto, Patty Triano and Celeste Pandolfi.



On Saturday, February 7th, Joe Sgalia (l) and Lou Pandolfi (r) attended the Seton Hall University basketball game where Stephanie DeSimone was recognized for saving a fellow airline passenger's life and presented with a Torracco Nursing Scholarship.



From left: Judy Hyde, Celeste and Lou Pandolfi and Ida Nigro don their masks as they get into the festive spirit at New Jersey District VII's Carnevale.

FAIRFIELD, NJ



Joseph Catenaro presents checks to Fairfield Police Officers Ian Rasmussen and Frank Tracey in support of their participation in the Police Unity Tour. The tour takes place in May and is a four day bicycle ride from Florham Park to Washington D.C. to honor men and women who gave their lives in the line of duty. The Police Unity Tour is the largest supporter of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Officers Tracey and Rasmussen are the first officers from the Fairfield Police Department to participate in the ride.



2015 UNICO NATIONAL

93rd Annual Convention

Registration Form

Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa

900 Newport Center Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660-6206

July 29 to August 2, 2015

Name _____ Nickname _____

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

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(i.e., National, District, Chapter, Delegate, Trustee)

	<u>UNICO MEMBERS</u>	<u>NON MEMBERS</u>	<u>Attendees not reserving their rooms from the UNICO Room Block</u>
Weekend Package <i>Wednesday Night Icebreaker Saturday Gala Two Breakfast Buffet Vouchers</i>	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$475.00
Registration	\$100.00	N/C	\$100.00
Golf starting at 7:30 am Wednesday	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 80.00

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

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UNICO NATIONAL

271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F-103, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458

Tel: 973-808-0035

Fax: 973-808-0043

Email: uniconational@unico.org



UNICO NATIONAL

93RD ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2015

Wednesday, July 29, 2015 to Sunday, August 2, 2015

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All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

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

Next - fill out your UNICO Convention Registration form and submit it along with payment to:

UNICO NATIONAL

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

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

KEYSTONE, PA

The Keystone Chapter held its annual Valentine Social this year at the Melting Pot. It was a great evening of "Wine, Music and Dancing". Entertainment was provided by Song Stylist Jimmie Cermiaro. Each attendee received a heart-shaped box of chocolates from President Jim Mack and First Lady Mary.



Couples enjoying the music on the dance floor included First Lady Mary Mack and President Jim Mack.



Members were greeted at the receiving table by Mary Ann Coviello and Mary Mack. Standing from left: Mary Sileo, Steve Mariani and Jim Mack. Seated: Mary Ann Coviello and Mary Mack.

Keystone UNICO Check Presentation to Meals on Wheels

The Keystone Chapter presented an \$1100 check to Meals on Wheels from their Flapjack Fund-raiser at Applebee's. Along with breakfast, the traditional basket raffle was also held.



From left: James Mack, Chapter President; Mary Ann Coviello; Linda Steier, Director of Meals on Wheels of Northeastern Pennsylvania; Dot Mariani and Mark McDade.

At the February meeting of the Keystone Chapter, a presentation was given by Peg Ruddy, the Executive Director of Women's Resource Center of Lackawanna County on the center's mission. The Center has been chosen as this year's beneficiary from the Keystone Chapter Pig Roast Fund-raiser.



Pictured with Director Ruddy are some of the members of the Pig Roast Committee. Seated from left: Marilyn Vitali, Peg Ruddy, Cathy Bianchi and Mary Mack. Standing from left: Mark McDade, Val Riggi, Marguerite Ruggiero, Michele McDade and President James Mack.

To donate to a
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All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible

CLARK, NJ

The first Annual Best Meatball Challenge and all you can eat Pasta Night was held by Clark UNICO. The night was headed, organized and executed by Clark Chapter Members Fran Parisi, Anna Pace and Joe Arancio. Nine contestants entered their recipe of meatballs and were put to the test for over 65 hungry UNICANs and guests. When all was said and done, Clark's own John DeMarco stood above the rest by winning the best tasting meatballs including votes by texture, sauce, appearance and overall taste. Included in the event were raffles, 50/50 and all you can eat pasta, salad, garlic bread and a huge assortment of desserts.

Clark Chapter President Ralph Bernardo praised the three that put this fun, family event together. Hats off to Fran, Anna, and Joe for making another Clark UNICO event a huge success!



Anna Pace prepares the meatballs to be voted upon.



UNICANs line up for all you can eat pasta, garlic bread, salad and nine versions of meatballs to vote upon.



From left: Chapter President Ralph Bernardo, contest winner John DeMarco and Joe Arancio.



Fran Parisi, President Ralph Bernardo and Joe Arancio congratulate first place winner John DeMarco and second place winner Anna Pace. Third place and honorable mention contestants look on.

SAN DIEGO, CA



Sandro and Kim Piancone and Laura and Joe Carpinelli visit with a few other San Diego UNICANs. Laura and Kim are daughters of Mr. Tony Prete on the very left.

The San Diego Chapter holds many social events, one of which is the Family Brunch. Winter brunches are held indoors where the members can avoid the cold 70 degree weather. Wine and food abound at the brunches, all homemade and served pot luck by the members. We can't wait to hold the next one in the summer so we can enjoy the outdoors in the sunny 78 degree climate.



San Diego Sunday Brunch was enjoyed by all.



Bob Gaglione on the right once again did a superb job on the potluck Brunch.



San Diego President Valeri Orsini welcomed all to the family brunch.

DENVER, NJ

Fourth Annual Valentine's Day Dance

The Denville Chapter had its Fourth Annual Valentine Day Dinner Dance at the Hanover Manor. Festivities began at 7:00 p.m. and the Chapter and their guests partied and danced into the night, with the terrific sounds provided by DJ Steve Sabeh and Mark Sabeh of SPS Production. This year's dinner dance included a full buffet dinner, open bar all evening, music and a scrumptious Venetian Table of desserts, including a chocolate fountain and cappuccino for all. Every lady attending was given a long stemmed red rose in honor of Valentine Day.

Thank you Denise Sabeh and Pat Strocchia the event co-chairs for a very enjoyable evening. If you have the opportunity please try to attend next year. You will not regret it!!!



From left: Denville Chapter President Lou Mattaliano standing behind his guest Sherrylynn Trotta, Gino Lolacono, Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National First Vice President and his lovely wife Alina, Carmine Campanile, New Jersey District Governor XI and his guest Diane Lynch are captured by the photographer at the dance.



Denise Sabeh, Valentine Day Dance co-Chairperson is pictured with her husband Mark. Another great job Denise!!! The affair was perfect.



Joe Poli and his lovely wife Tina are enjoying dinner at the Valentine Day gathering.



Joe Cardinale and his lovely wife Colleen also pose for the camera at the Chapter's Fourth Annual Valentine Day Dinner Dance.

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UNICO NATIONAL 2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Marconi Science Award

Piero Rinaldo, M.D., Ph.D.

Sponsored by: Greater Ramsey, New Jersey Chapter

Dr. Piero Rinaldo was born in Venezia, Italy, and received his medical and research training at the University of Padova in Italy and Yale University. Currently he serves as co-director of the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, which he started and is the largest one of its kind. Dr. Rinaldo is a Professor of Laboratory Medicine and the T. Denny Sanford Professor of Pediatrics, he also holds joint appointments in the Department of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine and in the Department of Medical Genetics.

Dr. Anthony P. Vastola Gold Medal Award

Ralph Contini

Sponsored by: Hackensack, New Jersey Chapter

Ralph Contini joined the Cliffside Park Chapter of UNICO in 1983 and transferred to the Hackensack Chapter in 2006. He has served UNICO National, both New Jersey Districts VI and VII and the Hackensack and Cliffside Park Chapters with distinction.

Ralph has chaired the UNICO National Columbus Day celebration since 1996, earning him the nickname of "Mr. Columbus" in his Chapter and District. In addition, he is the Chair of the Advanced Placement Italian Language Committee. He has served on many National Committees, and held the position of District Governor and the Eastern Regional District Governor,

Ralph has readily accepted and discharged any responsibilities given him and in many instances, has offered his service without being asked.



Phillip Mazzei Americanism Award - Civis Illistrus

Joseph M. Arpaio

Sponsored by: San Diego, California Chapter

Joseph Arpaio is known as "America's Toughest Sheriff," a name given to him years ago by the media. It's a name he has certainly earned as head of the nation's third largest Sheriff's Office, with more than 3,500 sworn and civilian employees, serving a county of over 4 million people.

In 1992, Arpaio successfully campaigned to become Sheriff of Maricopa County, Arizona and has since been elected to an unprecedented six 4- year terms. During his tenure as Sheriff, Arpaio has consistently earned extraordinarily high public approval ratings. He is the longest serving sheriff in Maricopa County history.



UNICO National Awards

With the exception of the Marconi Award, which was presented at the Mid-Year Board Meeting, these award winners will be honored at the UNICO National 93rd Annual Convention in Newport Beach, California.

Award winners were selected by the respective committees at the Mid-Year Board Meeting from applications submitted by the Chapters. Selections were based on submissions meeting a standard guideline set forth by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors encourage Chapters to submit qualified applicants for these prestigious National Awards.

UNICO NATIONAL 2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Basilone Freedom Award

General Anthony Zinni, Retired

Sponsored by: Greater Ramesy, New Jersey Chapter

Anthony Charles Zinni is a retired United States Marine Corps general and a former Commander in Chief of the United States Central Command. In 2002, he was selected to be a special envoy for the United States to Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

While serving as special envoy, Zinni was also an instructor in the Department of International Studies at the Virginia Military Institute. As of 2014, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Middle East Institute. He has been named Honorary Chairman of that institution.

General Zinni also serves as an Honorary Board Member of the Non Profit Wine Country Marines - a 501 (C) 3 dedicated to helping wounded service members, and aiding the welfare of currently serving service members, as well as addressing veterans employment and transition and healthcare.

Louis Attilio DeFillipo an American Hero Award

Captain Charles Gatlin, Retired

Sponsored by: West Essex, New Jersey Chapter

Charles Gatlin is a retired United States Army Captain. In 2006, he was deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq. While outside of his base, a car bomb detonated less than 30 yards from where he was standing. The left back side of his body sustained the brunt of the impact. The explosion and its subsequent forces (blast, debris flying, etc) resulted in him losing consciousness. He regained consciousness and was medevaced to Balad Air Force hospital and diagnosed with a moderate traumatic brain injury (TBI).

At the time, the true consequences of the war's invisible injuries of TBI and post-traumatic stress were not recognized and appreciated. Since then, Captain Gatlin and his wife, Ariana DelNegro, have worked tirelessly to bring awareness to the challenges service men and women have faced in their recovery process. Both have testified before the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.



NATIONAL



AWARDS 2015

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter announced the winners of its annual \$100 raffle at its February meeting. President Rick D'Arminio was in attendance and swore in new member, Danielle Manganello. Raffle winners were:

- 1st prize-\$9,000 to Mike Moscara (member)
- 2nd prize-\$3,000 to Anthony Biondi (member)
- 3rd prize-\$2,500 to Sal Signolfi
- 4th prize-\$1,750 to Mario's Barber Shop guys

Instead of a guest speaker, the evening also offered "A Touch of Sinatra" performance. Joey "G" Gilligan did the narrative and a few Johnny Ray and Dean Martin songs but the feature per-

former was Donnie Fararro who sang several Sinatra songs, including, "Fly Me to the Moon", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "All the Way", "My Way" and of course "New York, New York".

Joe Cervasio, Awards Committee chair, explained the process for the selection of the recipients for UNICAN of the Year and Outstanding Achievement. The selections, Greg Tolve, UNICAN of the Year, and Alan Genitempo, Outstanding Achievement, were announced at the March meeting, with the presentations of the awards to follow at the April 2 meeting. The guest speaker at the March meeting was author Anthony Buccino, who recently had a new book, Nutley Notables, published.

Recent and upcoming activities in-

clude several fund-raisers currently in the process of discussion; Community Service Day on Saturday, the Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 7 and the annual Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast on Sunday, May 17. Guest speaker at the Piccolo Breakfast will be former New York Giant, Ruben Oben. In addition, the Nominating Committee will make nominations for next year's officers as current President, Phyllis Coldebella, nears the end of her two-years of effective leadership.

The April, May and June dinner meetings will also feature scholarship presentations and the swearing in of a new slate of officers.



The Food of Naples and Campania

As in any part of Italy, Neapolitans are very passionate and quite opinionated about their cuisine. The food of Campania is as exuberant as its natives. What is known as 'Mediterranean Cuisine' and which is much healthier for us, is from the Southern part of Italy, including the food of Naples and Campania. The cooking of this region aims to preserve the flavors of the local fresh ingredients as well as their fragrance, thereby maintaining a focus on simplicity rather than sophistication. Southern Italian food is considered to be the "soul food of Italy."

The cuisine is more spicy and reliant on vegetables available year-round, including artichokes, eggplant, zucchini sun-dried pomodori (tomatoes). Campania is famous for its fruit orchards that produce some of the best lemons and oranges, figs, peaches and apricots, and also grapes from numerous vineyards.

Almonds and hazelnuts of the highest quality hale from this region.

Seafood and sea-salt are stand-out ingredients in the kitchen. The sea offers an endless array of pristine seafood harvested from anchovies to clams, mussels, squid, and even octopus!

Naples is the original home of pizza! The world's first pizzeria opened its doors in Naples and still remains in business today. Using the simplest of ingredients, Pizza Margherita is a triumph of Neapolitan cuisine! The ingredients of fresh San Marzano pomodori (tomatoes), fresh aromatic basilico and mozzarella (di bufala) on char-marked dough is all that is required to make this highly-praised and delicious pizza.

Some the best known foods of Naples are:

Spaghetti all Puttanesca literally means 'whore's spaghetti'. This is a hot, spicy, tangy, salty and very fragrant pasta dish made from typical local ingredients: fresh tomatoes, olives, chili peppers, garlic and capers, all sauteed in olive oil and presented with a sprinkling of fresh Italian parsley.

Parmigiana di Melanzane (Eggplant Parmesan)-There is a disagreement among several regions in Italy as to its origin. As with all traditional recipes, there are numerous claims to the definitive method of preparation. Because Campania is so renowned for its fresh

eggplant, I'm going to agree with the Neapolitan saying: "The eggplant Parmesan that is made in Naples is always the best!" The authentic method for creating this dish includes all of the region's noted flavors with layers of eggplant, Provola and Parmigiana cheeses, San Marzano tomatoes, olive oil, onions, garlic and fresh basil!

Bistecca or Carne alla Pizzaiola (Meat in Pizza Style)-One of the favorite everyday Neapolitan dishes, Pizzaiola is made from inexpensive cuts of meat that are seared and then cooked long enough to be tenderized in a spicy tomato-based sauce of peppers, capers, garlic, basil, oregano, and olive oil.

i dolci (the sweets) Neapolitans certainly are known for their preference for sweets! The desserts of this region focus on citrus and pastry. **Sfogliatelle**, one of the most popular Italian pastries in America are paper-thin layers of baked clam-shaped pastry pockets filled with a buttery filling of creamy ricotta cheese, sugar, cinnamon and little bits of candied citrus.

This is just a sampling of the regional foods of Campania. I am sure we all love these Napolitana signature foods.



GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

Greater Binghamton UNICO celebrated members Frank and Angela Carro (l), Don and Laurie Adams (c), and Lillian and Mark Doolittle's (r) 50th Wedding Anniversaries. On behalf of UNICO, we wish you much happiness and joy as you celebrate these 50 years together. Congratulations on this milestone!!



From left: Dominic and Marita Florini and George and Angela Haus help collect donations for the Broome Community College Student Pantry. Members were very generous and the donations gathered should fill the shelves for the students.



From left: Chapter President Barbara Wahila with Guest Speakers Luigi Di Russo and Theresea Chamberlin. Luigi and Theresea enlightened the Chapter on the Mission of AVRE (Association for Vision Rehabilitation and Employment, Inc.) Learning and supporting local programs, whether on a Chapter or individual basis, is an opportunity that fosters neighborliness.

WAYNE, NJ**Wayne Chapter News**

The Chapter's annual dinner dance is coming up soon. This year's event will be held at Portobello in Oakland New Jersey on Saturday, April 25th from 7-11 pm. Please let us know if you would like to attend. The proceeds of the event will go towards our Annual Scholarship Fund. In prior years, we provided four deserving Wayne Township students scholarships and are committed to donating at least the same amount as last year. The presentation ceremony allows us to talk to our township about Wayne UNICO and how we help the community and spread the word about UNICO.

At our monthly meetings, we started a new segment that other Chapter's might enjoy. We have one member speak about something related to their Italian heritage. It could be a particular recipe that was passed down, or some language lessons, or maybe even a song that was sung to them when they were young. It has been very well received and we look forward to continuing the tradition at our upcoming meetings.

If you have any questions about our upcoming events or any other topic, please visit our website at www.wayneunico.org.

DELMARVA, DE**Delmarva Chapter Prepares for Spring Events**

At a meeting held at Nicola Pizza, the members of the local UNICO Delmarva Chapter gathered to plan events for the spring 2015 season.

UNICO National aims to provide each community with service projects. Programs are also offered to promote the study of the Italian language and culture. With this goal in mind, the Delmarva Chapter has identified local shelters and assisted living facilities to provide both financial and social programs. Italian language lessons are offered on the third Saturday of each month free to members.

As part of Delaware District I, Delmarva members will join with other Chapters to celebrate St. Joseph's Day, March 19th (a centuries old Italian tradition) with the blessing and distribution

of bread and non-perishable food to Casa San Francisco in Milton and to a Soup Kitchen, directed by Nick Varrato, a UNICO member, at the Methodist Church in Millsboro.

Members are also helping to plan the program for the Second Annual Brian Piccolo Achievement Award, a program that honors a Sussex County high school senior of Italian heritage, who exhibits the admirable character traits of this legendary football player for the Chicago Bears. The Athletic Department of the school of the award recipient will receive \$1000. The award ceremony will take place on Sunday, April 19, 2015, at 5:00 pm at Nicola Pizza on the Avenue, and is open to the public.

On a "social note" the Chapter will visit local delicatessens and bakeries to prepare for a picnic at Pizzadili Winery in Felton, Delaware and pasta making session will be held at the home of Chapter president David Jones to share and taste family recipes.



From left: Joe and Robin Odierno, Heather Jenkins, Jerry Daniello, David and Christine Jones, Anna Daniello, MT Morrison, Nick Ruggieri, Ed Fufaro.

SCRANTON, PA

The Scranton Charity Ball Basket and Lottery Bear Committee Members meet to review plans for their annual fundraiser held in January.

PRESIDENTIAL GALA



The UNICO National First Family: Nicole, Richard, Manuela and Erica D'Arminio.



Hackensack Chapter members are pictured with the National President.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio accepts a proclamation from Bergen County Freeholder Steven Tanelli.



From left: Former Mayor Louis D'Arminio, Richard D'Arminio and Councilwoman Karen D'Arminio.



From left: Manuela, Nicole and Erica D'Arminio and Past National President Paul Alongi.



The Sexy Heroes perform "Italian American Proud."



From left: Past National President Frank Tidona, Joan Tidona, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Mary Ann Re and Past National President Joe Agresti.



From left: Allan Focarino, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Benedict Focarino.



From left: Allan Focarino, Carl Ricca, Joe Ruggero, Richard D'Arminio, Ralph Contini and Alfred Masulo.



From left: Joe Almeida, Anthony Bengivenga, Ann Walko, Richard D'Arminio, Mike Colucci, Deanna DeMarco and Bob Tarte.



The National President and family members.



Family and friends join the National President and First Lady for a picture.

PRESIDENTIAL GALA



Stephen DeFelice and Joe Valenzano.



From left: Mary Ann and Tony Stassi, Manuela, May and Richard D'Arminio and Elda and Elisa Coccia.



From left: Richard and Manuela D'Arminio, Elisa Coccia, May D'Arminio, Elda Coccia and Celeste and Lou Pandolfi.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio swears in two new members into the Greater Ramsey Chapter.



From left: Allan Focarino, Past National President Paul Alongi, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Past National President Joe Agresti.



From left: Betty Moyer, John Tinari, Richard D'Arminio, Anna and Ismael Faustino and Howard Rotto.



From left: Hackensack Chapter President Gaeton DiNapoli, Richard D'Arminio and Joanne DiNapoli.



Past National Presidents Andre' DiMino, Joe Agresti, Frank Tidona, John Alati, Sal Mangano and Paul Alongi are pictured with the National President.



From left: Lou DiRico, Frank DeFrank, Bob Buonomo and Alina and Dominick Nicastro.



From left: Pat Pelonero, May D'Arminio and Rose Fojtlin.



From left: Ralph Contini, Ann Walko and Dominick Nicastro.



From left: Jenny DiMino, Manuela D'Arminio, Linda DeFrank and Alina Nicastro.

SOUTHINGTON, CT



Current Southington Chapter Members.

For more than four decades, Bill DellaVecchia has been a member of Southington UNICO.

By his side for nearly 30 of those years has been Mark Sciota, who calls his fellow UNICANs “the finest citizens of Southington.” Mike Fasulo joined the organization in 1991, meaning that he’s been practicing and fulfilling the Chapter’s motto of “Service Above Self” for nearly a quarter of a century.

The longevity of these three members is representative of the overall membership of Southington UNICO, which currently stands at more than 80 members, many of whom have been involved for decades and have joined along with family members.

From the start, Southington UNICO has embraced three objectives: service to fellow man and community, fostering and promoting Italian heritage and supporting charitable educational projects. With such initiatives as the Southington Italian-American Festival, honoring the top 25 students in each graduating class at Southington High School, recreating the communal oven at Goat Island and 100 percent support of the high school’s Unified Sports program, the Chapter has by far met its goals and exceeded expectations.

In the late 1960s, Southington UNICO also established the John L.

“Jiggs” DiCaprio Memorial Golf Tournament, one of the first civic organizations in the town to initiate an annual golf tournament to support charitable causes.

“We’ve come a long way,” said DellaVecchia of the Chapter’s initiatives and undertakings. “Our Chapter is very active and we’ve certainly taken on more projects than when I first joined.”



The Founding Fathers.

One of those more contemporary endeavors is the Southington Italian American Festival, which celebrates its 11th year in July. Planned and coordinated in conjunction with the Sons of Italy, the annual offering is a celebration of Italian culture and heritage and is not considered a fund-raiser. The event, which takes place this year July 24-26,

features Italian food, entertainment, a homemade wine contest and an outdoor Italian Mass.

The Goat Island project that UNICO is facilitating will help educate residents about some of the town’s first Italian immigrants and an area of land along the Quinnipiac River that was once known as the “Ellis Island for Italians.” Located on a 6.5 acre parcel of land that was sold to the town in 2007 by the Angelillo family (Joe Angelillo, although now deceased, was a past President of UNICO), Southington UNICO is now leasing a portion of the property for \$1 a year in order to recreate a special oven house, or communal oven, that was once the center of daily life for families in the neighborhood. The brick structure endured until the winter of 2010-2011 when the structure collapsed. Southington UNICO members are currently working to resurrect the oven as both a cultural and educational offering for residents.

Current UNICO President Dave Zoni noted that annual contributions to Southington Community Services, the Southington YMCA Campership program, scholarships and donations to victims of Cooley’s anemia all lend to the overarching UNICO mission to promote goodwill through civic and charitable endeavors.

*Save the Date! 93rd Annual Convention - July 29 - August 1, 2015
Marriott Newport Beach Hotel & Spa, Newport Beach, CA*

DENVILLE, NJ



The Denville Chapter will be having its first "Re-Discover Your Italian Heritage" event on Sunday, April 26, 2015 from 2 to 5 PM at the St. Frances Center, 122 Diamond Spring Road, Denville, New Jersey 07834.

Come celebrate the culture, traditions and history of Italian Americans in a fun and festive atmosphere that will include food tastings, demos, a fun Italian lesson, entertainment and cultural information. Delicious homemade Italian specialties, such as bruschetta, mozzarella and anti-pasto followed by an array of tasty Italian desserts will be served, while attendees enjoy an entertaining heritage and culture program. There will be a special exhibit called "Treasures From Home", a display of mementos and collectibles from Italy that were brought to America by ancestors of UNICO members.

There is no cost to attend this very special Italian heritage event, so please call Chapter President Lou Mattaliano at 201-230-8580 or e-mail to lmattjr@aol.com for more information. UNICO Members are invited to see how the program is run. Hope to see you there!

OAKVILLE - WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville - Watertown Chapter has announced the installation of three new members in January, 2015.



From left: Rich Gubbiotti, Chapter President and Dave Guerrera.



From left: Joe Masi, Steve Malenda, Bob Desrosiers, and Rich Gubbiotti, Chapter President.

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

I am preparing this article at my computer waiting out what I believe to be the 10th snow day so far this winter. Spring will be ever so welcome this year.

Well, just to celebrate the arrival of spring, our Chapter will be hosting our annual Pasta Dinner and Best Meatball Contest on Sunday, March 22, at Memorial Hall in Ventnor. This popular event, along with others scheduled over the next few months and throughout the year, support our fund-raising efforts for scholarships, ALS, Cooley's Anemia, The Jimmy "V" Foundation and cancer research along with other organizations and individuals with emergent special needs. In a world of ever shrinking resources, we work hard to assist with our time and funds wherever and whenever needs arise.

Those other events include Golf and Bocce Tournaments, Holiday Brunches and our main event of the year, our Scholarship and Person of the Year Recognition Dinner in July. This year we are planning to hold that event at Resorts International in Atlantic City in July. We are currently in the process of reviewing applications from local high school seniors for our scholarships (they will be competing for approximately \$30,000 in scholarship money). At this point, we have narrowed down our choices for Person of the Year to two and will make a final selection at our next Chapter meeting. We draw from a wide variety of outstanding area individuals each of which reflect our UNICO motto of "Service Above Self".

It is always so nice to communicate to you those upcoming Atlantic City Chapter UNICO activities and events. We are so proud of the effort we put forth to support our beneficiaries and are so grateful to be of "Service".

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton Chapter welcomed a new member at the November Meeting held at Genetti's in Dickson City. From left: Mary Marrara, Chapter President; New Member David Scalzo, Jr., Jerry Healey and Chris DiMattio, Past National President.



The Scranton Chapter welcomed new member, Sara Woolsey at the December Meeting held at Fiorelli's in Peckville. From left: Jerry Healey, Mary Marrara, Chapter President; Jo Ann Verduce, Sara Woolsey and Chris DiMattio, Past National President.



The Scranton Chapter held a collection of baby items for Saint Joseph's Center Baby Pantry at their Christmas Party held at Fiorelli's in Peckville. From left: Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Nancy Lovaglio, Jo Ann Verduce, Palma Yanni, Gayle DeAntona, Scranton Ladies Auxiliary President; Mary Marrara, Scranton Chapter President and Dave Bieri, Chair of the UNICO Scranton Board of Directors.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Members gather prior to the start of the Mid-Year Board Meeting.



The Ladies of UNICO take time out to do some retail therapy.



Taking a break on Beale Street from left: Joe Agresti, Frank DeFrank, Ann Guarco, Mario Giovannucci and Brian Guarco listening to some great music at BB King's.



Bob Tarte and Michael Walko.



From left: Frank Greco and Jim and Jennifer DeSpenza.



From left: Paul Domico, Anthony Fornelli, Marlene Veselka and Jim DeSpenza.



Past National President Michael Spano.



From left: Michael Spano, Michael Veselka and Anthony Fornelli.



Francine Nido and Nino Randazzo.



Michael Veselka and Anthony Fornelli.



Frank Greco and Lee Norelli.



Anthony Bengivenga gives the Italian Studies Committee Report.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Past National President Michael Veselka presents his report.



The Sex Heros present plaques of appreciation to the DiMinos and the D'Arminios.



Marconi Science Award winner Dr. Piero Rinaldo and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



From left: Andre' DiMino, Anthony Fornelli, Piero Rinaldo, Ann Walko and Frank DeFrank.



Dr. Piero Rinaldo and his daughter Francesca.



From left: Andre' DiMino, Piero and Francesca Rinaldo, Ann Walko and Frank DeFrank.



Francesca Rinaldo and Manuela D'Arminio.



The Westfield Chapter and Raritan Valley Chapter congratulate Piero Rinaldo.



Sherry and Nick Spano.



Kerry and Shara Kraig.



Kellie and Angelo "Ted" Cortese.



Michael and Linda Spano.

ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ

Orange/West Orange members attend the District XI January Meeting. From left: New Jersey District XI Governor Carmine Campanile, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Chapter President Anna Marie Russo and Ken Broderick.



Orange/West Orange Chapter donated tickets to seniors in Newark to attend a theatrical production, "Redemption", in West Orange. From left: New Jersey District XI Governor Carmine Campanile and Felicia Moss Eaton.



From left: Kristine Massari, UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli and Past National President Frank Cannata.



Anthony Vecchio.

FOOD BANK**Feeding the Poor –
Torraco Fund Responds**

It's no secret—"FOOD PANTRIES EXPERIENCING INCREASED DEMAND!" That seems to be the headline in papers across America. The statistics vary depending on location, but many individuals and families are struggling to put a meal on the table. Unemployment, low wages, cuts in food stamp programs and increased household expenses are just some of the reasons that many have gone hungry. Reluctant in asking for help, people that finally will, find visiting the local food pantry a humbling experience. Equally troubling is seeing "empty" shelves on the food pantries they serve. This is due of course because the number of families served by the pantry continues to grow and donations are low.

Many of our UNICO Chapters volunteer their time and treasure to help food pantries and homeless shelters in the community it serves. Now, the UNICO Foundation, through the newly endowed Ralph Torraco Food Bank and Shelters Fund, is ready to assist by awarding additional funds so the group

you support has funds to purchase groceries with increased costs such as meat, milk and produce.

Last year, the Ralph Torraco Fund administered by the UNICO Foundation, distributed a total of \$5,000 to various food pantries and homeless shelters in need of funds to meet demands. Realizing the income generated from the Fund is just not enough to fulfill the requests, our friend Ralph donated an additional \$125,000 this past December. The income generated from his permanent gift will now allow the Foundation to provide funds to more agencies.

These are most challenging times for your local food pantry as they struggle to keep shelves stocked. Any dollar amount donated is usually a blessing for these groups. You can help by introducing this grant opportunity to them. The application can be found on the www.unico.org website. Once completed, have the group send the application back to the National Office for consideration. The next grants will be awarded at the National Convention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, toll free at 1-888-845-3622 or by e-mail: chrisd@unico.org.

GARFIELD, NJ

On Tuesday, February 17, at the Venetian in Garfield, NJ District VII Carnevale Night was held celebrating Past District Governor Elyse Buonomo. Elyse is this year's UNICO Eastern Regional District Chair Person.



From left: Allan Focarino, President of the Garfield Chapter, Past District Governor Elyse Buonomo and her husband Bob.

On Sunday March 1, 2015 the Atlantic City Semi-annual bus trip was held. Organized to help raise funds to support the scholarships awarded each year, as well as the Christmas baskets, and other causes. It was a fun-filled day beginning with a full sit down breakfast at the Parkway Diner, exciting games on the bus ride down, fun at the casino during the day, and a relaxing return ride home with movie.



UNICO members and other guests whom attended the trip.

MARIN, CA

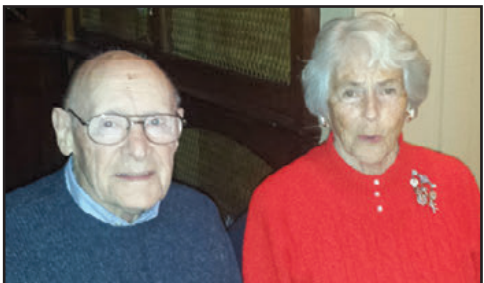
The Marin Chapter's Annual Valentine's Dinner was held February 11 at our regular meeting place, Marin Joe's of Corte Madera. A very festive event complete with red roses for the ladies and of course, excellent cuisine prepared by the Delasantina family of Lucca.



From left: Cathy Onick and daughter Terry and father Jim Scatena.



Vicki Masseria (r) and her mother Vera (l).



Bill Asiano and Giovanna Kampmeyer.



From left: Lorraine, Romolo Iavorone, Bob Ravasio and wife Pat.



From left: Giulio and Marian Boeri and Ray and Christine Erlach.



From right: Judi Bersaglieri, guest Cheryl with Cody Bersaglieri and Paul Seaward.

ROCKAWAY, NJ

The Rockaway Township Chapter has been very busy recently.

Our Christmas Party was attended by many, including UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro and new Jersey District XI Governor Carmine Campanile and even Santa (Chapter President Matt Mustachio). There was music, dancing, tricky trays, 50/50, great food and drink. A great time was had by all.

Our membership continues to grow. We have added six new members: Pat and Judi Ricucci, Vito and Mirella Ferrante and Thomas and Marysue DePaola, bringing us up to 54 members now!

At our February Chapter meeting, we had a terrific demonstration on how to make delicious cannoli's by La Forchetta Restaurant, which was enjoyed by all. I think everyone enjoyed the second and third cannoli's as much as the first one!

There are also many upcoming events:

1. Our April Chapter meeting will be at Ah Pizz Restaurant in Denville, where we will see how Neapolitan thin crust pizza is made, and we will dine on it afterwards.

2. We will be having a Charity Beefsteak Dinner on May 30th at St. Clement's Church in Rockaway Township with food provided by the Brownstone

Restaurant to raise money to donate to Camp Marcella in Rockaway Township (which is a camp for blind children), as well as a donation to the local Senior Services Program.

3. Our June meeting will feature a wine making demonstration from a local Winery.

4. In the fall, we will be again be participating in Montville's San Gennaro Feast and we will have our Second Annual Charity Motorcycle to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital. We are also planning for a Charity Golf Outing.

All in all, our Chapter continues to do extremely well, in this our second year!



New members Thomas and Marysue DePaola are sworn in by Chapter President Matt Mustachio.



From left: Roe Chabala, Kathy Quinn, Joe Bell and Chapter President Matt Mustachio.



Joe and his daughter from La Forchetta Restaurant demonstrate cannoli making.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



UNICO Members attend the Presidential Ball. Front row from left: Patty Hirsch and Shirley Tokarz. Back row from left: Celeste Pandolfi, Barbara Laborim, Allan Focarino and Dolores Gennaro.



Rutherford Chapter Senior Spaghetti Luncheon from left: Frank Tidona, Joan Tidona, Vinnie Laborim and Dolores Gennaro.



Rutherford UNICO Senior Luncheon Head Chefs from left: Gabe Basile, Nick Iocca and Charlie Marullo.



Rutherford Senior Luncheon Salad Brigade from left: Dolores Gennaro, Bob Donato, Andy Bertone and Vinnie DeCesare.



Rutherford Senior Luncheon Kitchen Staff from left: Charlie Marullo, Frank Tidona, Gabe Basile and Vinnie DeCesare.

WETHERSFIELD, CT

In February, the Wethersfield Chapter held its 36th Annual "Famous" Macaroni Dinner. The Chapter's largest fund-raiser, members served about 1000 meals of macaroni with home-made sauce and home-made meatballs, salad, garlic bread, refreshments, and dessert in four and a half hours.



The "Outside Crew" chair Dom Fusco on left, organized the boiling of the pasta.



From left: John Console, Joe Balzo, Tom Vaughan, and Nick D'Eramo dole out the goodies.



Bob Donatelli and Joe Pandolfe work the raffle.



Michele Capalbo and Phil Civitello prepare the refreshments for pickup.

HILLSIDE, NJ

Ceremony Honoring Rev. Dr. King in Hillside

Mr. Bonanno spoke to the audience about discrimination that UNICO's founder, Dr. Anthony Vastola experienced when seeking entry into a national service organization, but was wrongfully denied acceptance. Subsequently, in 1922 he was instrumental in founding today's UNICO. Its mission is to serve the community by performing good deeds to counter-act discrimination against Italians. The receptive audience appreciated learning of our motto, "Service Above Self".



From left: Lee Bonanno, Patricia Welsh, Angelo Bonanno, Chapter President; Donald DeAugustine and James Welsh all participated in the January 19th ceremony honoring the accomplishments and memory of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King at MLK Monument in Liberty Park.



Angelo Bonanno, Hillside Chapter President presented an appreciation plaque to SFC Rawle Prince, US Army (ret), JROTC Unit. His long time services are greatly appreciated by the Hillside community.

SPARTA, NJ



From left: President Ken Carafello, Glen Vetrano and honoree patrolman Tom Tosti of the Newton Police Department at the Public Safety Awards Beefsteak.



President Ken Carafello, Glen Vetrano and honoree Lieutenant Niel Spidaletto of the Sparta Police Department. The Chapter proudly acknowledges and commends the honorees for their service to the community which exemplifies our motto of "Service Above Self".



Gil Gibbs, former Sparta Mayor, accepts a donation from Sparta UNICO for his polar bear plunge into Lake Mohawk to raise money for handicapped children. From left: President Ken Carafello, Glen Vetrano and Gil Gibbs.



WESTFIELD, NJ



Westfield and Raritan Chapter members and officers join in congratulating Dr. Piero Rinaldo, the 2015 UNICO National Marconi Science Award recipient, at the Mid-Year Board Meeting. From left: Mike Colucci, Deanna DeMarco, Bob Tarte, Dr. Piero Rinaldo and daughter Francesca, Ann Walko, UNICO National Executive Vice President; Anthony Bengivenga, Westfield Chapter President; Rose Andryko and Michael Walko.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Executive Vice President Ann Walko celebrate with Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga at the Westfield Chapter's 21st Annual Pig Roast Seated from left: Ann Walko, UNICO National Executive Vice President and Richard D'Arminio, UNICO National President. Standing: Bob Tarte, Myriam Restripo, Anthony Bengivenga, Chapter President and Carmela Juliano.



On left in the photo Vinnie Tomasso and John Chiesa enjoy camaraderie with their guests at Westfield Chapter's 21st Annual UNICO Pig Roast.



Joanne LaRosa (l) and Vinnie Tomasso (r) display the 40 inch LED TV in the raffle at Westfield Chapter's 21st annual Pig Roast as Anthony Bengivenga, Chapter President looks on.



Westfield and Clark members enjoy the 21st annual Westfield Pig Roast with Past National President Frank Licato of the Plainfields Chapter. From left: Henry Varriano, Clark Chapter; Carmella Juliano and Rich Esposito, Westfield Chapter and Frank Licato, Past National President.



Westfield Chapter presents their annual donation in January to the Westfield First Aid Squad. From left: Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga, UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko, Bob Tarte, Lynn Feldman and Reid Edles; President of Westfield Volunteer First Aid Squad.

*To donate to a
UNICO Charity
make checks payable and mail to:*

UNICO Foundation
271 US Highway 46 West,
Suite F-103,
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004.

All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

The Pt. Pleasant Beach Chapter continues to plan for the upcoming months include the St. Joseph Feast at Due Amici in Brielle followed by “Rock and Rhythm” Dinner Show and Gift Auction slated for April 19th at The White Sands Ballroom. The Chapter added a new charity to their service, The Madonna House in Neptune, which aids women and children in emergency situations. Members donated requested items of hats, gloves underwear and socks especially in need during the cold winter months. In addition members Bob Gynn and Victor Damato are contacting the local VA so that the Chapter can help Veterans in the area. Again this year The ACES will be organizing and participating in UNICO National Community Service Day.



Point Pleasant Beach Officers from left: Dominick Fiumano, Camille Kreutzer, Victor Damato, Paul Viggiano, Chapter President Debbie Vaccaro and Donna Grassano.

UNION, NJ

The Union Chapter President Joe Almeida attends the Westfield Chapter's 21st Annual Pig Roast on January 24 at the Garwood Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall. Seated from left: Dr. Frank Almeida, Union Chapter President Joe Almeida and Henry Varriano, Clark Chapter. Standing: Anthony Bengivenga, President of Westfield Chapter.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL

The Highland Beach Chapter was represented with a table at the “39th Il Circolo Gala” which took place at the Breakers Hotel. From left: Presidents Frank LoRe-UNICO; Paul Finizio-II Circolo and Tony Phillips-Sons of Italy. The Vespa was one of the prizes.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Committee met recently to discuss grant applications. Seated: Barbara Lipari Laborim, Chair. Standing from left: Kathy Caruano, Joan Tidona, Joe and Dorothy Verdone and Michele McDade.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ

The Raritan Valley Chapter members work hard, diligently and without a lot of fanfare. We strive to accomplish our goals of running fund-raisers to benefit those individuals that are needy, especially children with cancer. Our biggest fund-raiser thus far netted a large donation to the “Ellie” Foundation which was established in memory of a teenage girl who died of brain cancer.

We welcome new members all the time. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the basement of the Raritan Borough Hall. The public is invited to sit in and see what we are all about.

You can also see us in the John Basilone

Parade, either marching or riding the UNICO float.

In addition, Joyce Walker would like to say thank you to New Jersey District X for honoring her with the Americanism Award. “I accept this with pride from the UNICO organization and from the UNICO members that have become my extended family.”

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X

New Jersey District X Officers and members attend the Presidential Ball. From left: Dominick Nicastro, National First Vice President; Joe Almeida, New Jersey District X Deputy District Governor; Anthony Bengivenga, New Jersey District X Alternative Deputy District Governor; Mike Colucci, Deanna DeMarco, Bob Tarte and Ann Walko, UNICO National Executive Vice President.

RUTHERFORD, NJ

UNICO National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona and Past National President Frank Tidona attend the Seton Hall Basketball game where a Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Nursing Scholarship was awarded to Stephanie DeSimone.

WATERBURY, CT

The Waterbury Chapter held their Annual "Charlie Lanza Memorial" Italian Corned Beef Dinner on March 11th to celebrate both St. Patrick's Day and St. Joseph's Day. Over 550 people feasted on a traditional Corned Beef Dinner paired with Pasta e Fagioli. In addition, 400 St. Joseph's Zeppole were sold and an exciting raffle was held. Funds raised from this event help to support local projects and scholarships. Plan to visit Waterbury next year to take part in the "tastiest fund-raiser" around!!



From left: Connecticut I District Governor Anthony Lancia, Eastern Regional District Governor Elyse Buonomo, National Membership/Retention Director Francine Nido and Waterbury President Frank Travisano.



The Zeppole Ladies from left: Fran DePaola, Toni Beccia, Joan Pesce-Veneziano and Joanne D'Angelo.



Buffet line servers from left: Pat Varanelli, Tom Durso, Carol Anelli and Carmine Paolino.



Don Mancuso and Lia Ursini great guests.

PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko swears in new member Jean Chomko at the March meeting as Chapter President John Barbieri looks on.



Chapter President John Barbieri pins new member Jean Chomko.



UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko presents Jean Chomko and Chapter President John Barbieri with a book about Italy.

HAZLETON, PA

Hazleton UNICO Donates to American Cancer

Chapter Members Zachary Lee, Gloria Ann Cerullo, and Patricia Ann Ignar volunteer their time to answer phones at the 2015 American Cancer Society Telethon. Ignar, UNICO Treasurer, was interviewed by the telethon host, as she presents a check for \$500 from the organization to support the work of the American Cancer Society. Hazleton UNICO is able to donate to such worthy causes through its fund-raising efforts such as its annual Motorcycle Run which will be in June leaving from Death Row Motorcycles and its annual Bell' Italia Festival which will be held September 19th and 20th at Community Park. Hazleton UNICO has been a consistent donor to the American Cancer Society for several years.



From left: Zachary Lee, Gloria Ann Cerullo, and Patricia Ann Ignar.

BELLEVILLE, NJ



The Belleville Chapter and their ACES held their 27th Annual St. Joseph's Table. Over 100 people attended. Front row are the Aces Group. Standing in the second row from left: Manny Alfano, Gene Antonio, Belleville Chapter President Vince Cozzarelli, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Past National President Paul Alongi, Bloomfield Chapter President Mike Sisco and the New Jersey District IV Governor Steve Pelonero.

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT II

Pennsylvania District II Pennsylvania District II recently met at the Best Western at Pioneer Plaza in Historic Carbondale, Pennsylvania.

District Governor Mark McDade presided over the meeting which was nicely hosted by the Carbondale Chapter. Forty-eight UNICO members were present and all four Chapters had their quarterly reports read to the attendees. Special guests for the evening were Eastern Regional District Governor Elyse Buonomo and husband Bob Buonomo. Elyse commended Pennsylvania District II on the wonderful turnout and on how well each of the four Chapters are doing. It was an exceptional evening with food, wine and the sharing of ideas.



Eastern Regional District Governor Elyse Buonomo addresses the Pennsylvania District II Members.



Pennsylvania District II Members gather for a picture at the Third Quarter District Meeting.

The Voice of **UNICO NATIONAL**
ComUNICO

**The DEADLINE for the
July 2015 Edition of ComUNICO is
Monday, June 8, 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 text in MS Word as an attachment or in the body of an e-mail.

PLAINFIELDS', NJ

The Plainfield's Chapter received a presentation by the South Plainfield High School Robotics "Tiger Tech" Team on the history of the Robotics Team, the building challenge of the robot and the steps that were involved in the formulation to date of the STEM initiative. UNICO donated funds to the Robotic Team in February, 2015. From left: Robert Bengivenga, Board of Education member Carol Byrne, Board of Education President Debbie Boyle; Robotics Advisor Lisa Tenenbaum, John Khalef Robotic, Team President; Tyler Curtis Robotic, Team Leader; Ravi Patel, Robotic Team Leader; UNICO President Connie Kozachek and Santi Buscemi.

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

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

*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	CI	JO
MM			

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

Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-1527)

Niccolo di Bernardo di Machiavelli was born on May 3, 1469. He was an Italian historian, politician, diplomat, philosopher, humanist and writer based in Florence during the Renaissance. For fourteen years he was an official in the Florentine Republic, with responsibilities in diplomatic and military affairs. He was a founder of modern political science, and more specifically political ethics. He also wrote comedies, carnival songs and poetry. His personal correspondence is renowned in the Italian language. He was Secretary to the Second Chancery of the Republic of Florence from 1498 to 1512, when the Medici were out of power. He wrote his masterpiece, *The Prince*, after the Medici had recovered power and he no longer held a position of responsibility in Florence.

For Machiavelli, Florence was the object of his patriotism and which he tried to serve with single minded devotion. Unfortunately for him, the days of Florentine greatness were largely past when he reached maturity. Two years after the death of Lorenzo de Medici in 1492, the French invaded Italy and in the ensuing struggles between great powers, Florence was reduced from a first rate Italian power to a second rate power dominated by Spain. The Florentine Republic for which he worked as a high level civil servant was swept away in 1512 leaving him unemployed.

"*The Prince*" embodies Machiavelli's response to the Italian crisis of disunity and foreign domination. Out of its pages, as George Bull put it in his introduction to the work, "strides the figure of the autocrat, the new man, ruthless, efficient and defiant, the literary forerunner of the new monarchs of the sixteenth century."

"*The Prince*" is a primer on how to

acquire and retain power without regard to scruple or conscience. His other masterpiece, "*The Discourses*", offers a profound analysis of the workings of the civil state and a hardheaded assessment of human nature.

Machiavelli's aim in "*The Prince*" is to tell the new rulers how to remain in power once they have gained it. The best way is to rule well. If this is not possible, then Machiavelli presents a variety of strategies for remaining in power. It is these which have given us the adjective "Machiavellian."



To some, he is the most infamous and influential political writer of all time. His name has become synonymous with cynical scheming and the selfish pursuit of power. To others, his political genius was overshadowed by his reputation that was unfairly given to him because of a misunderstanding of his political views.

Machiavelli's philosophy was shaped by the tumultuous age in which he lived, an age of towering geniuses, brutal tyrants and corruption. He was on intimate terms with Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. His first political mission was to spy on the fire-and-brimstone preacher Savonarola. As a diplomat, he matched wits with the corrupt and carnal Pope Alexander VI and his son, the notorious Cesare Borgia, whose violent career served as a model for "*The Prince*". His insights were garnered by closely studying men like Julius II, the

"Warrior Pope," and his successor, the vacillating Clement VII, as well as two kings of France and the Holy Roman Emperor. Analyzing their successes and failures, Machiavelli developed his revolutionary approach to power politics.

Machiavelli was, above all, a student of human nature. In "*The Prince*" he wrote a practical guide to the aspiring politician that is based on the world as it is, not as it should be. He has been called cold and calculating, cynical and immoral. In reality, argues biographer Miles Unger, he was a deeply humane writer whose controversial theories were a response to the violence and corruption he saw around him. He was a psychologist with acute insight into human nature centuries before Freud. A brilliant and witty writer, he was not only a political theorist, but also a poet and the author of "*La Mandragola*", the finest comedy of the Italian Renaissance. He has been called the first modern man. Rising from modest beginnings on the strength of his own talents, he was able to see through the pious hypocrisy of the age in which he lived.

In his later years, Niccolò Machiavelli resided in a small village just outside of Florence. He died in the city of Florence on June 21, 1527 at the age of 58. His tomb is in the church of Santa Croce in Florence, which, ironically, he had been banned from entering during the last years of his life.

Today, Machiavelli is regarded as the "father of modern political theory." His book, "*The Prince*", is considered required reading in Political Science classes in many Universities.

"Since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved." Niccolò Machiavelli

Researched and adapted by Salvatore Mangano, PNP, 2014-2015 UNICO Italian Heritage & Culture Chair

*Save the Date! 93rd Annual Convention - July 29 - August 1, 2015
Marriott Newport Beach Hotel & Spa, Newport Beach, CA*

ISLIP - SMITHTOWN, NY**Guest Speaker, Richard Wiese**

Richard Wiese grew up on Long Island where his parents Rick and Marie Wiese still live along with sister, Diane and her family. Richard graduated Brown University and has done advanced studies in Physiology and Meteorology. His father, also an adventurer, was the first person to solo the Pacific Ocean in an airplane. Richard's first taste of adventure came when he was 11 years old when he and his father climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. Since then, Richard has led over a dozen expeditions to this very same mountain. Inspired by a favorite uncle Dr. Richard Lanza of MIT's Nuclear Engineering Department, he now shares his uncle's passion for getting young people engaged and enthusiastic about science and the wonders of the great outdoors. Richard and wife Nicci currently reside in Connecticut. Originally from South Africa, Nicci is the founder of the Africa Foundation and leads safari tours through her boutique travel company, Young Safaris.

Richard Wiese is a world-class explorer and has hosted many television shows including, *Born to Explore* with Richard Wiese, Fox's *Beyond Tomorrow*, *Earth and Space* and *Exploration* with Richard Wiese, which is syndicated and can be viewed around the world.

Richard has circled the globe capturing stunning images and living one adventure after another. He became the youngest man to become president of The Explorers Club. As an extreme adventurer, his goal is to inspire young people and spark their interest for discovery and the love of outdoors.

Wiese's philosophy is that living an active outdoor nature-filled life in today's society is challenging but certainly not impossible. The premise of *Born to Explore* is as much about discovery of the natural world as it is for creating a positive understanding of the many beautiful cultures that inhabit our planet. Wiese is very dedicated to working with local communities around the world to have their message heard in their own words. Richard believes the most memorable aspect of any journey is not "the summit" but the people you meet along the way.



Chapter Members with Richard Wiese waving Italian flag.



Roseanne and George Buckleman are surrounded by fellow UNICO Members.



Diane Narr with family members.



From left: Mat and Fay Fortunato and Fran Rosmini.

HILLSIDE, NJ

The Hillside Chapter hosted their District meeting at Costa's in Roselle Park and celebrated St. Joseph's Table.



Hillside Chapter President Angelo Bonnano, Chaplain Father Villanova, Joe Pugliese, Glenn Volturo, and Lisa Bonnano celebrate St. Joseph's Table.



Union Chapter President Joe Almeida and Joe Triarsi celebrate St. Joseph's Table.



St. Joseph name sakes Joe Aranci, Joe Pugliese, Joe Triarsi, Joe Almeida, and Anthony Joseph Bengivenga.

KEYSTONE, PA

At the March meeting, David Eisele from the Lackawanna County Department of Veteran's Affairs, spoke on the workings of his department and the "Keystone Warriors" Organization. Keystone Warriors will be the beneficiary of the Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast Fund-raiser in September. Seated from left: Mary Mack, Mary Ann Coviello and Valerie Rigg. Standing from left: Frank Coviello, David Eisele, Chapter President James Mack and John Mecca.

CONVENTION 2015

Our committee has been working hard to accommodate the needs and wishes of our members. There have been activities planned for the diverse wants of our members including a tour to the Temecula wine country, an afternoon at Bloomingdales, across the street from the hotel, a guided tour of Newport Beach, or just leisure free time to do what you wish or relax at the pool.

This is definitely a "Vacation Destination" with many sites and activities within 25 minutes from the hotel. So come early or stay latter.

JUST THINK!!!!

Lego Land, San Diego Zoo, Catalina Island, Whale Watching, Pacific Ocean, Arts and museums, Disneyland, Knox Bury Farms, Universal Studios, Balboa Island, Laguna Beach, 100 Restaurants, a Casino, all within driving distance.

*Please Note-It is the duties of all Chapter Presidents, Delegates and District Governors to attend these Conventions to conduct the business of UNICO National and our Foundation, to see what they do. So come join the excitement and enjoy this beautiful West Coast area and please support UNICO.

Watch for more to come.



Member Joe Catanaro made his homemade Limoncello.

ONE VOICE

The Italian American One Voice Coalition offered a Public Relations Workshop on Saturday, February 28, 2015 in Bloomfield, NJ.

"The Italian American ONE VOICE Coalition's stated mission is to 'secure the rightful representation of Americans of Italian origin and of all peoples whose paths toward social equality have been impeded.'" ONE VOICE Founder is Manny Alfano.

For more information about ONE VOICE and how you can participate actively; visit the website at the following address: <http://www.iaovc.org>.



From left: Allan Focarino, President of the Garfield Chapter; Ann Walko, UNICO National Executive Vice President; Frank Cipolla, Former TV News Anchor and One Voice Activist and Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National First Vice President pose for a photo after the workshop.



WATERBURY, CT

Francine Nido of Waterbury was one of two individuals honored by the Italian American Legislative Caucus at their St. Joseph's Day Celebration at the Connecticut Legislative Office Building in Hartford on

March 19th. Chosen by State Representative Anthony D'Amelio, Ms. Nido was selected for her service work within the Italian American community throughout Connecticut particularly with UNICO, the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States. Founded in Waterbury in 1922, the mission of UNICO is to promote and enhance the image of Italian Americans and for their members be of service to the community. Since joining UNICO in 2001, Ms. Nido has served in a multiple capacities on a local, state and national level and is the current National Membership and Retention Director.



From left: Representative Anthony D'Amelio, IA Caucus Treasurer; Thomas Vaughan, UNICO National Second Vice President; Francine Nido, Frank Travisano, Waterbury Chapter President and Representative Jeffrey Berger, IA Caucus Director.

FAIRFIELD, NJ



At the February meeting our special guests were Richard D'Arminio, Carmen Campanile, and Frank Greco. President D'Arminio is pictured greeting members.



Leonard Russo and President Vincent Russotto hosted a lively game of Jeopardy.

Save the Date!

September 27, 2015

**New Jersey District XI
Bocce Tournament**

**To benefit
Cancer Research**

Montville Park, NJ

CONVENTION 2015 FUND-RAISER

Convention 2015 Fund-Raisers

Two fund-raisers were recently held to raise funds for the 2015 Convention in Newport Beach, California. Cigar Night hosted by UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio was held at The Brick House Cigar Bar in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Thirty-five members and guests enjoyed a variety of Thompson Cigars. The evening included a buffet dinner, ten basket raffles and a 50/50 raffle. UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko was the winner of the 50/50 and graciously donated the winnings back to the Convention Account.

The Westfield Chapter hosted a night with the Cameos at the Gran Centurians in Clark, New Jersey. Member and guests danced the night away to the music of the Cameos. The evening included a buffet dinner, basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle and the Convention 2015 Suite Raffle drawing. Patty Hirsch was the winner of the 50/50 raffle and Vinnie Laborim was the Suite Raffle winner.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio greets the guests.



Piazzaunico.us is represented at Cigar Night.



Good food, wine, cigars and friendship!



Members enjoy a good cigar.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio calls a raffle winner.



First Lady Manuela D'Arminio



From left: Sal Mangano, Richard D'Arminio and Jerry Taylor.



Raffle Winner Lou Serafini.

Convention 2015 Fund-raising Events

May 21, 2015 - Cocktail Reception and Dinner honoring Dr. M. Ann Walko. contact Anthony Bengivenga at anthony@bengivenga.com

May 28, 2015 - Cigar Night at the Mayfair Farms, contact Frank Paolercio at paolercio@verizon.net

June 21, 2015 - Bowl-a-Thon, contact Paul Alongi at palongisr@firstmco.com for more information.

TBA - Wine Tasting Party, to be held in Pennsylvania, contact Joe Cerullo at jcerullo@epix.net

CONVENTION 2015 FUND-RAISER



The Cameos perform at the Gran Centurians on Friday, March 13, 2015.



Dancing to the sound of "The Cameos".



At the Cameo Event Convention Fund-raiser, the winner of the 50/50 is UNICO National Secretary Patty Hirsch. Bob Tarte presents the prize to Patty.



Frank Paolercio, 2015 Convention Chairman and Mike Walko, draw the winning ticket for the UNICO National Suite Raffle.



The winning ticket for the suite raffle at Newport Beach for this summer's National Convention was purchased by Vinnie Laborim on right as Joan Tidona looks on.



The Cameos sing a song in tribute to our UNICO Veterans. From left: Mike Colucci, John Andreyko and Joe Ferrara, are serenaded as the audience cheers.



Rachel Bengivenga, wife of Westfield President Anthony Bengivenga, is presented with a raffle prize by Sandy Giordano, Westfield Chapter.



Union Chapter President Joe Almeida is presented with a winning raffle basket.



Ed Danberry is a winner of a raffle basket at the Cameo Event.



John Andreyko enjoys a dancing moment with his wife, Rose.



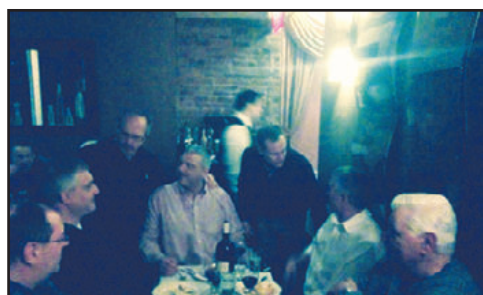
Debbie Benvenuti and Pat Pelonero receive their raffle prize.



From left: John Andreyko, Joe Almeida, President Union Chapter; Mike Colucci, Cameo singer Danny Ugarte; National Executive Vice President Ann Walko and Anthony Bengivenga, Westfield Chapter President.

PEQUANNOCK, NJ**Pequannock UNICO Feasts in Little Italy**

Recently, Pequannock UNICO traveled to Little Italy for its annual social gathering where more than 55 members feasted at DaNicos restaurant on Mulberry Street. Traveling by bus as a group, a private room then held the hungry group where family style Italian dishes were served along with DaNicos' private selection of wine and Peroni beer. The sitting lasted over four hours and all members returned back to Pequannock a couple of pounds heavier as the night came to a close.



Chapter Members enjoy dinner in Little Italy.

Pequannock UNICO Helps Sponsor Local "Push to Walk" Event

"Push to Walk" is an event to expand the awareness and raise money for those who have incurred spinal cord injuries and are undertaking the grueling struggle to learn to walk again. The event was held at Kinnelon High School and was attended by several hundred community residents. Members of the Pequannock Chapter represented UNICO at the event and provided the organization with a donation to help in the needed research to overcome these injuries and get people back up and walking.



Chapter President Bob Diana (l) and Dan Leva (r) man the UNICO Booth.



Push Walk Registration Desk.

**GREATER RAMSEY, NJ**

Greater Ramsey hosted a Heritage Day. From left: Joseph Verdone, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Nancy Girgenti, Dorothy Verdone, Chapter President Ron Targove and UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino.



Andre' DiMino makes a presentation on Culture and Heritage for the Chapter.



Attendees listen to a presentation.



Display Table.



Andre' DiMino continues his presentation.

501 (C) 3 UPDATE**Update on UNICO National 501(c)3 Status**

UNICO National has been working on securing a conversion to 501(c)3 tax-exempt status from the IRS for both UNICO National as well as a Group Exemption for all UNICO Chapters. We have just been advised that the IRS intends to grant the conversion for UNICO National to 501(c)3 tax-exempt status in the near future, but is declining to rule on the Group Exemption request for Chapters. Once the 501(c)3 tax exemption for UNICO National is formally received we will consider what the next course of action to be recommended for the Chapters.

*Photos, News, Events,
and Much More!*



f Find us on Facebook

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

UNICO National Honors Heroic Actions of Italian American Nursing Student with Scholarship

UNICO National, the largest Italian American service and charitable organization in America, has recognized the heroic actions of nursing student Stefanie DeSimone with a scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarship was presented to DeSimone by UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio at center court at a recent Seton Hall basketball game at the Prudential Center in Newark.

DeSimone was flying home from Italy last summer when a man collapsed in the plane's aisle. DeSimone, her cousin and three other healthcare professionals took control of the situation. DeSimone and the others were able to stabilize the man after losing his pulse. The plane then made an emergency landing in the Azore Islands and he was

brought to the nearest hospital for further treatment.

UNICO National Office Manager Pat Pelonero learned about the incident which was publicized in the New York metro area media last fall. She suggested to UNICO officers that it would be very appropriate for UNICO to honor the Italian American nursing student for her actions.

"In learning about the heroic actions of Stephanie DeSimone, an Italian American who used her medical knowledge to save a life – the apex of service to another human being – it was a must that UNICO National recognize this special individual," stated Andre' DiMino, Executive Director of UNICO.

The scholarship was made possible through the generosity of UNICO Member Ralph Torracco who endowed The Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Scholarship program for nursing students. Each year the UNICO Founda-

tion, through the auspices of the UNICO National Scholarship committee chaired by Joan Tidona, grants a number of undergraduate and graduate scholarships to students across the United States. Scholarships have been a fundamental pillar of the community service work of UNICO since its founding in 1922. Today, UNICO continues this legacy with its active annual scholarship programs for a number of areas in addition to the nursing scholarships.

UNICO National, founded in 1922, is America's largest Italian American service and charitable organization with over 125 local chapters in 22 states. Its' volunteer members support charitable, educational, and community service projects while promoting Italian heritage and combating negative stereotyping. It has a long record of supporting education and cultural initiatives through Italian Studies Chairs it has endowed at several universities across the US.

NORTH SHORE, LI, NY

Members and guests of the North Shore, Long Island Chapter celebrated La Festa Di San Giuseppe at their March 18th meeting at Nick and Gina's in Selden, New York. The meeting, planned and chaired by Christine Lupo, (seated left) celebrated the traditions of St. Joseph's Day. St. Joseph was the most beloved saint in Italy after the middle ages, especially in the south of Italy where he answered the people's prayers to end a drought and famine in Sicily. He is also the saint of the family and for the worker. In Italy, the March 19th celebration of St. Joseph is "Father's Day".

To keep the traditions alive, Christine Lupo handed out St. Joseph medallions, prayer cards and fava beans. The hardy bean was the only plant that survived the drought, making it an invaluable food source to the peasants and symbolizes the St. Joseph's feast for food to the poor. The dinner consisted of three traditional pasta dishes, vegetables, fish, shellfish, and finished with the famous desserts of Sfingi and Zeppole di San Giuseppe.



The Joseph's in the Chapter were honored at the dinner: Joseph Vessio, standing 3rd from the left; Joseph Sciafani, standing 6th from the left; and Joseph Leto, standing 4th from the right.

SPARTA, NJ



Dawn Corbo and Tom Cefeli are pictured with the Special Prize Winners.



Easter Egg Hunters.



Tom Cefeli (l) and Ken Carafello (r) along with the Easter Bunny congratulate Easter Bonnet Contest Winners.



A Happy Winner!

SADDLE BROOK, NJ**Saddle Brook Chapter
Winter Activities**

The Saddle Brook Chapter has been very active during the winter months of 2015.

Some of our recent activities to date are the following:

1) We sponsored the annual Can-teen, a dance for a local group of special people. We supplied the food and music. It is a wonderful feeling to make these special people so happy.

2) The Chapter attended the annual New Jersey District VII Carnevale honoring Elyse Buonomo and her husband Bob as Queen and King of Carnevale. Sal Mangano, Past National President served as Chair and Joe Nasello was the emcee. There were 16 members from our Chapter attending.

3) A member of our Chapter attended the Melissa Central Memorial Scholarship Dinner and presented a check for \$200 towards their Scholarship fund.

4) Five members attend the 2015, Cigar Night Convention Fund-raiser.

5) The Saddle Brook School District has instituted an Italian Heritage program for children from grades 1-6 that we support with funds each year. Each February, the Italian teacher has a Carnevale mask contest. Each child makes a mask and then there is a contest and winners are chosen and given prizes. One of the prizes was a UNICO Heritage Calendar donated by our chapter. Sue Sym and Sal Mangano, members of our Chapter, served as judges. It was a wonderful event. We know that these children are learning the heritage of Italy, the home of our ancestors.

6) The Chapter sponsored our first Super Night at the American Legion Hall in Elmwood Park. This was a new concept for us and it was very successful.

Coming in the next few months are a March Madness NCAA Pool, a super 50/50, our annual Car show and our annual Street Feast. We are a very busy Chapter.



Joe Nasello presents roses to First Lady Manuel D'Arminio.



President Marilyn Nasello makes a presentation to scholarship dinner organizer.



Joe Nasello and Lou D'Arminio at Cigar Night.



From left: Ed Rebel, Sal Mangano, Jerry Taylor and Joe Nasello at Cigar Night.



Italian Teacher Ms. Panamanian Diamonding and some of the contest winners.

PITTSFIELD, MA**Celebrity Bartender Night**

The Pittsfield Chapter recently held its sixth annual celebrity bartender night (Grande Salute), at the Olde Heritage Tavern in Lenox. Volunteers from the Chapter worked in shifts of three, for 45 minutes tending bar. The bartenders invited their friends in during their shifts to buy a drink from them. The tips received by each shift were donated by those bartenders to the Chapter's general fund which supports scholarships and charity donations. As far as our Chapter's internal fund-raisers go, this is probably the most enjoyable one.



Chapter volunteer bartenders from left: Butch Pisani, Mary Kelly and Joe Bonacquisti take time for a quick photo before the start of their shift.

AVON, CT

UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio visited with Avon Chapter President Greg Van Deusen, Connecticut II District Governor Geno Avenoso and Past National President Anthony Braico and his wife Gloria.



Avon Chapter members join the National President and First Lady for a picture.

THE COCCIA INSTITUTE AND ITANJ ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE DAY

The Coccia Institute and ITANJ Present "Italian Language and Culture Day 2015: Il 'Made in Italy'"

The Coccia Institute and ITANJ Present "Italian Language and Culture Day 2015: Il 'Made in Italy'"

Almost 400 students of Italian competed during Italian Language and Culture Day, held on March 25th in the Conference Center at Montclair State University, the annual signature collaboration between the Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America and the Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey (ITANJ). Under the leadership of ITANJ President, Comm. Catherine Vignale and supported by the ITANJ Organizing Committee chaired once again by Lisa Manfrè, Italian teacher at Grover Cleveland Middle School, this program provides an exciting and unique opportunity to showcase not only the Italian proficiency, but the creativity and artistic talents of students at the middle and high school levels.

Students, teachers and guests in attendance were treated to an amazing repertoire of original skits performed exclusively in Italian, written by the students, and enhanced by extraordinary costumes and scenery they designed and constructed themselves.

The winners of this year's competition:
Middle Schools:

First Place - Manalapan- English-town Middle School, Manalapan
Second Place - Frelinghuysen Middle School, Morristown

Third Place - Grover Cleveland Middle School, West Caldwell

High Schools:

First Place - Elizabeth High School Upper Academy, Elizabeth

Second Place - Ocean Township High School, Oakhurst

Third Place - St. Peter's Preparatory School, Jersey City

Student Choice Awards:

Props & Costumes - Ocean Township High School

Overall Performance - Cliffside Park High School



From left: Coccia Foundation President Elisa Coccia, Coccia Institute Director Cav. Mary Ann Re, PhD. and Coccia Foundation Founder Elda Coccia.



A full house of almost 400 students from middle and high schools across New Jersey. Following resounding renditions of the Italian and American national anthems, the competition kicks off.



Eagerly awaiting the students' performances from left: John Lawlor, Principal, Saddle Brook High School; Elisa Coccia, Daria Calluori, Coccia Foundation member and Elda Coccia.



Montclair State's Professor Gina Miele surrounded by enthusiastic "Student Ambassadors" from her Italian classes and Amici Club volunteers.



Competition emcee Vita Morales, from Parsippany Hills High School, quizzing students on their knowledge of Italian culture: Winners beam upon receiving the coveted prizes—jars of Nutella!



The judges from left: Silvana Berardo, Susan Garra Fischer, Anna Ranieri, Andrea Baldi, Carlo Davoli and Phyllis Pizzolato.



Ocean Township High School performers delight the audience with their entry, "Forza Italia! Formula 1!" Ferrari, Maserati and Fiat 500 compete—and the Fiat 500 takes the checkered flag!



Grasping the prized trophies, a pair of representatives from each of the winning schools takes a well-deserved bow on behalf of their classmates.



**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





◀ CANDIED CREATIONS

The sugarcoated almonds known as confetti are the traditional confection at Italian weddings, baptisms, anniversaries, graduations and other family events. The delicacy has its roots in ancient Rome, when almonds were coated in honey. It wasn't until the 15th century that sugar became widely available in Italy.

In 1783, the Pelino family of Sulmona in the Abruzzo region began coating almonds in sugar and soon became the nation's No. 1 producer. More than 230 years later, Confetti Mario Pelino is still an industry leader.

Confetti is available in a rainbow of colors, with tradition dictating which color is used when — white or ivory for weddings, pink or blue for baptisms, red for graduations, and silver or gold for anniversaries.

They are served in three ways: loose in a large dish or bowl; custom packaged in individual presentation pouches or boxes; or fashioned into decorative shapes, such as flowers.

Today's confetti are also packaged like other candy. Available in small bags and boxes, they can be given as gifts for any occasion or simply enjoyed as a sweet treat.

Pelino confetti continues to be handmade with traditional equipment according to a recipe and process dating back more than three centuries. Individual almonds are coated in successive ultra-thin layers of a colored sugar solution, tumbling over and over in special heated copper drums until the process is complete. The Pelino coating is distinguished by the complete absence of starches, including flour.

Now in its seventh generation, Confetti Mario Pelino remains family owned and operated. Its headquarters are in the same city and their original factory is now a museum. The company ships its products worldwide from shop.confettimariopelino.com.

Floral bouquet \$15.42

Assorted box of white confetti \$40.23

Flowers \$3.08 pink \$7.78 blue

Cone filled with confetti \$3.35

Small gold pouch with rose detail \$6.84

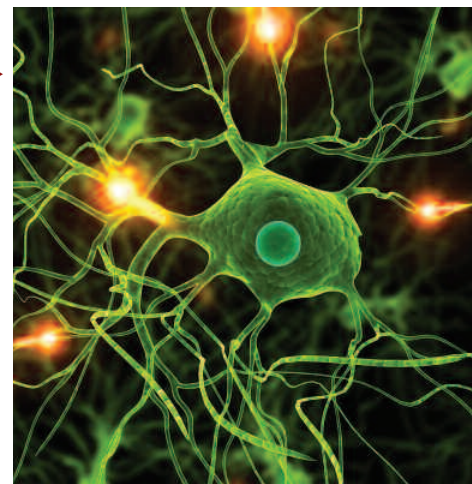


◀ BIG WIN

On Feb. 28, Italy's national rugby team claimed a historic win in Scotland. After trailing 0-10, the Azzurri came back to win the game 22-19. The victory gave Italy two valuable points in the Six Nations Cup, Europe's most prestigious rugby tournament, putting behind it the risk of getting the "wooden spoon," a symbolic and somewhat embarrassing prize given to any team that completes the tournament without any wins. Italy's last victory in Edinburgh's Murrayfield stadium dates back to 2007. The other nations in the tournament are England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France. The victory might be a good omen for Italy, which is bidding to host the 2023 Rugby World Cup.

CURE IN SIGHT ▶

A team of researchers at the University of Trento may have discovered a molecular "switch" that could interrupt the progression of degenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Led by biologist Maria Pennuto, the team discovered why androgen receptors become hyperactive, producing a rare form of spinal muscular atrophy. By stopping the process in sick fruit flies, the researchers were able to slow down the progression of the disease. "Similar switches are present in other proteins associated with other degenerative nerve diseases," said Pennuto. "If further research confirms our intuition on the other diseases, we could be on the way to developing new molecular treatments." The study's results were published in *Neuron* journal.



◀ VEGAN VINTAGES

Italy is stepping up its game when it comes to vegan wines. Although most people would see wine as a naturally vegetarian product, milk and egg proteins are widely used to "clean" wines in order to make them clearer. The group CSQA-Valoritalia, a top quality-control organization for Italian wines, recently certified 10 Italian wineries as vegan, paying close attention to the winemaking process as well as the materials used for the companies' bottles and labels. Special vegan labels will indicate the exclusive use of mineral products. Italy's first vegan wineries are located in Ascoli Piceno and Ancona (Marche), Siena and Grosseto (Tuscany), Orsogna (Abruzzo), and Treviso (Veneto).

NEW LEAF ▶

After a series of embarrassing collapses due to poor maintenance, Pompeii is finally the focus of a governmental effort to "turn a new leaf" with the ancient site. Those were the words of Culture Minister Dario Franceschini on March 20, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the reopening of Pompeii's largest house — the Villa dei Misteri. After a two-year restoration project, the villa is now once again open to visitors. "We have behind us a year of extraordinary work," said Franceschini. "We have closed three work sites, while another 13 have been opened, nine contracts have been started and we have hired 85 people in various positions." In 2010, the UNESCO World Heritage site lost its Gladiator Home due to a landslide. In 2014, a wave of landslides jeopardized several more sites.

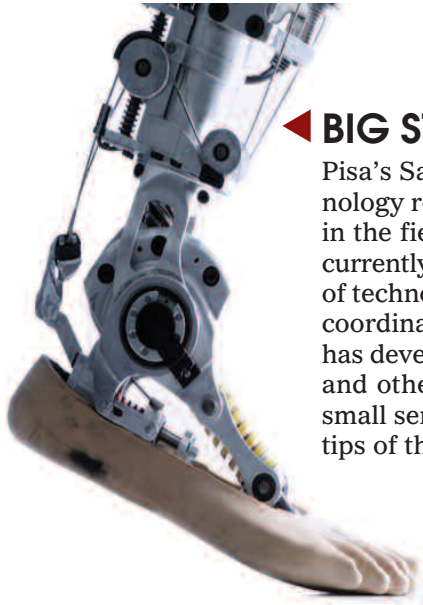


FASHION QUEEN ►

Italian costume designer Milena Canonero recently won a fourth Academy Award for her work in "The Grand Budapest Hotel." The Turin native has been a fashion icon in Hollywood for more than four decades, having already won Academy Awards for "Barry Lyndon" (1976), "Chariots of Fire" (1982) and "Marie Antoinette" (2006). Canonero relied heavily on Italian designs for "Grand Budapest," renting about 30 ensembles from Annamode, one of Italy's most revered outlets for movie costumes. Located in Rome's Prati neighborhood, Annamode's fame dates back to the days of the Italian neorealist movement. A go-to boutique for big studios around the globe, the 70-year-old family-run business was recently asked to provide 20 costumes for Disney's new blockbuster "Cinderella."



◀ BIG STEP FORWARD



Pisa's Sant'Anna University of Advanced Studies has been at the forefront of innovative technology research for some time now. In March, the university announced two major milestones in the field of bionic engineering. The first set of bionic legs was created at the school and is currently being tested by 11 people through the European project Cyberlegs. "It's a combination of technologies that help people walk in a natural way again," said Nicola Vitiello, the project's coordinator. The Human Machine Nexus Laboratory at the university recently announced it has developed a bionic fingertip that is able to recognize texture, pressure, hardness, curvature and other information transmitted by touch. "The system is formed by a matrix containing small sensors simulating the distribution of the nerve endings that are naturally present in the tips of the fingers," said lab director Calogero Oddo.

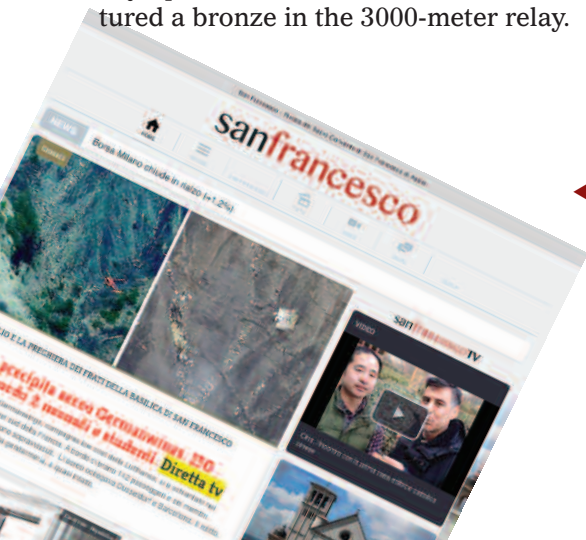
SPEED MERCHANT ►

Italy's Arianna Fontana is one of short-track speed skating's rising stars. The 24-year-old from Sondrio showed her skills at the recent World Championships held in Moscow, where she won gold in the 1,500-meter competition. Fontana also left her mark in the 500-meter and 1000-meter races, winning bronze. A fourth medal, also bronze, came with the 3000-meter relay. The four medals added to her total from the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, where she won silver in the 500-meter race and bronze in the 1,500-meter individual race and 3000-meter relay. Fontana is the youngest Italian woman to have ever won an Olympic medal. At the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics, a 15-year-old Fontana captured a bronze in the 3000-meter relay.



◀ FRIENDS IN NEED

Assisi's Franciscan friars have turned to the online community in the hope of raising enough money to restore 6,700 square feet of artwork inside St. Francis' Basilica. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the cathedral is one of Italy's most important destinations for Christian pilgrims, and it also requires a lot of upkeep. In early March, the friars launched an online campaign to raise more than 450,000 euro (about \$470,000) to salvage many frescoes from water damage. Work will focus on frescoes by 17th century painter Cesare Sermei located at the Basilica's entrance, as well as the 14th-century chapel of St. Catherine of Alexandria. The Basilica still bears the scars of the 1997 earthquake that caused the partial collapse of its ceiling, frescoed by Cimabue. www.sanfrancesco.org.





▲ DAVID P. WAGNER

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

He breathed deeply and pulled at his carefully trimmed beard, hoping the gesture didn't betray his nervousness to the two men with him. 'Spectacular,' he said. One arm reached out to touch the cold alabaster, its fingers running across the smooth faces of the two draft horses, down through the curled grooves of the milky manes, and pausing for a moment at the muscles of their shanks. His hand and eyes continued to caress the stone as he spoke. He almost whispered, as if he were standing before an altar in a church. 'It looks like it was carved yesterday.'

Cold Tuscan Stone
A Rick Montoya Italian Mystery
by David P. Wagner

- PUBLISHER: Poisoned Pen Press
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Violence in VOLTERRA

by Judith Anne Testa

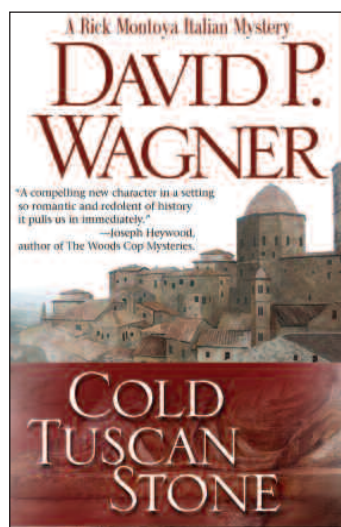
Volterra isn't your typical Tuscan city. Gray, remote, implacably stony and often swathed in mists, it's the perfect setting for a mystery novel. Author David Wagner takes full advantage of Volterra's slightly sinister atmosphere to unfold a mystery that involves the city's chief claims to fame: its millennia-old tradition of superb craftsmanship in the working of the translucent stone known as alabaster, and its unparalleled collections of Etruscan antiquities made of that same stone. Bring those two factors together, and you have the ideal circumstances for two kinds of crime: the manufacture of fake Etruscan sculptures in alabaster by modern craftsmen, and the illicit sale of genuine Etruscan antiquities by equally unscrupulous dealers — the latter sometimes involved in both crimes.

Italy's over-worked and under-staffed "art police" do what they can to track down both kinds of criminals, but sometimes they need help, and that's where the protagonist of this story comes in. Rick Montoya is half-Italian (on his mother's side), bilingual and lives in Rome, where he's eking out a living as a translator and interpreter. A friend in the ministry that deals with art thefts and forgeries convinces Montoya to go to Volterra and pose as the representative of an American art gallery interested in the bulk purchase of modern copies of Etruscan works in alabaster and also, more discreetly, in the secret purchase of looted Etruscan antiquities for wealthy American collectors. Montoya is given a list of three dealers suspected of being involved in the illicit antiquities trade, and perhaps in the art forgery business as well. Our amateur sleuth then has to try

to figure out which — if any, or all — are the guilty parties.

The author knows his way around Volterra, a strange, fascinating city where I've spent time, and he captures the unique atmosphere of the place very well. He also sends his protagonist on several time-killing sightseeing jaunts in between his various appointments, so the reader gets a tour of some of Volterra's attractions. Early on, Montoya's mission is complicated by the sudden death of a skilled alabaster worker. Montoya was the last person to see the man alive, and it soon becomes clear that his death was murder rather than suicide. The spot from which the man was thrown to his death is high above the ruins of an ancient Roman theater — I remember the place, and I recall noting that it was somewhat secluded, and that the sheer drop looked dangerous.

Although the novel isn't a breathless page-turner, the author keeps the reader guessing along with Montoya, as he tries to figure out which of his suspects is operating on the wrong side of the law, and which of them might have been involved in the murder of the alabaster worker, whose part in the web of illegal activities is finally made clear at the end. The investigation also involves the local Volterra police force, whose "commisario," Carlo Conti, is a nicely drawn portrait of a man both dedicated to his work and increasingly weary of it. As Conti contemplates his retirement, Montoya finds himself increasingly drawn to the glamor and danger of police work. It looks like the author is planning a series starring his translator-interpreter turned detective.



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Barrier BUSTER

by David Witter

While Branch Rickey is celebrated in history books, documentaries and a recent film for breaking the color barrier in baseball, few know who accomplished the same feat in jazz. While some point to Benny Goodman, many scholars credit Joe Marsala with having the first full-time, racially integrated jazz band in 1936. Marsala is also known for helping to launch the careers of Buddy Rich and Shelly Manne.

Marsala's father, Peitro, was a musician who emigrated from Sicily to New Orleans in the late 1800s. Like many Italian Americans, he was present at the birth of jazz, and his musical talents landed him jobs on Mississippi River steamboats. Long before Louis Armstrong, he saw greater social and economic opportunities in Chicago and decided to settle there.

One of five children, Joe Marsala was born in the Windy City in 1907 and grew up in "Little Sicily," a Near North Side neighborhood that also housed a mixture of Chinese, Germans, Swedes and African Americans. His father's experiences in New Orleans and a childhood spent in a racially mixed community would shape Marsala's attitudes for life. "If somebody was out of a job or needed food, there wasn't a second thought about sharing," Marsala said. "(The family of) our neighbor, Willie Smith, shared their red beans and rice with us and we shared our spaghetti with them."

After seeing Louis Armstrong perform, Marsala embraced jazz, dedicating himself to the clarinet. One night, Armstrong noticed the under-aged Marsala brothers — Joe and Marty — listening

outside of the club. Armstrong asked the boys if they knew of any good Italian restaurants in the city.

"I gave Louis the address and told him I'd meet him there on Sunday," Marsala says. "A week later, he shows up at our house looking for a restaurant, and that's how my mother ended up cooking for Louis Armstrong."

Marsala's big break came at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, when he was discovered by another New Orleans

jazz great, Wingy Manone. He took Marsala to New York with his band in 1935, where they played at clubs like The Famous Door, The Hickory House and The Tap Room.

Marsala remained in New York and by 1936 he had formed his own band, "Joe Marsala and Eddie Condon and the Chicagoans." While playing at The Hickory House, Marsala asked Red Allen, an African

American, to put on a band uniform and play with them for two nights as a regular band member. At that time, Benny Goodman was billing Teddy Wilson as a "special attraction" but many historians credit Marsala with having the first truly integrated band.

After World War II, be-bop supplanted more traditional jazz idioms, but Marsala still preferred the sounds of big band and Dixieland. He turned to writing torch songs, including hits like "Don't Cry Joe, Let Her Go," which was recorded by Frank Sinatra.

After developing an allergy to the nickel in the clarinet's keys, Marsala played less and less, and died in Santa Barbara of lung cancer in 1978, leaving a lasting social and musical legacy behind.



▲ IN THE SPOTLIGHT ▼

JOE MARSALA 1936-1942 THE CHRONOLOGICAL CLASSICS

Raised on Dixieland, Marsala hit his stride while swing music dominated the pop charts. This compellation shows how Marsala combined the two, revealing him as one of the most underrated musicians of his time.

At the time, the clarinet was still king. Marsala shows his clarinet skills and Marsala pays tribute to the first great jazz clarinetist, Nick La Rocca, with his cover of "Clarinet Marmalade." He is joined by legendary Dixieland trombonist George Brunies on classics like "Woo-Woo" and "Walkin' the Dog."

Providing rhythm are two drummers who later became giants in the world of jazz, a young Buddy Rich and Shelly Manne. Together, they help to nourish the swing side of Marsala on tunes like "Reunion In Harlem" and "Lower Register." The band also dials up the tempo on "Three O' Clock Jump," a bouncy, driving swing tune popularized by Count Basie, which features Bill Coleman on trumpet and a vocal segment by Dell St. John.

Another great touch on the CD is the appearance by Marsala's wife, harpist Adele Girard, on "Jazz me Blues" and "Wolverine Blues." One would not expect to find a harp on a jazz CD, but the work of Girard adds a lightness and beauty, a perfect contrast to Rich's hard-driving rhythm.

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What's more important than WINNING?

by Elena Ferrarin

After a 57-year career that earned him the title of 7th winningest high school football coach of all time, Al Fracassa looks back with the greatest pride at what he helped his players accomplish in life.

"It's the joy of working with young people and developing a relationship with them, improving their life. Coaching is really a job where you teach life lessons," the 82-year-old says. "It's just so wonderful to see them grow and become lawyers and businessmen and doctors. I loved the sport and I cared for the kids — and I really believe they cared for me, too."

Fracassa spent the majority of his coaching career at Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Mich., where he started in 1969 and won nine state championships.

Among his many awards, he was named national coach of the year for an All-American high school team in 2013 by USA Today and NFL National High School Coach of the Year in 1997.

Fracassa lives in Warren, Mich., with his wife of nearly six decades, Phyllis. The couple has four children and seven grandchildren.

Over the years, he was offered major assistant coaching jobs — once from the NFL's Detroit Lions and several times from his alma mater, Michigan State University — but turned them down. The choices came with a great deal of soul-searching, but in the end, his dedication to high school football won out.

"It was a real honor to be asked (to coach) by those guys," he says. "I have no regrets. I'm very happy. I had a great career, especially at the end when we won three state championships in a row in 2011, 2012 and 2013. That was really

the icing on the cake. It was just a wonderful way to end my career and it was just the right time."

So does he miss coaching? "I miss it," he says, "but how much more can you coach when you become 82 years old?"



Fracassa played football, baseball and basketball in high school and earned a scholarship to Michigan State, where he played quarterback on teams that won the 1952 national championship and the 1954 Rose Bowl.

"I really enjoyed my life as an athlete, and I thought that's what I wanted to do all my life — coaching," he says.

He started as an assistant high school coach in Flint, Mich., then was drafted and served in the U.S. Army from 1958 to 1959.

His head-coaching career began in 1960 at Shrine Catholic High School in Royal Oak, Mich., where he posted a 44-19-5 record. His overall record of 430-117-7 ranks No. 1 in Michigan high school history.



(Photo courtesy of Dennis Sinclair)

▲ AL FRACASSA

One of the most successful high school coaches of all time, he sees himself as a teacher of life lessons, first and foremost.

Many of Fracassa's players went on to become All-Americans and several played in the NFL, including current Green Bay Packers offensive lineman T.J. Lang.

According to Fracassa, there are three key elements to being a successful coach — loving the game, enjoying working with teenagers and having a lot of patience.

"Working with young people, [you need] a caring attitude about life," he says. "I think that's probably the No. 1 thing that makes you work with young people. I was very fortunate, I had so much fun working with young guys."

Playing competitive sports helps students become well-rounded individuals, he says. "You have to work well with others. I always told my players, 'You can't beat a team. A team is more important than the individual.'"

Loving the game is also a common trait among great players, he says.

"If you have a beautiful body, you're strong and fast and you have all the tools, but you don't like what you're doing, you're not going to be good at it," he says. "When you love something, you're going to work at it and you're going to get better at it."

Before there was JOLTIN' JOE

by Otto Bruno

Years before a young San Francisco native named DiMaggio was drawing Italian-American fans into Yankee Stadium, there was another San Francisco Italian who was introducing the game to his paesani in the Bronx. His name was Lazzeri and he was a member of the fabled Murderer's Row Yankee team of 1927. Lazzeri made his debut in pinstripes in 1926, a full 10 seasons before Joe DiMaggio. Sportswriter Donald Honig noted, "With a face out of a Caravaggio canvas, the quiet, hard-hitting second baseman had a reputation for on-the-field intelligence, and it was he and not Ruth or Gehrig who was looked upon as the team leader."

One of the greatest players of his generation, Lazzeri was best remembered for too many years for a failed at bat in his rookie year. His post-baseball life was cut short and his tremendous accomplishments on the baseball diamond were forgotten for decades. His induction into Baseball's Hall of Fame 45 years after his death ignited a spark of renewed interest in the great second baseman but not nearly as much as he generated with his exciting play during the heyday of the first New York Yankee dynasty.

In his 2011 book, "Beyond DiMaggio: Italian Americans in Baseball," Lawrence

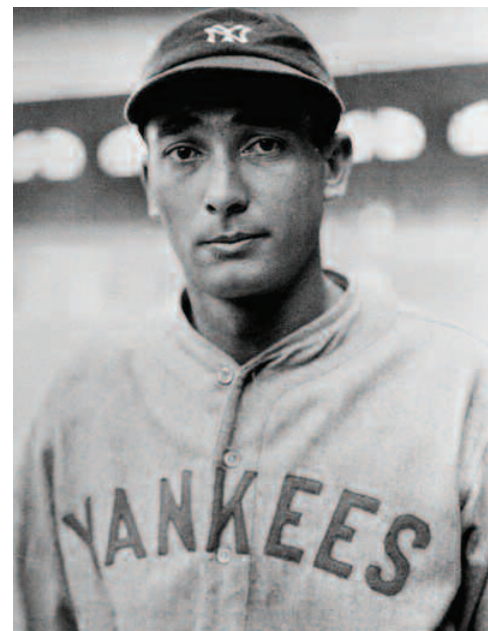
Baldassaro quotes from an Oct. 3, 1926, edition of *Il Progresso Italo-Americano*, the nation's largest Italian language newspaper of the day, as they reported on the ensuing World Series between the St. Louis Cardinals and the New York Yankees: "Even Ital-



Yankees Frank Crosetti, Joe DiMaggio and Tony Lazzeri at Fenway Park.

ians, especially those of the second generation, are following with interest the shifting events of the American national game which, for some time now, outstanding players of our race have been participating." According to Baldassaro, "A major reason for the growing interest in baseball among Italian Americans was the appearance in the Yankee lineup that season of a rookie second baseman from San Francisco."

This happened in part because Lazzeri traced his roots to the major media outlet at the time with the single largest population of Italian Americans. Equally important was the fact that Lazzeri was the first Ital-



▲ TONY LAZZERI

Affectionately known as Poosh 'Em Up Tony, he tore up the bases for the Bronx Bombers for more than a decade, paving the way for another Italian-American legend who followed hot on his heels.

ian American ballplayer to flourish in the Big Apple.

In his rookie season, Lazzeri hit 18 home runs, which was the third highest total in the American League, while also driving in 117 runs. He was a star almost the minute his spikes hit the infield. The only event that dimmed his celebrity his freshman year was his final at bat.

In the seventh inning of the seventh game of the 1926 World Series, Lazzeri came to bat with the bases loaded and the Yankees trailing 3-2. Cardinal manager Rogers Hornsby pulled starting pitcher Jesse Haines and called for 39-year-old future Hall-of-Famer Grover Cleveland Alexander from out of the bullpen. Having pitched a complete, nine-inning victory the day before, Alexander had gone out and celebrated well into the night not expecting to be called upon to work the next day. Nevertheless, when Hornsby called for him, Alexander made his way to the mound. It was a classic showdown between aging veteran and anxious young rookie. The count was 1-1 when Lazzeri ripped a line drive down the left field line landing foul. The next pitch was a low, out-

Continues on page 64 ...

side curve that had Lazzeri reaching and missing. The scoring threat was over. Many history buffs remember that seminal show-down as ending the series but it did not. There were two more innings to play. Alexander shut down the Yankees to seal the victory for the Cardinals, but Lazzeri would always be remembered for striking out against the great Alexander to “lose” the 1926 World Series. Such are the selective memories of baseball fans. Luckily for Lazzeri, he had a thick hide. It was in his nature to be tough.

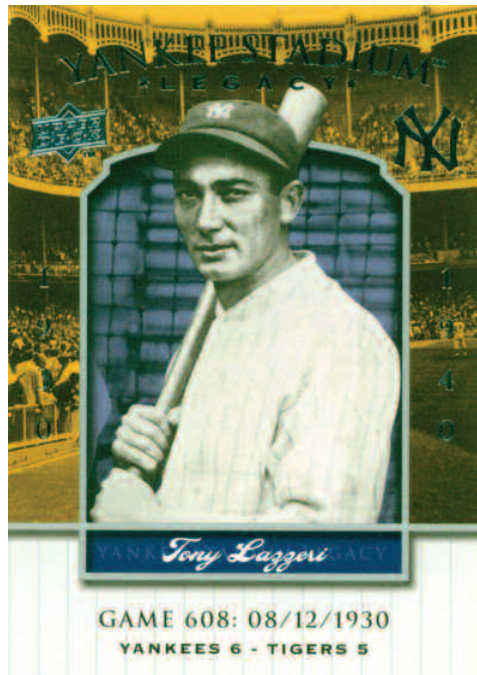
Anthony Michael Lazzeri was born on Dec. 6, 1903, to immigrant parents in the Cow Hollow section of San Francisco. According to Lazzeri, his neighborhood “wasn’t one in which a boy was likely to grow up a sissy, for it was always fight or get licked, and I never got licked.” The toughness he earned on the streets originally translated into a desire to be a prizefighter but he loved baseball as well. He had no interest in school and was happy to be expelled at the age of 15. He went to work in a foundry while playing shortstop for a local semi-pro team. Eventually, the dreams of being a prizefighter faded but baseball presented new and exciting opportunities for the young Lazzeri.

In 1922, he signed his first professional contract at the age of 18 with the Salt Lake City Bees of the Pacific Coast League. He played most of the 1923 season with Peoria in the Three-I League before finishing the season back in Salt Lake City. Interestingly, he struggled at the plate in the Peoria B league and then began to flourish once he returned to the tougher PCL Salt Lake City team at the end of the season. The following season he split right down the middle, spending half the year with the Lincoln Links in the Western League before returning to Salt Lake City. It was a breakout season for Lazzeri as he clubbed 44 home runs and compiled a .307 batting average. Even so, those impressive numbers were nothing compared to the record-setting campaign that was to follow in 1925.

Lazzeri’s 1925 PCL season with the Salt Lake City Bees may be the single greatest minor league season in the history of modern professional baseball. He played in 197 games, scored 202 runs and 222 RBIs. On top of that, he put together a whopping .355 batting average and belted 60 home runs. It should be noted that no one had

ever hit that many home runs in a single baseball season up to that point in time. Babe Ruth had hit 59 in 1921 and would, of course, hit 60 for the Yankees in 1927 but in 1925, Lazzeri was the first and only person to have done so. In “Beyond DiMaggio,” Baldassaro notes “All three records [runs, RBIs, HRs] remained unsurpassed throughout the history of the PCL, which was active until 1957.”

It was in Salt Lake City that Lazzeri ac-



quired his nickname of “Poosh ’Em Up Tony.” Whence did the nickname come? According to Baldassaro, “Cesare Rinetti, co-owner of the Rotisserie Inn in Salt Lake City, was a big fan of his fellow Italian American. One day, when Lazzeri was at the plate, Rinetti reportedly shouted out, ‘Poosh ’em up, Tony.’ The next day, May 24, 1925, sports editor John C. Derks ran the following headline in the Salt Lake Tribune: ‘Poosh Um Up, Tone,’ Yella Da Fan, an’ Tone She Poosh.’ From then on, Lazzeri was known to the fans as ‘Poosh ’Em Up.’”

The condescending tone of the Salt Lake Tribune headline was fairly common for the time. As insulting and politically incorrect as it seems today, it endeared Lazzeri to the fans in 1925, although it certainly made very clear that he was “foreign” as well. The truth is that newspapers continued the same kind of demeaning “dialect” reporting all the way through the

1950s when quoting Latin American players like Roberto Clemente and Minnie Minoso.

While Lazzeri put up incredible numbers in 1925, there weren’t a lot of major league teams beating a path to his doorstep. Many clubs were afraid to take a chance on Lazzeri because he was an epileptic. He eventually enjoyed a successful career in the big leagues without ever having an incident on the field, but at the time, management was wary.

The Yankees decided to take a chance, paying \$50,000 to the Bees for Lazzeri’s contract. Though they then turned around and paid Lazzeri what in comparison was the paltry sum of \$5,000 a year. Even so, the contract was big news and it put additional pressure on Lazzeri. In addition to his jump to the big leagues, his epilepsy, and the scrutiny of the press and the fans, Lazzeri also had to contend with being asked to switch positions from shortstop to second base. In the end, he handled it all with aplomb and had a tremendous rookie season, save for his infamous strikeout.

As proof of Lazzeri’s toughness, he showed no lingering effects of the season-ending strikeout the next season, turning in another stellar year in which he increased his run production, stolen bases, and on-base percentage. He contributed 18 home runs and 102 RBIs while emerging as an important member of the famed Murderer’s Row. In fact, Lazzeri was the only player



besides Ruth and Gehrig to hit double-digits in home run totals, one of only four Yankees to drive in more than 100 runs and one of only three to score more than 100 runs. Lazzeri was — along with Ruth, Gehrig and Koenig — the heart and soul of the 1927 World Champion New York Yankees.

Lazzeri enjoyed five more seasons in his career with more than 100 RBIs, an incredible statistic for a second baseman, especially in the 1920s and 1930s. In May of 1936, Lazzeri became the first player in Major League history to hit two grand slams in a single game. In that same game, he hit a third home run and a triple to drive in a total of 11 runs for an American League single game record that stands to this day. In fact, the game before he knocked in four runs, and his 15-RBI total in two consecutive games is still a Major League record.

Poosh 'Em Up Tony was also an excellent base runner, finishing near the top of the statistical ladder in stolen bases every season. He ended his career with 869 walks, 864 strikeouts and a healthy .380 on-base percentage. In "Beyond DiMaggio," Baldassaro states that most baseball historians rate Lazzeri as an average defensive player but Frank Graham, the legendary sportswriter who covered the Yankees for the New York Sun wrote in 1927 that Lazzeri "stands out as the league's best second baseman only because he plays second base most of the time. He is just as good at short or third base as he is at second."

The greatest years of Lazzeri's career stretch from his rookie year in 1926 until about 1933. However, in the six World Series in which he played as a member of the Yankees, his best performances came in 1932, 1936 and 1937. In those last three series he racked up four home runs, 14 RBIs, a .308 batting average and a .413 on-base percentage. While the '37 series was arguably his best statistically, it came after a season during which his average fell to just .244 and his slugging percentage fell below .400 (by one point) for the only time in his career. Following the Yankees' five-game victory over the Giants in the 1937 World Series, Lazzeri was released after 12 years in pinstripes.

Lazzeri signed with the Cubs for the 1938 season but only saw action in 54 games with Chicago's North Side team. He

played a handful of games with both the Dodgers and the Giants in 1939 before the Giants released him midway through the season and his Major League career was over.

Following his release by the Giants, Lazzeri managed some minor league teams and played one more season in the PCL with his hometown San Francisco Seals in 1941 before buying into a local tavern. Sadly, he died alone in his home of a heart



attack in 1946 at 42 years of age. His obituary in The Sporting News said that "he had half the league afraid of him" while the New York Times stated that he was "one of the most popular men in modern baseball."

In a December 1927 article in Baseball Magazine, F.C. Lane wrote, "Italians are noted for their volatile nature and excitability. In the main they are a joyous race. Lazzeri, however, moves in an atmosphere of settled calm, verging upon melancholy." Despite the gross stereotyping, the image of Lazzeri no doubt came from the slugger's stoicism and quiet demeanor.

There is a well-known story recorded in a number of books and magazines about the road trip taken by Lazzeri and teammate Frankie Crosetti to spring training in 1936. They took along rookie Joe DiMaggio,

who was headed to his first Major League camp. All three were Italian Americans from San Francisco so the similarities seemed numerous, and they figured they'd share the expenses and the driving from California to Florida. The trio drove almost the entire way with barely a word spoken among them, not because of any animosity but because each one was, by nature, more close-lipped than the next. Each was intense on the field of play but at a loss when it came to small talk. Writer Frank Graham once wrote, "Trying to interview Tony Lazzeri is like trying to mine coal with a comb and a nail file."

He may not have been a conversationalist but Lazzeri was known to enjoy clubhouse practical jokes, the occasional hotfoot or lighting a teammate's paper on fire while he was reading were standard hijinks of the day. Generally speaking, it was all in good fun except perhaps for one instance.

In an article titled "A Special Breed" in the collection "Reaching for the Stars: A Celebration of Italian Americans in Major League Baseball," compiled by Larry Freundlich, Donald Honig writes of Lazzeri that "like most Yankees, he took immense pride in his pinstripes; consequently, when the club let him go after the 1937 season (to make way for the gifted young Joe Gordon), Tony was deeply hurt."

Honig goes on to tell of a spring morning in 1939 when Lazzeri was trying to break in with the Dodgers. He took a young Pete Reiser with him and drove to the Yankees' camp in St. Petersburg before anyone was at the park. He got into the clubhouse by telling a longtime guard he'd been traded back to the team. Once inside, he immediately started nailing shoes to the floor and cutting uniforms to shreds.

Reiser recalled, "Every so often I looked over at Tony. He was going at it with a vengeance, muttering under his breath, still sore at the Yankees for letting him go."

Honig writes, "When they [Lazzeri and Reiser] went back outside they found the [guard] watering down the infield.

"We're leaving,' Lazzeri called to him.

"I'll tell them you were here,' the old man said.

"I think they'll know,' the old Yankee said, walking away, suitcase in hand. 'But you tell them anyway. Tell them Tony Lazzeri was here.'"

The two faces of MONICA

by Jeannine Guilyard

Her timeless beauty and mysterious persona made her an international art house favorite. But she eventually emerged as Italy's beloved girl next door.

Born Maria Luisa Ceciarelli in Rome on Nov. 3, 1931, Monica Vitti wasted no time in pursuing her career. As a teenager, she acted in local amateur productions before formally training at Rome's National Academy of Dramatic Arts. Shortly after graduating in 1953, she toured Germany with an Italian acting troupe, returning to her hometown to appear onstage in a production of Niccolò Machiavelli's "La Mandragola." Her first major film role was in Mario Amendola's 1958 "Le dritte."

One might say there were two acts of Vitti's career: Act I, during which she served as Michelangelo Antonioni's partner and muse, and Act II, after the couple broke up and she took on lighter roles with a comic twist.

Her most important role was the 1960 Antonioni masterpiece, "L'Avventura." The actress threw herself headlong into the project, accompanying Antonioni on his difficult expeditions to the Aeolian Islands to scout locations, and then enduring nearly impossible conditions while shooting.

Locations around the islands were infested with insects and rodents. Extras did not show up. Rough waters interrupted ferry service, often leaving the cast and crew stranded without food or blankets. The film's production company actually went bankrupt in the middle of shooting, forcing the cast and crew to work for free.

The film miraculously came together, emerging as an art house classic

with Vitti as its celebrated protagonist. Her character, Claudia, is often cold and aloof, but that was by design. In "L'Avventura" and his next two films — "La Notte" (1961) and "L'Eclisse" (1962), both of which also starred Vitti — Anto-



nioni explored the way people become detached from each other. Vitti's character put this belief into words near the finale of "La Notte," when she said, "Each time I have tried to communicate with someone, love has disappeared."

The film's reception was just as tumultuous as the sea that surrounded its creation. It premiered at the 1960 Cannes Film Festival to boos and public disapproval, but earned the fierce admiration of critics and members of the profession alike. It went on to win the festival's Special Jury Prize and was later named by 70 international film critics as the second-greatest film ever made, after "Citizen Kane."

After the couple called it quits, Vitti worked with other Italian directors, shar-



▲ MONICA VITTI

Earning art-house fame for her aloof characters early in her career, she then went on a comic spree that cemented her legendary status in Italian cinema.

ing the screen in 1970 with Marcello Mastroianni in Ettore Scola's romantic comedy "Dramma della gelosia," about a love triangle between a florist, construction worker and a pizzaiola. The highly successful film showed audiences a different side of Vitti, whose characters were somewhat detached during the Antonioni years.

The '70s proved to be a prolific decade for the actress. She took on a number of challenging roles and won prizes for her performances. In Carlo Di Palma's 1975 comedy, "Qui comincia l'avventura," Vitti teamed up with Claudia Cardinale in a precursor to "Thelma and Louise" in which two southern Italian women trade in their dull lives for a wild road trip north.

Vitti began to slow down in the '80s, but paired up again with Antonioni on his project, "Il mistero di Oberwald." The film was not a huge commercial success and marked the last time the two worked together. In 1995, she married her longtime partner, director Roberto Russo, and remained under the radar except for an occasional film festival or television appearance. She is now 83 years old and is said to be suffering from a dementia-related disease. But the legacy of her standout acting and stunning beauty will remain with us forever.

ROME'S *fairytale* CHURCH

by Judith Anne Testa

The story of the thousand-year-old church of S. Bartolomeo all' Isola — St. Bartholomew on the (Tiber) Island — seems more like a fantastic and at times gruesome fairy tale than a proper history. It features a magic snake, a pagan sacred spring that becomes a Christian holy well whose water heals the sick, a founder in the form of a glamorous emperor who dies young, several mysterious inscriptions, a bathtub that morphs into an altar, a miracle involving a cannonball, and a saint martyred by being skinned alive.

The history of S. Bartolomeo begins long before the founding of the church. On the site where the church now stands there was once a temple to Aesculapius, the Roman god of healing. According to legend, a plague raged in Rome in the 290s B.C., an epidemic so devastating that the city fathers opened the Sibylline Books, a set of cryptic prophecies consulted only in times of extreme crisis. The oracular books instructed the Romans to send a delegation to the Aesculapeion, a temple in the Greek city of Epidauros, to bring back an image of the Greek god of medicine and healing: Aesculapius. The ship returned with both the statue and the god's symbol: a huge, live snake. (The snake of Aesculapius still twines around the staff that symbolizes the medical profession.) The snake quickly settled the question of where to place the statue of the god. It slipped overboard and swam straight to Tiber Island. The Romans constructed a temple to Aesculapius on the spot where the snake had made its new home, next to a spring. They believed that the waters of

the spring, sanctified by Aesculapius's snake, had healing powers, and the temple precincts soon became something like a hospital, although one that relied more on magic than on medicine.

The temple-hospital functioned



throughout the rise and decline of Rome's empire, and a hospital or hospice remained on the site even after Rome became Christian, and the temple had long since ceased to function. By the late 900s, whatever structure existed on the site was falling to ruin, and in 998 the Holy Roman Emperor Otto III ordered the construction of a church on the foundations of the ancient temple. Otto, born in 980 in Germany, was emperor from 996 until his death in 1002. During his brief reign this handsome, cultured and ambi-



▲ S. BARTOLOMEO

Although steeped in a long and turbulent history, it sits quietly on the Tiber Island, poised between the Roman ghetto and the colorful Trastevere neighborhood.

tious young ruler spent much of his time in Rome, struggling to subdue local anti-imperial factions while also promoting his dream of asserting imperial control over the Church. His personal founding of a Roman church, and dedicating it to saints of his own choosing, was an expression of that pro-imperial policy.

Initially the church wasn't dedicated to St. Bartholomew, but to a motley collection of saints largely forgotten today, whose relics the emperor had collected. Adalbert of Prague (who had been a personal friend of the emperor) and Paulinus of Nola were the most prominent, and the church was initially dedicated to them. The relics of St. Bartholomew soon after joined those of the other saints. According to tradition, that saint was martyred by being skinned alive in the Roman province of Armenia, and relics, said to be of Bartholomew, supposedly washed up on the shores of the Sicilian island of Lipari. These were taken to Rome by Otto II — father of Otto III — who intended to return them to Germany, but his death in Rome prevented that, so his son included Bartholomew's relics with the others in his new church, completed in the year 1001. The relics of Bartholomew, one of Christ's original apostles, proved more popular than

Continues on page 68 ...

those of the obscure saints chosen by Otto III, and by the late 11th century the dedication of the church had been changed to Bartholomew.

Because of its location on the low-lying Tiber Island, a spot where the river is particularly turbulent, the church has been damaged many times by severe flooding. As a result it has needed several restorations, and almost nothing remains of the original structure. The present, recently restored facade is from the 1600s, and the wall behind it that contains the entrance to the church, as well as the nearby bell tower, date from the first restoration, completed by Pope Paschal II in 1113. Paschal's Latin inscription over the central doorway takes note of the founding of the church by Otto III, and its final words remind us of the enormous importance attached to relics in that era — they were the major drawing card for pilgrims. In larger letters the bottom line proclaims: "In this house [church] are — believe it — such bodies as those of Paulinus and Bartholomew." No mention of the original martyr, Adalbert, who seems to have been forgotten.

The spacious interior is graceful and serene, despite many repairs and alternations made to it over the centuries, but the present three-aisled church no longer bears any resemblance to the single-aisled structure of the 10th century. Fourteen ancient columns of alabaster, marble and granite, preserved from the original church, uphold the nave arcades. Some may be from the temple of Aesculapius, but since the columns are of varying sizes, they were no doubt scavenged from several different pagan sites. The bases are also a mixed batch, and you can see how the builders chose a taller base for a shorter column and vice versa, although sometimes they abandoned that method and made up the difference with mortar. The gaudy, gold-trimmed column capitals that cover the original capitals are made of stucco and date from the early 1700s.

The church interior contains numerous chapels filled with paintings that range in date from the 1600s through the 1800s, but none are of outstanding quality. Nevertheless, there are other points of interest. The main altar, which contains the relics of St. Bartholomew, consists of a large ancient Roman bathtub made of porphyry, a rare and extremely hard stone imported from Egypt. It may have come

from the ruins of the 3rd-century Baths of Caracalla. To the right of the apse is the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, where, embedded in the left-hand wall, is an iron cannonball fired from a French cannon during the 1849 siege of the city. It smashed through the outer wall of the chapel but lost momentum and wound up sitting on the altar. Dam-



Cannonball miracle



Aesculapius

age was minimal and nobody was injured, so this was regarded as a miracle. The cannonball was later inserted into the wall above an inscription describing the Virgin Mary's intercession during the occurrence.

To the left of the apse is the Chapel of St. Adalbert, a belated recognition of that saint's presence in the church. Its founding dates from the mid-1500s, but due to a severe flood in 1557, work didn't commence until 1626. The Confraternity of Millers, the guild that regulated the activities of the many water-powered mills that used to line the banks of the Tiber, held patronage rights to the chapel. Although it has no great works of art, the chapel contains a stone slab with an inscription relating to the guild, and at its bottom there's an incised picture of one of the long-vanished water mills. The chapel also dis-

plays two charming little monochrome paintings that depict the water mills along the Tiber, a sight that disappeared forever with the construction of the Tiber embankments in the last decades of the 19th century. Although the embankments eliminated much that was picturesque, there has never been a flood since their completion in the early decades of the



Altar and holy well

20th century.

There's one unique and fascinating work inside S. Bartolomeo that every visitor should see: a medieval well-head about a yard high, located prominently at the center of the steps leading up to the main altar. The well-head was carved from a hollowed-out segment of an ancient Roman column — the base of the column is still visible. Most experts say the work dates from the time of Otto III, that is, contemporary with the founding of the church, shortly before the year 1000. It's carved on four sides with figures standing under arches supported by spiral columns. One figure represents Emperor Otto III, holding a medallion that pictures the church. The other figures are St. Bartholomew, holding a book and the knife of his martyrdom; Christ with an open book and his hand making a gesture of blessing; and a figure in bishop's vest-

ments, probably St. Adalbert. A highly abbreviated Latin inscription is squeezed in at the sides of the figures' heads. With abbreviations filled out it reads: "Os putei sancti circum[?]dant orbe rotanti." This is sometimes translated as: "The saints in a circle around the mouth of the well," which seems odd, since Otto III was not a saint. A quite different but



Holy Roman Emperor Otto III



Bridge to the Tiber Island

equally puzzling translation is: "The saints surround the mouth of the well as the orb rotates." What orb, and why is it rotating? The inscription is from an era long before anyone knew anything about the rotation of the earth. The deep abrasions caused over centuries by the ropes used to raise water from the well can be seen around the lip, where they've worn down the stone and have almost completely destroyed another inscription, one that perhaps alluded to the health-giving, miraculous properties of the water. Nobody is certain about the meaning of either inscription, one mysterious, the other illegible.

The masonry of the well can be dated to the period of the early Roman Republic (3rd century BC.) It's 36 feet deep and therefore extends far below the church's foundations. Although today it's clogged up, it was in use until the 19th

century. There's little doubt that this medieval well-head covers the ancient, sacred spring of Aesculapius, a spring whose waters both the pagan Romans and the much later Christians believed brought healing and health. Christianity was supposed to have done away with such superstitions, but this one must have survived, or why else would there be a well in the middle of a church?

Another unusual feature of S. Bartolomeo is its close relationship to the nearby Jewish community. If you stand with your back to the church, the old ghetto neighborhood with its modern synagogue, the stately "Tempio Maggiore," is on the city side to your right, across the ancient Bridge of the Four Heads. During the terrible months of the Nazi occupation, from September 1943 to June 1944, the Franciscan monastery attached to the left side of the church provided refuge for many Roman Jews. Today, the monastery no longer exists, and its buildings are occupied by a Jewish hospital, a Jewish "casa di riposo" (nursing home) and a very small synagogue invisible from outside. Thanks to the courage of Rabbi David Panzieri, who replaced Rome's cowardly chief rabbi Israele Zolli, who had gone into hiding, this was the only Jewish place of worship that remained open throughout the Nazi occupation of Rome.

Although the sacred spring has dried up and the holy well no longer functions, the tradition of healing associated with S. Bartolomeo continues. Directly across from the church is the modern Fatebenefratelli hospital. Its curious name comes from the order of Benedictine monks who founded it in 1548. To raise funds they went about the city begging for alms with the words "fate bene, fratelli," which means "do good, brothers."

Inside the hospital foyer archeologists have installed several thick glass panels in the floor, allowing visitors to look down at a small segment of excavations conducted under the hospital. They revealed the outer precincts of the temple of Aesculapius, probably the area where the patients waited for treatment. Here you can have an "only in Rome" experience: standing in this modern hospital you realize that healing of one sort or another has been taking place on and around this spot for more than two thousand years.

▼ TRAVEL TIPS ▼



WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

The Tiber Island is rich in history, as are the neighborhoods on either side. Walk down a flight of stone steps across from the church and just south of the Fatebenefratelli hospital to reach the ground level, where you can circumnavigate the island. From there you can see how the Romans shaped the narrow tip of the island into the prow of a stone ship — the ancient equivalent of an environmental sculpture — in honor of the ship that brought the god Aesculapius to the island.

Back on the level of the church, walk toward the city center (with your back to the church, that's to your right) and you'll see on the right, just before the bridge, a stout stone tower. It's from the same period as the church, around 1000 A.D., although it's been renewed many times. For centuries it was the property of the Pierleoni, a powerful Roman family of Jewish origins that at one time controlled the island.

Continuing across the Bridge of the Four Heads, so-called because of the four-headed image of the god Janus on the parapet, you'll reach the old ghetto neighborhood, full of both history and restaurants. If, instead, you leave the island in the opposite direction, you'll be on the edge of the picturesque neighborhood of Trastevere.

DINING DELIGHTS

In addition to a café on the island, the base of the Pierleoni tower hosts a famous (expensive) Roman restaurant: Sora Lela.



HOW TO *order breakfast* IN ITALY

by Mary Ann Esposito

Italians never eat breakfast as we know it: cereal, eggs, toast and bacon. No, they start their day to the clank of cups and whooshes of steam as they stop at the nearest bar before work and order un cappuccino e un cornetto (a cappuccino and a buttery pastry croissant).

A bar in Italy is not a place where you mosey up and order a beer or martini in the evening and chitchat with the stranger next to you. An Italian bar is refinement with a take-your-time attitude. It's one of the first things you see in the airport. Shiny counter tops with glass mirrors and snappily dressed baristas who take your order and pump out copious cups of cappuccini faster than you can say un cappuccino per favore.

Cappuccino (which means little cap) starts out as espresso but is brewed in a larger cup after which a fluffy white cloud of steamed milk is poured on top. The espresso whence cappuccino comes is a strong brew that results from hot water being forced through ground beans at a very high pressure to extract as much flavor as possible. Espresso is served in small demitasse cups.

There are some rules to ordering espresso or cappuccino. You first tell the cashier what you want and pay for it. You'll then be handed a receipt that you take to the bar and give to your server. NEVER order a cappuccino after 11 a.m. That will immediately brand you as a tourist! Espresso is the drink of choice among Italians after 11 a.m. And please don't call it espresso. It's espresso (ess-

PRESS-oh). And don't ask for a lemon peel to go with it. You'll just get a blank stare.

Believe it or not, one never orders an ice laden soft drink in the dead heat of summer; one orders espresso if you want to cool off! I learned this early on in my travels to Italy. Italians believe icy drinks are bad for your digestive health. One of the great la dolce vita moments is sitting



at an outdoor cafe enjoying an espresso and watching the world go by. No plastic cups with plastic lids to spoil the moment. So when in Italy, stick with time-honored traditions and drink your caffè as the Italians do.

TIRAMISÙ

Espresso is one of the main flavor components in tiramisu, a fashionable dessert that is made all over Italy but is said to have origins in the north. The right ladyfingers are critical to the dessert's success. They must be dry and hard. (Serves 8)

3 large eggs, separated
1/2 cup plus 1/8 teaspoon sugar
1 tablespoon plus 1 cup espresso
or strong coffee
2 tablespoons cognac
1 cup (10 ounces) mascarpone cheese
2 tablespoons Dutch-process cocoa
About 20 Italian ladyfingers

In a bowl, combine the egg yolks, the 1/2 cup sugar, the 1 tablespoon espresso, and the cognac. Beat the mixture with a rotary beater until foamy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the mascarpone cheese and beat for 3 to 5 minutes, or until the mixture is very smooth. In a large bowl, combine the egg whites and the 1/8 teaspoon sugar and beat until the egg whites are stiff. Gently fold the mascarpone mixture into the whites. Set aside.

Pour the 1 cup espresso into a shallow bowl. Dip both sides of each ladyfinger quickly in the espresso. Arrange a layer of six or seven ladyfingers in the bottom of a decorative serving bowl. Spread about one third of the mascarpone mixture over the ladyfingers. Continue layering the ladyfingers and mascarpone mixture, finishing with a mascarpone layer. Sift the cocoa over the top and refrigerate for 1 hour before serving.

Recipe from Ciao Italia by Mary Ann Esposito (www.ciaoitalia.com)

FIRE UP *those* GRILLS!

by Dolores Sennebogen



Spring heralds the return of warmer weather, and there's no better way for cooks to celebrate than by taking it outside. May is National Barbecue Month, commemorating our love of food cooked directly over fire. It is a custom nearly as old as time, but the origins of the word barbecue can be traced to around the time of Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the New World. On an island he named Hispaniola, Columbus encoun-

tered Arawak Indian tribesmen. He observed their method of cooking and preserving meat and fish by placing them above a fire on a frame of very green wood. This device was called a barbacoa. Many variations of the word have followed in various languages, and myriad (less likely) claims to the word's origin have been proposed. But, although barbecue has a storied and ancient history, it has never been easier or more convenient to indulge in its pleasures. I'm offering a few main dishes for the grill as well as some salads and sides that you might enjoy with your warm weather meals.



CALAMARI ALLA GRIGLIA (Grilled Calamari)

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 lemons
- 1 large clove garlic, pressed
- 1/2 teaspoon basil
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried mint
- 1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Black pepper to taste
- 1-1/2 pounds cleaned calamari

Combine the olive oil, the juice of 1/2 a lemon and the seasonings in a large bowl. Whisk well. Stir in the calamari bodies and tentacles. Cover the bowl and refrigerate for one hour or longer. When ready to grill, remove the calamari from the marinade. You can thread the calamari on skewers or use a grill basket designed for grilling vegetables and other smaller items. If you use the skewers, you may want to cut each calamari in two pieces. If using the grill basket, make several partial slits through the body of

Continues on page 72 ...



each calamari without cutting all the way through. The body should still be in one piece. You're going for an accordion effect. Grill over high heat, turning once until opaque, about 3-5 minutes total. Overcooked calamari will become rubbery. Remove from the grill and serve immediately with plenty of fresh squeezed lemon juice.

— Dolores Sennebogen



BISTECCA CON SALSA CRUDA

(Rib-eye Steaks with Uncooked Tomato Sauce)

- 2 (12-ounce) beef rib-eye steaks, cut 1-inch thick
- 2 teaspoons course ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup red cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/2 cup yellow cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 10-12 ripe black olives, sliced
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 small clove garlic, pressed (optional)
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- 3 tablespoons shredded Parmesan cheese
- Salt to taste

Press the pepper evenly onto both sides of the steaks. Combine the remaining ingredients in a small bowl and set aside. Place the steaks on a grill over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill uncovered for 11 minutes for medium rare or 14 minutes for medium doneness, turning occasionally. If you are using thinner steaks, reduce the cooking time. Season the steaks with additional salt when they come off the grill, if desired. Top each steak evenly with the tomato and olive sauce.

— adapted from the
National Cattleman's Beef Association

SALSA AL GORGONZOLA

(Gorgonzola Cream Sauce)

- 4 cups heavy cream
- 3 ounces crumbled gorgonzola cheese
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmigiana cheese
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, or less to taste
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper, or less to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Pour the heavy cream into a saucepan and bring to a boil over medium heat. Immediately reduce the heat to very low and simmer, stirring occasionally, until the cream is reduced by half, about one hour. Remove the pan from the heat and whisk in the gorgonzola and the Parmigiana cheeses, along with the salt, pepper and nutmeg. Stir until the cheeses are melted. Good over steak and other grilled meats. May be made ahead of time and reheated gently.

— adapted from *allrecipes.com*



COSTOLETTE DI AGNELLO ALLA GRIGLIA

(Marinated Grilled Lamb Chops)

- 6-8 small loin lamb chops
- 1 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 small onion, grated
- 2 cloves garlic, pressed
- 1-1/2 teaspoons oregano
- 1 teaspoon basil
- 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons grated Parmigiano cheese (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika (optional)

Trim any fat from the chops and wipe them with damp paper towels. Blend the remaining ingredients. Arrange the chops in a glass or ceramic dish and pour one half of this mixture over them. Marinate for several hours in the refrigerator, turning them a few times. Reserve the other half of the lemon dressing

Thirty minutes before grilling, take the chops out of the fridge. Discard the marinade that the lamb had been sitting in and grill the chops over medium-hot coals for 5 minutes. Turn and cook an additional 5 minutes, or to the desired degree of doneness. They should be pink in the middle. Test with the sharp point of a knife if you are unsure. Place the chops on a warm platter. Serve the reserved lemon dressing.

NOTE: If preferred, you can marinate the chops in a large plastic storage bag with a zip top.

— Dolores Sennebogen

PETTI DI POLLO ALLE ERBE E LIMONE

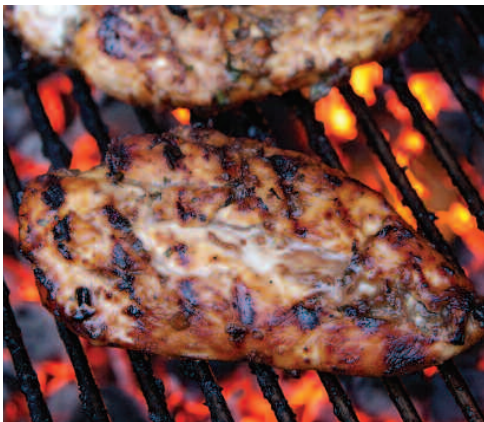
(Herbed Chicken Breasts with Lemon)

- 4 (6- to 8-ounce) boneless skinless chicken breast halves
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh mint
- Crushed red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 4 lemon wedges for serving

Trim the chicken breasts of fat and connective tissue. To achieve quick and even cooking it is important to pound the breasts to an even thickness. Lightly wet a chicken breast with cold water and set it between two sheets of plastic wrap. Pound it into a broad, flat sheet about 1/4-inch thick. You can use a meat pounder, the side of a heavy cleaver, or a skillet. Pound the other breasts in the same way and arrange them on a baking sheet. Generously season each breast on both sides with salt and pepper and a

pinch of red pepper flakes (if using). Sprinkle both sides with the garlic, rosemary, parsley and mint. You can add other fresh herbs if desired. Drizzle with the lemon juice and 1/4-cup of olive oil, turning once. Massage the seasonings into the meat with your fingertips. Refrigerate the chicken for 20 minutes while you prepare the grill. Heat a gas grill to high or prepare a hot charcoal fire. Brush and oil the grill grate. Grill the chicken until cooked and firm to the touch, 2 or 3 minutes per side. Transfer the chicken to a platter and drizzle with additional olive oil. Serve immediately with lemon wedges for squeezing.

— Dolores Sennebogen



ZUCCHINE GRIGLIATE

(Grilled Zucchini)

4 to 6 medium zucchini
2 to 3 tablespoons olive oil
Garlic salt
Grated Romano or Parmesan cheese
Fresh mint and basil leaves, minced
Additional olive oil (optional)

Lightly scrape, rinse and dry the zucchini. Holding a knife at a sharp diagonal angle, cut them into slices 1/3-inch-thick. Lightly brush each slice on both sides with olive oil and set aside.

Make a medium-hot fire with either a charcoal or gas grill. Coat the grill rack with a non-stick spray before starting the fire. Place the zucchini slices on the hot grill, fairly close together. If the grill has a cover, close it, then check after 4 to 5 minutes, turning the slices when golden brown. Repeat with the second side, continuing until all are cooked.

Arrange a layer of the cooked zuc-

chini on a serving dish and sprinkle lightly with garlic salt, cheese, mint and basil. Cover with a second layer and repeat seasonings. Continue layering until all are seasoned. Drizzle with a little additional olive oil, if desired.

VARIATION: The layers may be seasoned with garlic-flavored wine vinegar, oregano, basil, thinly sliced green onions, salt and pepper.

— Ann Sorrentino

INSALATA MISTA ALLA CAPRESE

(Tossed Mozzarella and Tomato Salad)

2 pints cherry tomatoes
1-1/2 pounds ciliegine (cherry-sized fresh mozzarella balls)
2 (6-ounce) cans extra-large black olives
2 (14-ounce) cans artichoke hearts, drained & quartered
2 (14-ounce) cans hearts of palm, drained & chopped (optional)
1 bunch green onions, chopped
Fresh basil leaves, hand-shredded
Decorative greens

Dressing: Blend together 3 tablespoons balsamic vinegar (may use half red wine vinegar), 1/2 cup olive oil, 1/4 teaspoon sugar, 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard, salt & pepper to taste.

Toss the remaining ingredients (except the greens) with the dressing and taste to correct seasonings, if necessary. Serve in a large shallow bowl rimmed with the decorative greens.

For a small gathering, the recipe may be cut in half. If you like more tomatoes and less of the other vegetables (or vice versa) you may adjust the amounts to suit your taste.

— Linda Lucatorto



INSALATA D' ARANCE E SPINACI

(Orange and Spinach Salad)

2 tablespoons finely chopped shallots
1-1/2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
3 Cara Cara oranges
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
5 ounces (about 3 cups) baby spinach
2 tablespoons toasted pine nuts
4 ounces Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled

In a small bowl, combine shallots and balsamic vinegar and let shallots marinate at least 20 minutes. Meanwhile, using a fine grater, zest 1 orange (avoid the white pith). Add the zest to the shallots. Juice the grated orange to get 1/3 cup juice, and then add the juice to the shallots. In a thin, steady stream, whisk olive oil into the shallots and balsamic, whisking until the dressing is well combined. Taste and adjust the flavor with salt and pepper.

Cut 1/2 inch off the top and bottom of the remaining 2 oranges. Cut the oranges into round slices with the peel on. Then take a sharp knife and cut all around each slice inside the skin, removing the pith and peel. Place the spinach in a large salad bowl, then toss with just enough dressing to coat. Divide the greens among four salad plates. Arrange the orange slices over the greens, then sprinkle with pine nuts and Gorgonzola. Drizzle with a little more of the dressing. Serve immediately.

NOTE: Cara Cara oranges have the same orange rind as regular navel oranges, but when cut open the flesh is reddish-pink and very sweet. They are also less acidic and great for salads.

— Dolores Sennebogen

A mighty FORTRESS

by Nicola Orichuia

The view from Lucera is truly spectacular. Perched atop the last Apennine slopes before the mountainous range swerves towards Calabria, the northern Pugliese city overlooks a vast valley known as Tavoliere — the second largest stretch of plains in Italy after the Pianura Padana.

The vantage point's strategic importance wasn't lost on the Romans, who had established a military camp there by the middle of the 4th century B.C. The troops expanded the city's population and built amenities like the 18,000-seat amphitheater, which stands today as one of Southern Italy's best-preserved ruins.

But the town's strength was also its weakness. Sweeping across the valley or sneaking up from the mountains at its back, invaders would target Lucera to gain a strategic foothold to continue their attacks in the peninsula. The Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II stopped such incursions in their tracks shortly after being crowned in 1220, ordering the construction of a mighty fortress. The massive stone walls stand today in their entirety, though most of the internal structures were leveled long ago.

Frederick II's name is tied to Lucera for another reason as well. In an effort to quell a Saracen rebellion in Sicily, the

emperor had hundreds of Sicilian Muslims transferred to Lucera. Their ghetto quickly grew into a vital part of the town, and for more than 60 years, Lucera boasted magnificent mosques and a vibrant trade scene. But in 1300, Charles I of Naples launched his own personal crusade, running Lucera's Muslim population out of town.

Since then, many noble families have called Lucera home, and their investments in the local arts stand out in the downtown palaces and piazzas. If you can stand the heat, the Ferragosto festivities from Aug. 14-16 offer a perfect excuse to visit.





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