

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

JANUARY 2011 • VOLUME 66 • ISSUE 02



UNICO *Gives Back*



The largest Italian American service organization in the United States



**“Service
above *Self*”**



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THE TOWN**
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OUR HERITAGE**
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ADDIO, AL
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2011 CALENDAR

Eastern Regional Meeting	January 5th and 6th, 2010	Scranton PA
Meet the President- West Coast	Saturday, January 22nd	San Diego CA
Mid Year Board Meeting	March 11th and 12th, 2011	Kansas City MO
National Convention	August 3-7, 2011	Marriott Crystal Gateway Arlington VA

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK CHRISTOPHER DIMATTIO



The Holy Father's Representative to the United States (Apostolic Nuncio), the Archbishop Pietro Sambi with UNICO National President Christopher DiMattio at the fall NIAF Gala in Washington DC.

SHOWCASING OUR HERITAGE!

UNICO invites you to share your heritage with the world! When you get a call from Harris Connect in February - don't "hang-up"- it's not a telemarketer – it's UNICO! We are proud to announce a partnership with Harris Connect for the purpose of creating a lasting legacy for our members and Italian Americans throughout the country.

We are in the process of producing a Member Showcase Book for UNICO members both past and present featuring photos and stories of your family's history. To be included doesn't cost you a dime – you need to just answer the phone, letter or e-mail. After the stories and photos have been collected, a beautiful hard-cover "coffee table-style" book complete with an introductory content of UNICO's proud history will make a great addition to your personal library. Of course the majority of the book will contain stories provided by you – the member! We hope this project motivates you to share your stories of Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity and Opportunity! We will certainly keep you updated with the project's time line and you are welcome to contact me if you have any questions. Again, providing the data to be included in the book is FREE, however, obtaining the publication will involve some cost, for you or your chapter. But more on that later...

These past months we have been busy presenting checks on behalf of your generosity to UNICO charities such as the "V" Foundation, Mental Health programs, Cooley's Anemia, Heritage and Anti-Bias efforts, and Scholarships. On behalf of the Committee Chairs and John DiNapoli, UNICO Foundation President, we wish to sincerely thank you and your chapter for your much needed support. As year-end approaches there is still time to make a contribution to the UNICO

Foundation and get that tax deduction you may need. To make things easier and secure, you can now donate using UNICO's website and our partner PayPal. Just simply log-on to our website or call the National Office, we will be happy to take your contribution and include you in our 2010 Annual Report for donors to be published soon.

Please take a moment to read the cover story of Ralph Torracco's gift of the Torracco Scholarship in memory of his parents, the largest personal gift ever given to UNICO. Hopefully, this will inspire others to consider a bequest or charitable donation to the Foundation and create a legacy gift. So on behalf of all UNICANS, we say "Mille Grazie" to our friend Ralph Torracco!

By now, you should have received your complimentary 2011 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar. If not, please contact your chapter President or the National Office. A great deal of thanks goes to our very dedicated and hard working UNICO team lead by co-chairs, Manny Alfano, Andre' DiMino and Steve Pelonero who provided the information and produced the calendar. What a terrific activity that produces positive images of our heritage. Hope you appreciate and enjoy the calendar (it also makes a great gift)!

Personally, it is with sadness that I say "So-long" to my UNICO mentor and dear friend, Al Dante. Tears are still falling as I type this but he would want me to smile to say, "Thanks" to so many of you who visited him while he was ill and sent cards or drove a long distance to bid him a final farewell and respects to his daughter Lisa and family during the services. With or without the porketta sandwich in hand, he was a shining example of a gentleman – he was "Mr. UNICO" to all who were privileged to know him and he will be sadly missed. "May Eternal Rest Shine on Him for Ever and Ever"!

On behalf of Ann, Louis and Robert, we wish to you and yours Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

The deadline for the MARCH Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, February 7th, 2011

Send chapter news to Matteo Risi at:
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or by mail to:

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EDITOR'S DESK MATTEO RISI



ComUNICO Editor, Matteo Risi, visited San Francisco during Thanksgiving week. The Crown-Zellerbach building in the background was the first significant structure built in SF in the 30 years following the Great Depression. Despite its Italian North Beach neighborhood, San Francisco inexplicably has no UNICO chapter!

I appreciate all of your contributions to ComUNICO! Your photos and articles with chapter and district news are what our publication is all about. I work with my proof reader Marianne Lalliregan and Mary Racila of Fra Noi News to create a chronicle that we can all be proud of.

Please help me by carefully proof reading your articles. A spell check is a great start. If a person's name is misspelled then it is unlikely that we will be able to catch it.

Here are some common standards we have at ComUNICO. Special thanks to Marianne Lalliregan of San Diego UNICO and Mary Racila of Fra Noi for their suggestions.

- UNICO and UNICAN will be spelled with all capital letters.
- Italian American does not have a hyphen
- Spell the "V" Foundation or Jimmy "V" Foundation with quotes around the letter V.
- After naming a city and state there should be always be comma before more text.
For example: Patterson, NJ, held their fund raiser ...
- After dates there should be always be comma before text.
For example: On Saturday, February 6th, 2010, the Scranton Chapter ...
- e-mail will be spelled: e-mail
- WWII will be written either WW II or spelled out World War II
- Dashes: We will use only a long dash — with a space before and after
- Ellipsis (dots): Always use three ... and have a space on either side of the three dots.
- Punctuation falls inside quotation marks.
For example: "Chapter President Pieri was surprised by the generous contributions!"
- In photo captions use (L-R) to identify people in the photo and list the titles before the name.
For Example: (L-R) Jimmy "V" Chair Frank Paolercio chats with PNP Kathi Strozza.

Thank you again for all your help!



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Charitable donations to these UNICO charities are tax deductible!

Send your contributions to the UNICO Foundation at:
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*The Staff of the National Office is dedicated
to serving our UNICO Members and Chapters!*

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ComUNICO

Matteo Risi.....Editor

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COVER PHOTOS

1)President Chris and First Lady Ann join NFL legend Joe Montana at the ESPN stu-
dios in Manhattan. (Page 31)

2)Top UNICO leaders attended the National Italian American Foundation Gala in
Washington, D.C. National President Christopher DiMattio (right) caught up with NIAF
Chairman Jerry Colangelo, who is also the Chairman of the Board of USA Basketball.
(Pages 24 and 25)

3)UNICO National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona (left to right), National President
Christopher DiMattio and UNICO Foundation benefactor Ralph Torracco present \$250,000
to the UNICO National Foundation President John DiNapoli to support their scholarship
program. (Page 4)

UNICO FOUNDATION



UNICO FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$250,000 DONATION

FAIRFIELD, NJ---Ralph Torracco, of Franklin Lakes, NJ made a \$250,000 contribution in the name of his parents, Bernard and Carolyn Torracco, to the UNICO Foundation, the charitable non-profit corporation of UNICO National to establish a scholarship in the nursing field. The contribution was the largest ever made to the UNICO Foundation.

Besides honoring his parents, Torracco also noted he made the donation to encourage others to honor their loved ones in the name of UNICO National, and to honor nurses who live on a daily basis to provide "service above self" to help others.

Ralph's father, the late Bernard Torracco, was a Past National President of UNICO from 1959-60. He was also UNICO National's auditor for eight years. Bernard was also a prominent accountant with his own business for many years in Jersey City. UNICO National announced the scholarship program will be set up and made available next year.

The presentation was recently made at UNICO National's Eastern Regional meeting in Scranton, PA.

UNICO National, founded in 1922, is the largest Italian American service organization in America. Its volunteer members support charitable, educational & community service projects while promoting Italian heritage. <http://www.UNICO.org>.



(L-R) National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona, UNICO National President Christopher DiMattio, UNICO member and UNICO Foundation benefactor Ralph Torracco and UNICO National Foundation President John DiNapoli. Here Ralph presents a \$250,000 check to the UNICO Foundation to support national scholarships.

V FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

UNICO Memorial Grant

UNICO presented our 9th Annual \$50,000 Memorial Grant to The "V" Foundation for Cancer Research to "HELP FIND A CURE." The venue was the 2010 Jimmy "V" Basketball Classic New York Dinner Auction at Pier Sixty at New York City's Chelsea Piers.

The UNICO donation of \$50,000 was raised by chapters and districts across the country. Many individuals also donated money often in memory of a loved one lost to cancer.

This year's grant brings UNICO's total donation over nine years to \$450,000 for Cancer Research. The "V" Foundation and UNICO ensure that 100% of direct donations go directly towards cancer research. Administration and fundraising expenses are paid from money generated by the "V" Foundation endowment. UNICO members can be proud of the fact that every dollar raised goes directly to fight cancer.



(L-R) Mike Pisano, Bob Montalbano, Gary Grecco, PNP Andre DiMino, UNICO "V" Chairman, Frank Paolercio, "V" Foundation CEO Nick Valvano, UNICO National President Chris DiMattio, PNP John Alati and UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli.

UNICO SOCIAL MEDIA

UNICO National is now on many Social Networks. Below is a list, please add us and help spread the word! Let's all stay connected!!

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/UNICO-National/334346317744>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/UNICONational>

LinkedIn:

www.linkedin.com/in/UNICONational

We are also trying to raise money for the UNICO Foundation on the website, <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/cancer-research-cooleys-anemia-mental-health/> now till December 22, 2010. Our goal is \$4,000.

Please forward this on to all your friends and family so that we can expand our organization!!! J

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



We recently celebrated New Year's Day. In the Catholic Church, we celebrate this day as a Holy Day, not because it is the first day of the year, but because it is the last day of the

Christmas octave. Christmas is so important in the Church's calendar that one day is not enough. So, we celebrate an octave, a period of eight days. It is appropriate that the eighth day of the Christmas octave is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God. There would be something very crucial missing if our celebration of the birth of our Lord did not include remembering his mother's role also.

One of society's traditions is to start the New Year with resolutions. We try to commit ourselves to tackling those areas of our lives that need changing, to resolve to try new things and avoid what has been harmful in the past. So, why not make one of our resolutions to try to follow Mary's example?

Mary did her best to always follow God's will for her. She wants to help us, both with a mother's love and the love of a fellow disciple. She wants to lead us to her son. She wants to help us to be good disciples, by our witness and our charity.

None of us knows what this year will bring, but our faith tells us that God will be there to see us through both the good and the bad. Each of us is unique and precious to him. He rejoices over us and wants the best for us in all things. He has a resolution for us and that is to bless us and to transform our lives.

We can confidently seek God's blessings just as Mary did. The beginning of a new year is a natural time to reflect on the past. As we begin another year, let us take some time to recall all the ways that God has blessed us in the past and then tell him that we want to receive His gifts this year as well.

No matter what we face this year, we should trust that God can give us his peace. He is always shining on us. When challenges come our way, we can rely on His strength and presence to aid us. For all we know, God may have an amazing year in store for us. So, like Mary, we should stay close to him and let nothing block his flow of blessings.

God Bless,
Fr. Bob Wolfec, National Chaplain

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ROSETO PA

CENT' ANNI 2012

Roseto PA will be celebrating cent' anni in 2012 and the Roseto chapter of UNICO will also be 50 years old that year.

Two chapter officers were sworn in recently at the Franklin Hills Winery. Ladies of UNICO officers were sworn in during a recent dinner at the Roseto Fire Co. hall.



(L - R) Secretary Carmella Carrescia, Vice President Joe Danubio, President Dr. Frank DeFrank. The ceremony was conducted by UNICO National President Christopher DiMattio.



(L- R) President Anne Marie Robertone, Vice President Mary Ann Mcevoy, Treasurer Gloria Martino and Secretary Marie Pullo. The ceremony was performed by Roseto chapter president Dr. Frank DeFrank.



Roseto's Mayor Desiree DeNicola and Council President Michael Romano presented a proclamation declaring the month of October Italian heritage month to Roseto chapter president Dr. Frank DeFrank.

**SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS
EVENT PHOTOS
TO COMUNICO**

REHOBOTH DE

UNICO BEAUTIFIES THE COMMUNITY

On Thursday, October 14th, UNICO's Italian-American Rehoboth Area Chapter of Delaware donated the gift of gardening, time and money as members worked hard to beautify the area surrounding the Verrazzano monument located along the Atlantic Ocean at Boardwalk & Olive Ave. With so many fall festivities planned in the city of Rehoboth, the organization wanted our community and our visitors to enjoy reading the history of Giovanni da Verrazzano, an Italian explorer, who explored the coast of Delaware.



(L - R) Vice President Bob Palese, Secretary Rose Marie Patin, Committee Chair Ann Jack, Treasurer Joe Polinski, President Mary Jane Deets, member Tom Deets. Dede Anderson, District Governor Marie Teresa Morrison and Bernie Polinski also participated in the beautification.

CHICAGO IL

UNICAN Recognized

The Italian American Police Association of Illinois honored Cook County Deputy Sheriff and UNICO Chicago member Joe Fiorentino with the 2010 Officer Achievement Award on October 23rd, 2010, in recognition for his dedication and accomplishments in the community. The award was presented by founder and Chairman of the Board Ralph DeBartolo at the 47th Anniversary Dinner Dance with over 500 people in attendance.



LINCROFT NJ

Day At the Races

On Saturday, August 21st, the Lincroft chapter held their third "Day At the Races" at Monmouth Park Racetrack. This was one of our largest fundraisers of the year, with 175 people attending the event. It was a beautiful day and we had good food, games, competitions and of course great people.

We had hermit crab races for the kids and the adults also participated in a homemade dessert contest. Participants were encouraged to bring homemade desserts that were judged, with awards for both presentation and taste.

Several local businesses donated certificates that served as prizes for the fundraiser competitions. These businesses include Ryan's Ice Cream in Shrewsbury, The Atlantic Club, Work Out World and the New Corner Restaurant and Pizzeria, all of Red Bank.

Everyone had a great time and looking forward to next year.



EAST LONGMEADOW MA

Italian Heritage Month Celebration

The Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts celebrated Italian Heritage Month this past October. Everybody loved our Porchetta recipe. The boys had a successful evening in service of East Longmeadow UNICO.



(L - R) Ron Waite, Giuseppe D'Arco, Moe Ghedini and Mike Craig at the Taste of Italy in the Mt. Carmel hall in Springfield, Massachusetts.

WATERBURY CT

Welcome Back Home One of Their Soldiers

Soldiers from the Connecticut Army National Guard stationed in Afghanistan returned home just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving Day with their families. Among them was SGT Nick Ciullo who is the grandson of Waterbury UNICO member and CT-I PDG Peter Ciullo. SGT Nick was the first soldier after his commander to set foot in US soil while proudly carrying the 102 Infantry Battalion Colors. Welcome home SGT Ciullo and all other soldiers serving abroad. We are all proud of you and thank you for serving.



Proud grandparents Lucille and Peter Ciullo (R) and family patiently wait to Welcome Home their hero SGT Nick.



SGT Nicholas Ciullo was very happy to be at home with Grandpa Pete, Grandma Lucille and his family.



CT Governor M. Jodi Rell and AG Martin welcome home the soldiers of the Connecticut Army National Guard and SGT Ciullo carrying the Colors of the 102 Infantry Battalion, one of the oldest battalions in the U.S. Army, serving our nation for over a century

BRICK NJ

Columbus Day Festival & Parade Seaside Heights NJ October 8-9-10, 2010



Brick Chapter Members Ken Moglia & Linda Starzman raise money for UNICO Charities at the Columbus Day Festival and Parade in Seaside Heights, NJ.



The Brick Chapter marches in the Columbus Day Parade in Seaside Heights, NJ. Leading the chapter are John Terranova & Chris Carbonaro.



Ken Moglia of the Brick Chapter welcomes the Polizia di Stato (Italian State Police) to the UNICO Booth at the Seaside Heights Columbus Day Festival.



Brick Chapter Members Phil Terranova and Linda Starzman welcome Miss New Jersey 2010 Ashleigh Udalovas to the Columbus Day Parade in Seaside Heights NJ.



Brick Chapter Members toast to a fantastic Columbus Day Parade and to a great fundraising effort. The Brick Chapter raised money to benefit their scholarship fund and UNICO Charities. The dinner was held at Luna Rosa Restaurant in Seaside Heights, NJ.

MAJOR SPONSOR CAMPAGNA

UNICO THANKS CAMPAGNA FOODS

Picture this...Salerno, Italy! The beautiful region divided by mountains and seas, the home of Campagna Products.

The food of Italy is doubly appealing, alive with so many flavors, textures, colors and aromas. This is the Mediterranean diet, forever growing in popularity in the Western World's way of cooking and eating. Such popularity could be attributed to the modern trend of healthy eating, all of which can be found in Italy's produce:

- Olive oils, fruity, deep and rich.
- Tomatoes (Pomodori), sweet and juicy, the base for so many authentic salads and sauces.
- Pasta, made of the finest semolina flour, a canvas for wonderful and wholesome dishes.
- Herbs, an integral part of cooking, well known for their health benefits, but often only considered as a garnish in most parts.
- Cheese (Formaggio), like the marriage of Basil and Tomato, so would be the pairing of pasta and Parmigiano (Parmesan). Such is the value attached to this cheese, that banks long ago would accept a wheel of Parmesan as collateral!!! A very interesting fact.....

Recipes vary from each region, town and chef (even the most humble of cooks), provide a unique representation and expression of the variety of ingredients on offer.

Campagna is able to bring a medley of flavors and aromas to the consumer's table. Both traditional and innovative techniques are incorporated into the signatory cuisine. Good food is not complicated, but about choosing the correct, nutritious ingredients.

Feasting on Campagna Products will take you back to the dining customs of Greek and Roman times. What better way to eat and live healthy? This is the Campagna and Mediterranean way!!



UNICO YOUTH



At times, I think that today's teens and young adults get a bad rep. To some, it might seem as if we were born with a cell phone in our hands, an iPod in our ears, and an innate desire to talk to people on Facebook instead of in real life. Or perhaps even worse for those from New Jersey, some might think our

lives revolve around GTL: gym, tan, laundry. Thank you, Jersey Shore, for making it seem like everyone under 25 is superficial, unproductive and orange.

But if anyone has ever been to, or heard of, the Cedar Grove UNICO's annual Turkey Drive, you would know that my generation really isn't like this at all. Each year, dozens of high school students volunteer in collecting and sorting the hundreds of turkeys we received. This year, we also collaborated with the Cedar Grove High School Italian Club.

Developing a connection with the local school system is a great way to help establish an ACES program in your chapter. If you don't have a connection with your town's high school, send an e-mail to the principle or a guidance counselor. Ask if there is an Italian Club or a National Italian Honor Society. Explain that you would like to collaborate on some service projects. I doubt that any school would turn down the chance for its students to help in the community. High school students are always looking for ways to bulk up their resumes or get community service hours for Confirmation or graduation requirements. UNICO's presence within high schools should be equally as strong as the programs implemented by other national service organizations.

Creating an ACES program within your community can begin with a simple e-mail. ACES is designed to bring Italian-American young adults together in the name of service; to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the Italian culture and traditions; to socialize and network with people of the same heritage. Isn't this the perfect foundation for great future UNICANS? I certainly think so.

E-mail me if you agree and we can talk about getting an ACES program started in your local chapter. I can be reached at kmc206@gmail.com, or you can follow me on Twitter @katiemcorrado. My co-chair, Marissa Gynn, can also be reached by e-mail at marissagynn@hotmail.com.

Don't forget: UNICO's website now has a YOUTH section. Find it in the "National Programs" tab on www.UNICO.org.

Katie Corrado
kmc206@gmail.com

GOT FACEBOOK?

If you have any questions about social media or want your event posted on Facebook, please contact Clelia Alfano at the national office: calfano@UNICO.org

PLAINFIELD NJ

Day At the Races

Members of Plainfields' UNICO held their own flag raising at Borough Hall in South Plainfield with Municipal, State and Federal officials, including South Plainfield Councilman Robert Bengivenga, South Plainfield Mayor Charles Butrico, State Senator Barbara Buono, and Congressman Leonard Lance. Members of Plainfields' UNICO then proceeded to later march in the Columbus Day Parade in New York.



Members of the Plainfields' UNICO and District X UNICO raised the flag at Borough Hall in South Plainfield. (L - R) Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO member and Past National President Frank Licato, UNICO First Deputy District X Governor Robert Bengivenga and UNICO District X Governor William Hearon.



Members of Plainfields' UNICO line up for the annual Columbus Day Parade in New York City. (L - R) Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga, Sergeant at Arms John DeAndrea, UNICO Communications Director Sebastian D'Elia, Plainfields UNICO Vice President Michael Colucci, and UNICO District X First Deputy Governor Robert Bengivenga.

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Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga stops during Columbus Day march in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral where his Eminence, Cardinal Edward Egan was greeting marchers.



UNICO District X Deputy Governor and past Plainfields' UNICO President Robert Bengivenga tips cap as he carries Clark UNICO banner along with Henry Varriano.



(L - R) Plainfields' UNICO members at Columbus Day Parade: Sergeant At Arms John DeAndrea, Tina Dubas, UNICO District X Deputy Governor Robert Bengivenga, Plainfields UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga, and Plainfields' UNICO Vice President Michael Colucci.



Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga addresses the crowd at the Plainfields' UNICO Flag raising on Columbus Day at borough hall in South Plainfield.

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy."

-St. Francis

UNICO WEDDING ANNIVERSARYS

Celebration on the High Seas

Manny and Patricia Alfano of Bloomfield, NJ celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary while Phil and Marlene Echo celebrated their 50th.

Manny and Pat were married on August 26, 1969 in Belleville, NJ. They have lived in Bloomfield for 40 years and are the parents and in-laws of Stephen and Tracy Alfano of East Hanover; Victor Alfano of Bloomfield and Maria Alfano of Norwalk, Connecticut. The couple have four grandchildren; Ashley, Stefano, Alyssa and Gabriela.

The Echos were married September 18, 1960 and have lived in Nutley for 50 years and are the parents and in-laws of Dr. Philip and Dr. Rosa Echo, Jill Echo from New York and Tara Echo now living in New Orleans. They have two granddaughters Andrea and Julia.

The cruise sailed from Italy to Cairo Egypt where they saw the great pyramids and ended in Genova on October 12th, the birth place of Christopher Columbus.



Outside of Cairo, Egypt, in the shadow of the pyramids, (L-R) Phil and Marlene Echo and Pat and Manny Alfano.



UNICANs relax in Limassol, Cyprus, south of the Green Line.



The Cristoforo Columbo Statue in Genova.

WESTFIELD NJ

Westfield Students Winners in UNICO Essay Contest

Two Westfield High School students were named winners of \$250 savings bonds each in the 2010 Westfield UNICO essay contest. Seniors Shannon Reilly and Adrian Szykowski composed their essays based on the contest's theme: "The most influential Italian or Italian-American." On hand to congratulate the students were (L - R) UNICO Essay Contest Chairman Robert Tarte; President, Dave Lovato; and Secretary, John Chiesa; with students Shannon Reilly, Adrian Szykowski, and Westfield High School Social Studies Teacher, Adam Pizzi. For her essay, Shannon wrote about Dr. Anthony Fauci, an immunologist who contributed research to the study of AIDS. According to Shannon, Fauci had a large part in creating the vaccinations that we have today. "Everyone should know more about him because he is an unsung hero," she said.

Adrian wrote about John Sirica, the judge presiding over the Watergate Scandal. Adrian wrote about Sirica because as a Junior at Westfield High School last year, Adrian took Advanced Placement United States History and "was always interested in how society's thought process evolved into a mistrust of the government and second guessing the government," he said. Sirica was named TIME magazine's Man of the Year in 1973 for his work on the Watergate Scandal.

The UNICO essay contest was established 11 years ago. The organization also provides scholarships to graduating seniors. The name UNICO means "one" or "only" or "only one of its kind." Additionally, the letters are interpreted as U-unity, N-neighborliness, I-integrity, C-charity, and O-opportunity.



Objective of UNICO

To promote and enhance the Image of Italian Americans; for members to be of service to the community; to promote Italian heritage and culture; to promote, support and assist charitable, scientific, cultural, educational, and literary projects; to promote members' interest in public welfare; and, to cooperate with others in civic, social and cultural development.

SAN DIEGO PIZZA PARTY

Membership in San Diego's Little Italy

The San Diego Chapter invited prospective members to a pizza party at Landini's Pizzeria in Little Italy. The weather on Tuesday, October 19th, was uncharacteristic for Southern California with torrential rains! The hearty souls that braved the storm enjoyed great food and fun.

San Diego makes contact with prospective members with a booth at the Columbus Day Festa in Little Italy. The pizza party is a way to invite these prospective members to a casual setting to meet members and discuss membership.



San Diego Chapter president James Pieri Jr. (R) presents a 'Qui Si Mangia Bene!' certificate to Max Landini. Max is dressed to scale the Italian Alps!



There were three people from Kenosha Wisconsin at our pizza party! (L-R) Visitor Pat LaMacchia, San Diego UNICAN Dana Blasi and prospective member Sue Chacon.



San Diego membership chairman Michael Monaco tempts Western Regional District Governor Chair Jim DeSpensa with the last two slices of pizza.

GREATER RAMSEY NJ

Ramsey UNICO Supports Ramsey HS Italian- American Club

Ramsey High School after school clubs have been discontinued due to budget cuts. Not the case for the Italian-American Cooking and Culture Club. The Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter members voted to financially support the club for the second straight year with a donation of \$1000.00. The members also voted to provide a \$1000.00 per year for the next 5 years to ensure interested students can continue to actively learn and improve their Italian cooking techniques and gain knowledge of their Italian heritage.

In addition to financially supporting the after school club, Ramsey UNICO raises funds to support local organizations such as: Hearts and Crafts, Meals-on-Wheels, Woodlands Senior Center, Mahwah Center for Food Action, Meaningful Movements, and many others. Ramsey UNICO also provides scholarships for Ramsey High School seniors annually.

For more information visit: www.grUNICO.org



RHS Students at Italian-American Cooking and Culture Club.



(L - R) Former Ramsey UNICO President, Ron Muzzillo, Tom D'Angelis, Cooking Instructor, Lou LaVigna, Ramsey UNICO President.

**VISIT UNICO ONLINE
AT
WWW.UNICO.ORG**

BELLEVILLE NJ

Eastern Regional Meeting



Manny Alfano, Pat Alfano, Ann DeGenaro, Tom DeGenaro, Marie Antonio and Gene Antonio.



The Eastern Regional Meeting took place in Scranton, PA home of the fictitious Dunder Mifflin Paper Company. As you can see above, UNICANS were joined by various characters from the NBC hit television show "The Office."

DENVILLE NJ

Meet the President

Enjoying the "Meet the National President" night dinner for NJ, NY and PA at the Venetian honoring Chris DiMattio are Denville UNICO members and guests. They all had a great time "mixing it up" with Chris and fellow UNICANS.



(L - R) Standing are Lou Maffei, Nicki Carpinelli - District Governor, Anne Marie Mattaliano and Lou Mattaliano - Vice President. Sitting are Carol Maffei, Jim Scannelli - Treasurer and Sue Carol Scannelli - Secretary.

SAN DIEGO CA

Feeding America

The San Diego Chapter of UNICO once again assisted "Feeding America." San Diego UNICO volunteers helped stack and shrink wrap pallets of food stuffs.

Feeding America is the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity. Our mission is to feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger.

Each year, the Feeding America network provides food to more than 37 million low-income people facing hunger in the United States, including 14 million children and nearly 3 million seniors.



(L-R) Nick Gistaro, Roger Maury, Jennifer DeSpenza, Steve Codrero, Anita and Maury. Other participants were Western Regional District Governor Chair Jim DeSpenza, Marianne Lalli-Regan and her sister.

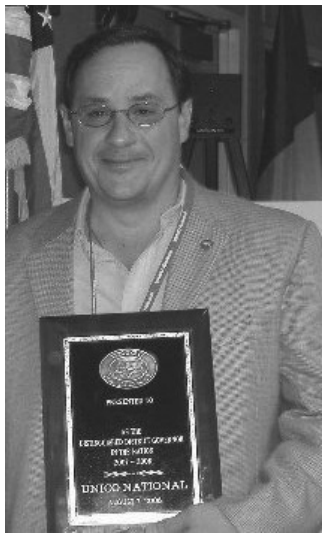
RIDGEFIELD NJ

Christmas Tree Lighting



The Ridgefield Tree Lighting took place at Columbus Circle on December 2nd. The event was in part sponsored by Ridgefield UNICO. The city of Ridgefield puts the village up and the Slocum School Singers perform Christmas Songs for the people. 200 or more families were there. Ridgefield UNICO handed out candy canes to all the kiddies at the end of tree lighting ceremony. The firehouse gives hot chocolate and Cookies to all families.

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT



Did you know that we have 44 National Committees listed in our recent directory? As Third National Vice President, I am supervising each one. My goal this year is to make chapters more aware of the function of each one. I will highlight a few committees in each issue so that chapters can know more about them and choose a few

to help out that may be of particular interest.

For example, I believe that every chapter should have an ACES Club and more youth members. I have asked Katie Corrado and Marissa Gynn, our youth co-chairs to write an article offering some ideas on how each chapter can get started. My own Chapter, Greater Ramsey UNICO, recently donated money to our local high school to keep the Italian Club from folding, and now we are looking to get the members to become ACES in our chapter! If you simply ask young people to join, many will become involved. Today's youth need to do community service for their college applications. At your Brian Piccolo awards dinners, please be sure to include the recipients as youth members at \$1 per month dues. Even if they go away to college, they will be able to receive ComUNICO and spread our messages to their friends. The scholarships are also a great way to reach their parents!

Many chapters give annually to our National Scholarship, "V" Foundation for cancer research, Cooley's Anemia, 21st Century and Mental Health programs. I encourage all chapters to set aside some funds annually. Imagine if every chapter gave just even \$100 to support these causes. Joan Tidona, Frank Paolercio, Sharon Thompson, President Chris DiMattio and Barbara LaBorim have done an outstanding job in their respective committees.

Our National Fund Raising Chairs, Lou and Celeste Pandolfi, are one heck of a team and I think that all chapters should share ideas that work to raise funds and increase membership. Write an article for ComUNICO and share your chapter's successes. My chapter recently raised over \$22,000 at a wine tasting at a nearby hotel. Money was generated by silent and live auctions, raffle baskets, and vendor contributions.

Our National Columbus Day Chairman, Ralph Contini, has done an exceptional job in assisting chapters from across the United States in spreading our message during the month of October. I attended functions in Hackensack and Seaside Heights, NJ and New York City.

I attend as many functions and local chapter meetings as I can. Invite me and I'll be there!

Congratulations to Hillside UNICO as they celebrated their 50th Anniversary at a recent dinner that I had the privilege to attend.

In future columns I will write about Anti Bias, Heritage, and other committees.

I ask every chapter to review the various awards that we present at the national convention. These include the Vastola, Professional Athletic, Amateur Athletic, Cianci and Rizzutto awards. Talk about these awards at your chapter board meetings and propose a candidate to the committee chairs.

Let all of us share the load to make our service and charity more effective.

Richard D'Arminio
201-704-1146
rldconsultant@aol.com

BRIDGEPORT CT

Bridgeport UNICO Chapter Celebrates Columbus Day



Driving in a convertible convoy and tossing candy along the route were chapter members Louis Gallucci and Christopher Carroll, Giancarlo Vincenzi, and Perry J. Vincenzi.



Bridgeport Chapter President Perry R. Vincenzi and his wife Angela carry the chapter banner in the Columbus Day Parade.



It was a great day to honor Columbus with our fellow Italian Americans in Bridgeport.

KEARNY NJ

Kearny Chapter Delivers Thanksgiving Day Baskets to Needy Families

This year, the Kearny Chapter restarted its tradition of providing Thanksgiving Day Baskets to needy families of the community. Members gathered over a period of several days to shop for the basket contents, put the baskets together and then make the deliveries. The baskets were well received by the local families.



Denise Ficeto and Celeste Pandolfi shopped for all the "fixin's" of the Thanksgiving Day Baskets at a local supermarket.



John Lacki, Denise Ficeto and Celeste Pandolfi unpacked the groceries and began assembling the baskets.



Time to deliver the Thanksgiving Day Baskets - Gerry Ficeto, Celeste Pandolfi and Denise Ficeto loaded up one of the cars and prepared to deliver the baskets to needy families in Kearny.



Gerry Ficeto and Jim Cifelli handled the job of getting the turkeys ready for delivery.

CEDAR GROVE NJ

A Gift of Thanksgiving Turkeys

The Cedar Grove Chapter of UNICO held its annual turkey drive this year, collecting frozen turkeys and canned goods to be distributed so that those less fortunate could enjoy a good Thanksgiving meal. We collected 553 turkeys, with more than 100 of those turkeys being collected by Oratory High School student Jack Andonian! The turkeys were brought down to St. Lucy's Church in Newark where they were distributed.



Collecting and delivering hundreds of turkeys for Thanksgiving tables has become an important Cedar Grove UNICO tradition.



Cedar Grove youth were instrumental in collecting turkeys.



Cedar Grove UNICO unloads a truck carrying hundreds of turkeys to St. Lucy's Parish in Newark NJ. The turkeys were distributed to struggling families so that they could enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

ELIZABETH NJ

Elizabeth Chapter Attends John Basilone Memorial Parade

On September 26, 2010, thousands of people lined the streets of Raritan Borough to honor World War II hero John Basilone. The annual parade is given to honor Basilone, a Congressional Medal of Honor Winner, and other past war heroes who have proudly served our country. This annual parade continues to grow in popularity and is supported by many local organizations, bands, schools, military personnel and celebrities. The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO National was proudly in attendance and its members wore jackets to represent the UNICO National organization.

With crowds approaching 10,000 people this year, almost 4,000 more than last year's parade, the parade atmosphere was energetic and the marchers were clearly appreciated by the crowd which included young and old alike. The Elizabeth Chapter was represented by President Joe Marretta, Pete Paolucci, Joe Chiari, Courtney Villani, Arnold Ricerca, Ralph Abbate and Paul Rinaldi. The members were excited to be invited by the Raritan Chapter of UNICO National and truly enjoyed participating in the picnic that followed the parade. The Raritan Chapter was a gracious host to a wonderful parade honoring a true Italian-American war hero, John Basilone.

John Basilone (November 4, 1916 – February 19, 1945) was a United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant who received the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Battle of Guadalcanal during World War II. He was the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross.



Members of the Elizabeth, NJ, Chapter of UNICO proudly display their chapter banner!



John Basilone was a son of Raritan, NJ, and it is only fitting that there should be an annual parade to honor the Guadalcanal Marine Corps hero.

POINT PLEASANT NJ

Youth Members' Clothing Drive

Since Point Pleasant Beach UNICO has 27 youth members, officers decided to let them run their own fundraising event in addition to participating in regular UNICO events. Most youth members were past scholarship winners and lose interest after a year or two since their schedules do not coincide with chapter meetings and these young people do not feel actively involved in UNICO. That is why Point Pleasant Youth Chairperson Jessica Kreutzer organized a Thanksgiving Weekend Clothing Drive so that all youth members can participate even if they are away at college and can't attend other events. Youth members were notified by e-mail and Facebook to collect unwanted clothes, shoes, toys etc that would be distributed to the needy plus raise some money for their treasury. Along with adult member Chairperson Diane Grabowski, Jessica arranged for a truck to pick up the clothing the Saturday after Thanksgiving while most college students are home for the long holiday weekend. ACES Chairperson Madelyn Richiuso also had her Junior Chapter members participate along with youth members so that all young people of UNICO worked together on a charitable project. Jessica, a high school French teacher, was one of the chapter's first UNICO Scholarship recipients and wishes to thank Diane Grabowski for all her assistance and use of her garage for storage. Also on Jessica's committee were Mike Gynn, a Junior Accounting major at Rider and Paulo Rubierio who works for New York Cares as a volunteer specialist. All youth members and ACES will be invited as special guests to the regular chapter's Holiday Dinner the Tuesday after Christmas when they are home again for winter break. At the dinner, the students be introduced and thanked by the chapter. Money raised at this clothing drive will go towards a local scholarship that UNICO youth will present to a high school senior in June.



Organizers of Point Pleasant UNICO Youth Clothing Drive: Paulo Rubierio, Jessica Kreutzer and Mike Gynn.



Point Pleasant Youth members home for Thanksgiving weekend load donated clothes to fund a new scholarship.

HERITAGE & CULTURE

He's Had A Good Life in Little Italy

By Christopher Cadelago-San Diego Union Tribune
christopher.cadelago@uniontrib.com

SAN DIEGO'S LITTLE ITALY — Tommy Battaglia, 87, moved to Little Italy in San Diego from San Francisco in 1925 and again in 1933.

"San Diego came alive with the tuna industry. When we came to Little Italy I was a young boy, 10 years old. The whole family came on the *Yale*, one of two ships that ran from San Francisco to San Diego. I worked in the meat market and killed poultry. We used to wheel the chickens and rabbits out onto the curb. People would pick their chicken and I would take it into the backroom and pull its neck or stick it. Some people wanted you to pull the neck because they would eat the neck with the blood. I was just a little kid."

I was a commercial fisherman for maybe 15 years. We would go out and be gone two, three months, sometimes. We unloaded our fish and within a 10-day period we would be going back out to sea again. I got married and my wife had my first son and then she got pregnant with my second son. I thought, this is no life for a married man, you know? So I quit fishing.

"Then I came in and bought the meat market I used to work at. And then I bought the grocery store next door. And then I bought the building. I moved to Columbia Street and I built a whole plant. The city said I couldn't have the meat company there so we moved. Today my sons run Tommy's Quality Meats, or TQM. The Busalacchis have seven restaurants in the area and they make the best food in San Diego. They came from the Old Country and I remember when they were little and had no money. They came into the market and I told the parents to take whatever they want and feed the kids. They never forgot it.

"Joe Busalacchi now has restaurants in my building. A lot of us made a good living. Then we bought properties in different areas. The Italians are scattered, but our church (Our Lady of the Rosary) holds this community together. Every Sunday it's packed with Italians. It's the hub. The fisherman helped to build it. They gave the church \$25 for every ton of tuna. And that's when money was worth money. It was guys from the church, where every year we have a formal dinner and party, who helped choose me as the first honorary mayor of Little Italy.

"There's nothing in this whole area that hasn't changed for the better. I look around and remember the neighborhood the way it was. There used to be a bar where Filippi's Restaurant is now. Next door was a little grocery store, a competitor to me. Then there was a parking garage. Then the meat market and grocery store. It was a quiet area, not too much activity. People here worked. The men were in the fishing industry and women worked in the cleaners.

"My father died of pneumonia and my mother remarried. That's when we came back to San Diego and settled on the corner of Union and Grape. All of my life has been on India Street. It's a good street, a good life."



Tommy Battaglia is the "Mayor: of the San Diego Little Italy Neighborhood." Tommy is a member of San Diego UNICO.

IN MEMORIAM



On October 22, 2010 James Vincent Ingala died in his sleep of old age. He would have been 99 years old on January 29, 2011. Proud of his Sicilian roots and deeply grateful for having been brought to our land of opportunity as a toddler, he was born in the village of Sommatino, province of Caltanissetta, Italy, the son of the late Ignazio Ingala and Paolina Dori` Ingala Terenzo.

An alumnus of Wilby High School, he apprenticed in Bridgeport and Waterbury as a portrait photographer before opening The Sterling Studio downtown in 1940. His business was so well received that he adopted the motto, "Everybody Smiles for Jim" and joked that he photographed everyone in Waterbury once, and the Italian-Americans at least three times. A genial, courtly gentleman of the old school, he made friends easily, had a calm temperament, warm heart, and deep, wry sense of humor. He always had a positive attitude on life which was reflected in his spirited post-retirement oil and acrylic paintings.

He was married to the late Christine DeCicco for almost 55 years. His full partner in business, civic and volunteer activities, and as supporters of the arts, she died in 1998. They raised two daughters, Patricia Scalzi of Scottsdale, Arizona and Christine Seethaler Tobis of South Glastonbury, CT. In his late 80s, he remarried and enjoyed over 11 happy years with Louise Cappelletti Ingala. In addition to his work with the Waterbury and Connecticut Photographers Association, he volunteered for the Republican Party and other philanthropies. He was especially devoted to UNICO National's Waterbury Chapter, which honored him for his leadership and over 60 year-long service. In 1987 he was appointed Italian mayor of the day in honor of his contributions to the Waterbury community.

In addition to his parents and wife Christine, he was preceded in death by his sisters Teresa Ingala D'Orazio, Helen Ingala Floriani, and Marie Terenzo Santoro, his brothers Thomas Ingala and Salvatore Terenzo, and his grandson Giancarlo Scalzi. He was the proud grandfather of five grandchildren, Gina Scalzi Strawbridge, Lisa Seethaler, Richard Seethaler, Jr., James Seethaler, and Kathryn Seethaler, and six great-grandchildren, Ian and Lisa Strawbridge, Emily and Olivia Seethaler, and Madison and Alanna Baker.

V FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH



The Deadly Sting of Nanobees

A newly developed beneficial bee "sting" carried by "nanobees" could deliver a targeted treatment for cancer.

At the

breakthrough's core is the taming of the potent venom peptide melittin that bees inject into their victims. Researchers at the School of Medicine attached it to nanometer-sized carriers targeted to tumors, injected those into mice and stopped the growth of tumors without damaging other tissue.

The nanobees fly in, land on the surface of cells and their cargo of melittin, which merges with the target cells. It has been shown that the bee toxin gets taken into the cells, where it pokes holes in their internal structures. That ability for melittin, a small protein, or peptide, to attach to cells also spawned significant new spin-off research.

Melittin is of interest to researchers because in high enough concentration it can destroy any cell it comes in contact with, making it an effective anti-bacterial and antifungal agent and potentially an anti cancer agent. Cancer cells can adapt and develop resistance to many anti-cancer agents that alter gene function or target a cell's DNA, but it's hard for cells to find a way around the mechanism that melittin uses to kill.

The scientist tested nanobees in mice with cancerous tumors. One mouse breed was implanted with human breast-cancer cells, another one with melanoma tumors. After injecting the mice with the melittin-carrying nanoparticles over several days, the mice's breast-cancer tumor growth slowed some 25%, and the size of the melanoma tumors decreased 88% compared to untreated tumors.

The results suggest that nanobees could not only retard the growth and reduce the size of established cancerous tumors, but also prevent cancer from developing.

Nanobees are an effective way to package the useful but potentially deadly melittin, sequestering it so that it neither harms normal cells nor gets degraded before it reaches its target.

Much promising research is being done. UNICO's participation in research has been outstanding and our commitment to "HELP FIND A CURE" is commendable. We chapters must continue our support. Our goal is \$50,000 per year. UNICO Grants are making a difference. All our monies go for research with no administrative fees.

Advertise in ComUNICO !!

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SCRANTON PA

Scranton Chapter Hosts Radunata

The Scranton chapter hosted its annual Radunata, a roundup of the chapters in PA. Held every November at Arcaro and Genell's, Old Forge, (the pizza capital of the world) PA, this event enhances the camaraderie of the chapters and increases appreciation of our Italian heritage.



(L - R) Chapter Representatives Dominic Ortolani, Wilkes-Barre; IPDG Chip Calabro, Carbondale; EVP Glenn Pettinato, also from Carbondale, Dr. Frank DeFrank, Roseto President; Chris DiMattio, National President; Jack Brunetti, Scranton President and Jeff Addley who spoke on his experiences as a student in Perugia.



(L - R) Members enjoying the Radunata, Amy Yando, Gene Peters and Gloria Bernardi.



(L - R) EVP Glenn Pettinato, Terri Pettinato, Chip Calabro and standing, Mike Dobrowski all from the Carbondale Chapter.

PHILADELPHIA PA

Columbus Day Parade



Members and friends celebrating Columbus Day.



John Ferrara Vice President with from left, Luanne Caruso, Miss UNICO, middle is Ivana Fichera, Little Miss UNICO, right is Selena Denardo, Jr. Miss UNICO,



Left is Joe Delullo, Mark Maggi, Stephanie Capocci, Nick Gomez, John Ferrara.



UNICO Members and Friends.

PLAINFIELD NJ

Italians of the New York Marathon



(L - R) Anthony Bengivenga, President of Plainfields Chapter of UNICO, congratulates Giacomo Pedrini and Giovanni Parietti as they display the medals they won in finishing the New York Marathon on Sunday, May 7th, in Manhattan. Mr. Pedrini and Mr. Parietti are two of 50 Italians from the surrounding towns of Terno D'Isola in the Province of Bergamo, Italy who ran in this year's New York Marathon. Anthony Bengivenga, President of Plainfields Chapter of UNICO and Giacomo Pedrini former Councilman of Terno D'Isola, Italy established a sister city program with South Plainfield, NJ. Every year Mr. Bengivenga of Green Brook, NJ hosts some of the Italian runners and greets all of them hardily as they cross the finish line at the marathon in NY. This year a total of 3,000 Italians participated in the marathon.



Plainfields Chapter District 10 in NJ participates in Eastern Regional Conference in Scranton, PA November 5th and 6th. (L - R) Renato Biribin, Past National President of UNICO; Bob Bengivenga, Past President of Plainfields' Chapter; Renowned Tenor, Christopher Macchio; Anthony Bengivenga, President of Plainfields Chapter and Mike Colucci, V.P. of Plainfields Chapter all of UNICO District 10 in New Jersey. The tenor Christopher Macchio entertained all the UNICO members at a special dinner banquet on Friday November 5th at the Eastern Regional Conference in Scranton PA.

Summer Convention in Washington DC

Plan to attend the UNICO National Convention at the Crystal Gateway Marriot in Arlington, Virginia this summer. The convention starts on Wednesday, August 3rd, and runs until the Inauguration Ball on the evening of Saturday, August 7th.

The History of the Italian Flag

The Italian tricolor was first established during the Napoleonic Wars by French republics in northern Italy, who styled it after the French tricolor. In 1848 the design was adopted by the house of Savoy, which went on to lead the Italian unification. The present flag was adopted in 1946, when Italy became a republic and the royal arms were removed.

ARMED FORCES



Veterans Day

Our National President, Chris DiMattio has indicated that he would like to see the Chapters and Members of UNICO honor our fallen warriors on Armistice Day. This can be done in many different ways. If you

have a Federal Cemetery in your area you can pay a visit and say a group prayer for those of our military who are buried there. In the G.I. Bill passed immediately after World War II, under the Truman administration, provisions were inserted that anyone serving in the military would be entitled to be buried in a Federal Cemetery. Where that was not possible the surviving family members would be given a Flag that covered the coffin, prior to internment. In addition the local military unit, active or reserve, would provide someone to play taps. Veteran's families also are eligible to receive \$250 towards the cost of the funeral.

The important thing to remember is that we honor all those who served right up to the time they reach their final resting place. You can contact your local VFW or American Legion to learn about what they do when one of their own passes away. Many have a special detail in the unit that serves as an honor guard and fires a rifle volley over the casket. You can also inquire if there is anyway you can assist the family, at the time of burial.

At the forthcoming 2011 National Convention we intend to have President DiMattio place a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in Arlington National Cemetery. For those of you attending the Convention you can take the Metro (directly under the hotel) to the Cemetery. It is a very short ride. There you can observe a very special group of young men who serve as the Honor Guard for the Tomb that faithfully march their 21 steps in each direction, with their rifle always on the shoulder furthest from the Tomb. The changing of the guard is an impressive ceremony and you can find the schedule on line. There is a great deal of symbolism attached to the layout of the Tomb and for those who guard it. For instance, the distance from where our President walks to lay the wreath is exactly 21 steps. It corresponds to a 21 gun-salute. I have already mentioned that the sentries walk 21 steps in each direction, for the same reason. If you do attend please treat the visit with a great deal of reverence and be respectful of the Cemetery and those who rest there. While it is too late to organize a UNICO response to this solemn occasion, for this year, we intend to outline an annual activity that we can all partake in. This should become a part of our community service and a way to demonstrate that we truly respect all those who have served.

A Day To Remember

Veterans Day is an annual United States

holiday honoring military veterans. A federal holiday, it is observed on November 11. It is also celebrated as Armistice Day or Remembrance Day in other parts of the world, falling on November 11, the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. (Major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 with the German signing of the Armistice.)

The holiday is commonly printed as Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day in calendars and advertisements. While these spellings are grammatically acceptable, the United States government has declared that the attributive (no apostrophe) rather than the possessive case is the official spelling. It honors the 24.9 million military veterans in the United States

The U.S. President Woodrow Wilson first proclaimed an Armistice Day for November 11, 1919. In proclaiming the holiday, he said "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with lots of pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations."

The United States Congress passed a concurrent resolution seven years later on June 4, 1926, requesting that the President (Calvin Coolidge) issue another proclamation to observe November 11 with appropriate ceremonies. An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U.S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday; "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'."

In 1953, an Emporia, Kansas shoe store owner named Alfred King had the idea to expand Armistice Day to celebrate all veterans, not just those who served in World War I. King had been actively involved with the American War Dads during World War II. He began a campaign to turn Armistice Day into "All" Veterans Day. The Emporia Chamber of Commerce took up the cause after determining that 90% of Emporia merchants as well as the Board of Education supported closing their doors on November 11 to honor veterans. With the help of then-U.S. Rep. Ed Rees, also from Emporia, a bill for the holiday was pushed through Congress. President Dwight Eisenhower signed it into law on May 26, 1954.

Congress amended this act on June 1, 1954, replacing "Armistice" with Veterans, and it has been known as Veterans Day since.

Although originally scheduled for celebration on November 11 of every year, starting in 1971 in accordance with the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, Veterans Day was moved to the fourth Monday of October. In 1978 it was moved back to its original celebration on November 11. Since this change, there has been a trend against being closed on the holiday. It began with businesses (excluding banks) and in recent years some schools and local governments have also chosen to remain open. Let us all join with President Chris DiMattio and make every effort possible to honor our fallen heroes and all those who serve our country.

Frank Cannata
Chairman Armed Services Committee

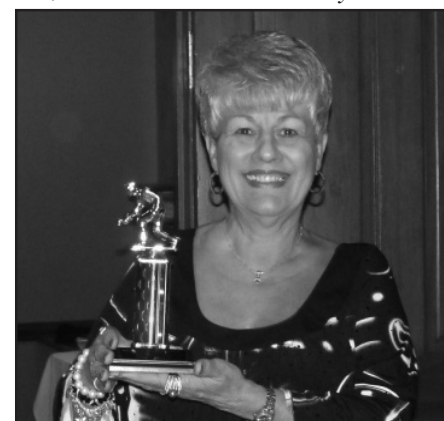
MEMPHIS TN

Bocce Tournament

On August 28, 2010, UNICO Memphis and the Bocce Club held our annual Bocce Tournament where we raised \$1,000 for the Jimmy "V" Foundation. A good time was had by all who either played, watched, fellowshiped or just came to eat the delicious food. At the following monthly meeting we presented the trophies.



The winners pictured were John Dubach, Jean Hamilton, Armon Grandi and Billy.



Jean Hamilton enjoyed a wonderful day on the bocce court.

HELP UNICO START A NEW CHAPTER IN ONE OF THESE CITIES!

MIDWEST
Cleveland, OH
Tiffin, OH
Wooster, OH
Glen, MI
Detroit, MI
Nashville, TN
Austin, TX
Houston, TX

WEST
Phoenix, AZ
Scottsdale, AZ
Tucson, AZ
Ocean County Area, CA
Sacramento, CA
San Pedro, CA
Santa Clarita, CA
Walnut Creek, CA
Denver, CO
Missoula, MT
Seattle, WA

EAST
Hershey, PA
Lincoln University, PA
Milford, PA
Norristown, PA
Pittsburgh, PA
Ocean City, MD
Weymouth, MA
Morristown, NJ
Old Tappan, NJ
Vineland, NJ
West Milford, NJ
Tampa, FL
Loudonville, NY
New York City, NY
Staten Island, NY
Cranston, RI
Columbia, SC
Greenville, SC
Burlington, VT

Contact: Bernard M. Brutto
National Expansion Director
570-573-1801 bbrutto@UNICO.org

PITTSFIELD MA

Pittsfield Chapter Columbus Day Celebration

The Pittsfield chapter celebrated Columbus Day by holding its ninth annual "Taste of Italy" dinner at the Itam Lodge on Monday, October 11. The Itam Lodge is situated on the southern shore of scenic Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield. The event was chaired by Rick Gregory who is also on the board of directors. Rick was supported by many chapter volunteers who worked all day in the kitchen to make this event a success as it usually is. The event was attended by over 200 people who were not only treated to a gourmet, multi course Italian meal but were also serenaded by an Italian duet that, not only sang popular Italian songs, but played the guitar and mandolin as well.

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



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



Part of the kitchen crew that spent most of the day preparing a variety of Italian favorites for the event (L - R) Kevin Dondi, Tom Angelini, Andy Pozzone and Gene Scapin.



One of two serving lines is ready for action. This serving line is headed up by Chuck Romano.



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

BAYONNE NJ

Thanksgiving

With love in their hearts, the Bayonne Chapter of UNICO prepared and served dinners to 200 of Bayonne's less fortunate citizens.



(L - R) Head chef M. Masone, President R. Treonze and members F. LoRe Jr., and S. Lasko.

PASSAIC VALLEY NJ

New Inductees



New members inducted (L - R) Terry Probst, Cathy Faggioni, Nancy Bertelli, Lawrence Salvatore, Marziale Caripoli and Paul Face.

THE VILLAGES FL

The Villages - Off and Running

The Villages Chapter was chartered on April 6, 2010 and within four days held its first charity event, a Bocce Tournament to benefit a homeless shelter for women and children in Leesburg, FL. Dan Tricerri, President, umpired and ruled on all close calls for the event.

For the Columbus Day/Italian Festival in The Villages, a first was our UNICO Chapter marching with our UNICO Banner, decorated golf carts, tarantella dancers and Italian music.

At our last meeting on November 9th, seven new members were installed. We are now 31 members and growing.

On November 14 President Dan Tricerri and his wife Toni represented our Chapter by entering their decorated golf cart with a UNICO banner in the 2010 Village's Golf Cart Parade in support of the Hope for the Warriors Organization. The event attracted 3,124 golf carts in a 2.2 mile parade to support the Warriors.



Members of the Villages, FL, chapter of UNICO proudly display their banner as they march in the Columbus Day Parade.

PHILADELPHIA PA

San Gennaro Feast



On the streets with Philadelphia PA Chapter president Ben Ferrara and chapter VP John Ferrara.



(L-R) Chapter Sargeant-at-Arms Guiseppe Cifoni, President Ben Ferrara and Vice President John Ferrara in the neighborhood!

NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE



SOUTHINGTON CT

Meet the President

The officers of the Southington Chapter of UNICO pose with National President Chris DiMattio and his wife Ann at the Meet the President night held October 20th in Waterbury at the Villa Rosa Banquet Facility of the PonteLandolfo club.



(L - R) Secretary Fran Delfino, Sergeant at Arms Nick Botsacos, Treasurer Marc Ingriselli, National President Chris, his wife Ann, Vice-President Luigi Barbato, Chairman of the Board Carmine Votino and Chapter President Mark Mongillo

OUR HERITAGE AND THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE

College Board to Reinstate Advanced Placement Program in Italian Beginning in 2011-12 Academic Year

NEW YORK - The College Board announced that the Advanced Placement Program (AP) will reinstate the AP Italian Language and Culture course and exam next fall, with the first AP Exam to be administered in May 2012. The AP Italian Language and Culture course and exam will immerse students in Italian culture while also helping them master the Italian language.

"We are so pleased that students will once again have the opportunity to develop their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills within a frame of reference that reflects the richness of Italian language and culture and the rigor of college-level Advanced Placement," said Gaston Caperton, president of the not-for-profit College Board. "Thanks to the hard work of the Italian Embassy and the advocacy of proud Italian Americans, the program is now fully funded. This is a great day for the Italian language, the Italian people and all of us who are enraptured by the culture of Italy and its beautiful language."

The College Board began offering AP Italian in September 2005. However, a decision was made to suspend AP Italian following the 2008-09 school year because student participation failed to meet projections and the costs to maintain the program became unmanageable. Since the suspension of AP Italian in 2009, the Embassy of the Republic of Italy has coordinated the effort to raise funds, with donor contributions from the Republic of Italy, Italian American organizations, individual donors and Italian companies, including American Association of Teachers of Italian, American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit, Coccia Foundation, Columbus Citizens Foundation, Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, COPILAS, Margaret I. Cuomo, M.D., Matilda Raffa Cuomo, ENI, FIAT, Finmeccanica, Frank Guarini, Italian Language Foundation, Italian Welfare League, Luxottica, Mediterranean Shipping

Company, National Italian American Foundation, National Organization of Italian American Women, Order Sons of Italy in America, Berado Paradiso, David Pope, Louis Tallarini, UNICO Foundation, UNICO National and UniCredit.

"Promoting Italian language is a high priority for our foreign policy. The Italian government has strongly supported the reinstatement of Italian in the AP Program, and I am here tonight to show our great appreciation and gratitude to those whose contributions made it possible," said Vincenzo Scotti, Italy's Undersecretary of State of Foreign Affairs, at a signing ceremony at the Consulate General of Italy in New York. "Over the years, Italian language has been growing in U.S. schools and universities. It is actually the only European language with a positive trend, and today's announcement is a very important step to foster the teaching of our language. I am sure that, also with the support of the Italian American community, American families will take the opportunity the College Board is giving them to advance their children's education through the study of Italian language and culture."

"What we see today is nothing less than a success story of Sistema Italia at work. Teamwork proved to be key in reinstating Italian in the AP Program," said Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, ambassador of Italy to the U.S. "The Italian government, major Italian American organizations and some of the most important corporations in the U.S. made it possible, and I think they deserve our gratitude and appreciation."

The AP Italian Language and Culture course is part of the College Board's embrace of globalization and the recognition that American's students must be well-versed in world languages and cultures. In addition to Italian, the College Board offers AP classes in Chinese, Japanese, French, German, Latin and Spanish.



(L - R) Former Governor of New York Mario Cuomo, UNICO National President Chris DiMattio, Matilda Cuomo, PNP John Alati and UNICO Foundation Chair John DiNapoli. Matilda was honored at our UNICO National Convention in San Antonio for her efforts to get Italian established as an Advanced Placement College Board language back in 2005.

PLAINFIELD NJ

Plainfields UNICO Chapter Visits Terno D'Isola



NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE MD

Lecture Series

Perry Hall, MD- The Northern Chesapeake Chapter of UNICO held its first lecture in its speaker series on Wednesday, October 13, 2010. Speaking on Alzheimer's was David Pisanic, a representative from the Alzheimer's Association. The lecture covered broad aspects of the disease including symptoms, treatments, and effects this insidious disease has on the victims and their families.

The lecture was attended by forty members and guests of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter of UNICO. UNICO is the largest Italian American service organization in the country. The Northern Chesapeake Chapter chartered in March is the first chapter in Maryland. Any person with interest in joining can email the Northern Chesapeake Chapter ATTN: Membership Chairman at nochesUNICO@gmail.com.



Pictured above are Dolores Rockstroh, David Pisanic and Mike Gallo.



HILLSIDE NJ

50th Anniversary!

Representatives from UNICO National, along with district, local chapters and eastern regional officials celebrated Hillside UNICO's 50th anniversary recently at Snuffy's Pantagis in Scotch Plains. Various County, business and Municipal representatives were also on hand to mark the occasion with the Hillside Chapter.

UNICO National, founded in 1922, is America's largest Italian American service organization. It's members in local chapters support charitable, educational, and community service projects while promoting Italian heritage and combating negative stereotyping.



(L - R) Chapter Treasurer Bob Trotte, Chapter Secretary Sean Prawdzik, NJ District X Governor William Hearon, Chapter President Angelo Bonanno, Eastern Regional District Governor Chair Dominick Nicastro, PNP Joe Agresti, UNICO National President Christopher DiMattio, PNP Mike D'Arminio, Third National Vice President Rich D'Arminio, PNP Sal Mangano, Chapter Vice President Frank Catena and PNP Frank Tidona .



(L-R) Plainfields' UNICO Vice President Mike Colucci, Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga, Hillside UNICO President Angelo Bonanno and UNICO National President Chris DiMattio.



Dominick Peterpaul, Charter Member of the Hillside Chapter and Past Gov. of UNICO District X. Standing (L - R) is Donnie Kirk and his wife Marie Kirk (Dominick Peterpaul's niece) and to her right is Victoria DeAugustine, Plainfields Chapter Board Member. Victoria is also a niece of Dominick Peterpaul.

ELIZABETH NJ

Elizabeth Chapter Annual UNICO Bowl Football Game

On October 15, 2010, a football game between Elizabeth High School and Union High School was played in Elizabeth. This annual game, known as the UNICO Bowl, is a competitive but friendly event hosted every other year by either the Elizabeth or Union Chapter of UNICO National. This year's winner was Elizabeth High School who emerged victorious with a 32-6 win over Union. Members of both UNICO Chapters were present including Union's Joe Almeida, Elizabeth UNICO members Ralph Abbate, Lou Bani, Chapter President Joe Marretta, Mike Bani, Rocco DiPaola and event coordinator Paul Rinaldi and his wife. Paul Rinaldi has made this annual event successful and a game that both cities look forward to playing.

Following the game, Joe Marretta presented the beautiful trophy to the Elizabeth High School coach and team. They were very pleased and thanked UNICO for the award. We hope that we can keep it in the city again next year. Special thanks to all those who made this event possible from the Union and Elizabeth Chapters.



SOUTHINGTON CT

Big Breakfast & Wine Tasting



Long time UNICO member and past President of the Southington Chapter Bill Della Vecchia with his wife Peg enjoying the evening at the Chapter's Columbus Day Italian Celebration. "Wine Tasting Extravaganza II" celebrating our Italian Heritage held October 23rd.



Denise and her friends were invited by member Bob Tonon and enjoyed the wine and festivities at the Chapter's Columbus Day Italian Celebration. "Wine Tasting Extravaganza II" celebrating our Italian Heritage held October 23rd.



UNICO member and co-chair of our Italian-American festival Joe Laporte and his wife Dolores enjoying the dancing at the Columbus Day Celebration.



Members and officers of the Southington Chapter getting ready to serve their annual 'Big Breakfast' which we do twice a year.



The Big Breakfast event is used to raise money for many organizations and services we support. This one in particular was to support the Unified Sports Program (a division of Special Olympics) of which we are a major sponsor for these 'special' athletes.



Meet the National President night in Waterbury at the PonteLandolfo Club. It is all the officers of the Southington Chapter of UNICO with the President and his wife.



Brothers and members Marc and Ron Ingriselli (Chapter Treasurer and Chairperson of our Unified Sports program respectively) along with Ron's daughter take the time to smile for the camera along with Julie our olympian.

GREATER RAMSEY NJ

On Oct 19th, the Greater Ramsey chapter of UNICO attended the annual Joan's Joy Dinner Party to provide a donation to help support the Joan Angela D'Alessandro Memorial Foundation. For more information please visit their web site at www.joansjoy.org



(L - R) Ron Targove, Elizabeth Musso, Joe and Dorothy Verdone, Rosemarie D'Alessandro, Laurie and Steve Wekar, Janine Teel and Louis LaVigna.

SAN DIEGO CA

Italian American Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Italian-American Chamber of Commerce - (SDIACC) is a non-profit business association founded to provide services to the Italian business community and to American businesses oriented to the Italian market or products.

The organization is a natural fit for many San Diego UNICANS. On October 21st, the group met at a mosaic and glass tile showroom, called "Il Tuo Sogno Bisazza."



San Diego Chapter President James Pieri Jr.(R) is the President and CEO at Gateway Financial Real Estate. Real estate developer and San Diego UNICAN Steve Codrero (L) enjoys the reception.



Anthony Ybarra is the Executive Director of the San Diego Chapter of the Italian American Chamber of Commerce. Jeannie Obenchaine owns the elegant boutique bella Stanza in San Diego's Little Italy.



Anthony Ybarra presents Valerie Orsini of San Diego UNICO with her new member gifts. Valerie runs a commercial insurance business. Anthony is also a member of San Diego UNICO.

LONGMEADOW MA

Longmeadow UNICO celebrated its 10th annual Food and Wine Tasting at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield on October 23rd. This event is the Longmeadow chapter of UNICO's biggest event; raising funds to provide scholarships for local students. Over the past ten years, this chapter has been able to raise over \$75,000 and provide between three to five scholarships to students every year.

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

Chapter President Dennis Scibelli explained "The success of the event is the contribution of our members, the contribution of our vendors, and the attraction of the Basketball Hall of Fame."

Returning taster Carol Rickless explained, "It's an event I've attended for many years. It's a great place to meet with your friends and neighbors while supporting an excellent cause."



Aerial View of the Wine Tasting.



Longmeadow UNICO President, Dennis Scibelli.



Longmeadow High School Key Club Volunteers.

*"Teach us to give and not count the cost."
-St. Ignatius de Loyola*

STAMFORD CT

Giuseppe Garibaldi Award

Connecticut Lieutenant Governor Michael Fedele bestowed the 3rd UNICO Stamford Chapter "Giuseppe Garibaldi Award".

This year during the Celebration of the Italian American Culture and Heritage Month, our first Italian born Lieutenant Governor of the State of Connecticut, Hon. Michael Fedele received the 2010 Giuseppe Garibaldi Award from the UNICO Chapter of Stamford CT-I.

The Award was presented by CT-I IPDG Giuseppe Pampena, Award Committee Chairman, and Paul Bova President of the Italian Center, and also member of UNICO and recipient of last year's award.

The Award was created by the chapter to honor a man or woman of Italian descent who has made significant and quantifiable contributions to the advancement of the Italian culture and tradition in the United States. The awarded individual, by his/her life, work and example, has brought honor to the Italian heritage. In addition, he or she can qualify because of his/her personal philanthropy and/or work with charitable organizations.

Lieutenant Governor Fedele was the main promoter of the celebration of the "Festa della Repubblica Italiana" that took place at the Hartford Capital Building with the raising of the Italian Flag. Two legislators, a Democrat and a Republican of Italian descent, were presented with the "CIAO" Italian Ambassador Award.

Lieutenant Governor Fedele opened the doors of the capital to Italian organizations for this great event of Italian History He also co-sponsored the Declaration of October as "Italian American Cultural and Heritage Month."
Grazie Mille!



Among the attendees of the "Giuseppe Garibaldi Award" presentation were: (L - R) Mike Battinelli, Ricky Castiglione, Sebastian D'Acunto, Giuseppe Pampena, Honoree LG Michael Fedele, Stamford Mayor Hon. Michael Pavia, Lee Rizzuto, Silvana Orsaia, Paul Bova and Nino Antonelli.

**VISIT UNICO ONLINE
AT
WWW.UNICO.ORG**

COOLEY'S ANEMIA



Highly prevalent hemoglobin disorders are recessive genetic diseases in which co-inheritance of two defective globin cells result in severe anemia such as Cooley's anemia. Although drug and transfusion therapies improve the quality and duration of

life for many individuals, developing curative treatments for Cooley's anemia (beta-thalassemia) is the desired goal.

Researchers from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital have successfully introduced two new genes into blood-producing bone marrow stem cells in recent studies. Hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) gene transfer is an attractive approach for the treatment of a number of hematopoietic disorders caused by single gene defects. Cooley's anemia is one of the disorders that can benefit from this particular study. Beta thalassemia results from deficient beta-globin chain synthesis due to a variety of deletions and mutations in the beta-globin gene.

Research that has recently been published in the journal Blood raises new hope that an individual's own bone marrow cells can be used with gene therapy to treat and possibly cure Cooley's anemia. According to Derek Persons, MD, PhD, Hematology, "Now we are talking about new gene combinations and new molecules to expand the hematopoietic stem cells (HSC)." HSCs are the parent cells in bone marrow that give rise to blood cells.

BELLEVILLE NJ

The Belleville Chapter of UNICO National delivered Thanksgiving baskets on behalf of the chapter and Nanina's in the Park to needy families in their local areas. They also brought baskets to Belleville School Number 10.

Chapter President Steve Rovell wishes to thank everyone who supported this year's Thanksgiving basket project. President Rovell stated "as our membership grows the chapter will be able to donate more."

In December, the chapter collected food for Christmas baskets.



(L - R) Dr. Manny Alfano, Susan Rovell, principal and Gene Antonio.

EXPANSION



EXPANDING UNICO IN 2011

It is with great pleasure, once again, to inform all UNICANs that another Chapter will soon be

joining our UNICO Famiglia...that of Wayne, NJ. By the time you read this message approval to charter this new chapter and preparations for a Charter Night with 19 Charter members in Wayne, NJ should be completed. Notification will be sent out concerning the date and details. Please send congratulations and Best Wishes welcoming the new Chapter to our UNICO family to President-elect Jeff Fossati at jf8054@aol.com.

We are also hoping Santa will help find one Italian American in the Ocean City, MD. area to join the current 14 charter members so we can proceed with chartering of a chapter in this location!

There have been inquiries from the East, Mid-West, and West that have shown interest in starting a chapter. Movement takes time to find promising leads that will follow through and commit to starting a chapter. Contacting individuals and meeting with potential chapter members is essential in having people become more aware of UNICO, its history, purpose and accomplishments to develop into potential chapters that will exemplify our motto of "Service Above Self."

If you know someone who is interested in starting a chapter in a nearby community consider inviting them to one of your meetings or a fundraiser to observe how we function....especially after an initial expansion meeting, with said person/ persons, if you intend on being a sponsoring chapter. Needless to say, the experience would be advantageous to see how UNICO helps others.

Members of the Expansion Committee have been doing their best to encourage fellow Italian Americans to join UNICO in various locations in the country.

My fellow UNICANs, it is important to remember that when a member moves he or she can transfer their membership to a chapter near his new residence. In several cases, members who have relocated have been influential in starting a new chapter and old friends have helped in sponsoring that new chapter. I am counting on you for any leads that would seem to be very promising so that we can move forward in adding new chapters to our UNICO Famiglia.

Bernard M. Brutto
Nat'l Expansion Director
570-573-1801
bbrutto@UNICO.org

**VISIT UNICO ONLINE
AT
WWW.UNICO.ORG**

CARBONDALE PA

UNICO Fundraiser Stuffed Peppers!

Carbondale UNICO had a fundraiser in November. The event was the annual stuffed pepper dinner. First Vice President Dave Donnini and PA II DG Dr. Felix DeSio were present.



"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."

-St. Augustine

NORTH CHESAPEAKE MD

Fund Raiser for Hunger

Perry Hall, MD- The Northern Chesapeake Chapter of UNICO held its first fundraiser on September 26, 2010 at Harford Winery. September is designated as "Hunger Action Month" by the Maryland Food Bank. The Northern Chesapeake Chapter chartered in March is the first chapter in Maryland. Any person with an interest in joining can e-mail the Northern Chesapeake Chapter ATTN: Membership Chairman at nochesUNICO@gmail.com



Above, Mike Gallo, president, and Faust Miraglia, vice president, of Northern Chesapeake Chapter of UNICO are shown presenting \$600 raised at the wine event to Amanda DeBoy, the Maryland Food Bank representative. UNICO is the largest Italian American service organization in the country.

EAST LONGMEADOW MA

SPRINGFIELD, MA - The celebration of Italian Heritage Month kicked off on a Friday with a ceremony at City Hall that included honoring men for their contributions to the Italian-American community.

Many people attended the ceremony and reception including guest speakers Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and state Rep. Angelo J. Puppolo, D-Springfield.

The Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts' Serviam Award which recognizes individuals of Italian ancestry who have significantly contributed to the community, said Teresa Regina, co-chairwoman of the Italian Heritage Month activities with Antonette E. Pepe.

The Serviam Award winner: Dr. Leo Hood, a dentist with an office in West Springfield, who has civic and social club memberships including UNICO National, and the East Longmeadow chapter of the Knights of Columbus No. 4306, including being named the chapter's "Man of the Year." He has served UNICO as district governor representing District 1 which includes Springfield, East Longmeadow and Wilbraham.



NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION PROCESS



Every active UNICO Chapter has been sent application forms for our 2011 Scholarship Program. If your chapter needs additional hard copies, please request them from the office. Applications are also available on the Members Section of the website.

It is essential that chapter scholarship chairs make certain to

distribute the Revised 2010 form. The date is clearly indicated on page 4. To use obsolete applications will put your candidates at disadvantage. Please discard outdated forms to avoid mistakes.

In addition to using current forms, be sure applications are complete and all required signatures and letters of recommendation are included. We have provided two check lists: one for the student, the other for the chapter representative, to make it easier to confirm compliance.

Undergraduate candidates should be advised to apply for all four scholarships offered. To do so requires that they submit the original application and three complete copies, including attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because scholarships are judged in different states.

Applications must be submitted to the sponsoring chapter by April 15 and to National by May 1. This timeframe allows chapters to review applications and request any necessary corrections prior to sending them to National.

Every year, I am amazed at the qualifications of the young Italian Americans who apply for our scholarships. The accomplishments of these students are outstanding. I wish all our candidates every success.

Joan N. Tidona
Scholarship Director

MEMPHIS TN

Viking Cooking School

UNICO Memphis members went to the Viking Cooking School. We learned recipes and helpful techniques. We enjoyed eating a delicious meal that was prepared right in front of us. Everyone had a wonderful time.



DENVILLE NJ

Second Annual Golf Outing

The Denville chapter could not have asked for a nicer day for their 2nd Annual Golf Outing this year at the beautiful Knoll Country Club. The chapter teamed up again with the New Jersey "211 First Call for Help" group and had over 110 golfers come out for their event. The Denville chapter alone raised over \$7,500 with this golf outing. They will use this money in their community to help the less fortunate, especially around the holidays. The golf outing is the largest of their three major fund raisers. The Denville chapter is a fairly new UNICO chapter just finishing its third year.



Second from the left is chapter president Jay Clauss with his foursome. Thank you Jay for selling all of those hole sponsors.



Left to right are Denville UNICO members Mark Sabeh, Jr. and Delegate Mike Rizzo with two other members of their foursome.



Vice President Joe Cardinale far right poses with his foursome at Denville's 2nd. Annual Golf Outing.



Jim and Sue Carol Scannelli monitoring the hole-in-one "car" hole. Unfortunately, no one was lucky enough to win the new 2010 Mazda. Maybe next year.

ORANGE / WEST ORANGE NJ

UNICO Beautifies the Community

Orange/West Orange UNICO helped to spread some cheer to seniors at the Stratford Manor, West Orange, NJ.

The two residents pictured are Susan Brewington the resident council president and Gerald Fishbane the resident council vice president. Their roles are to be a liaison between residents and staff. Also pictured are UNICO members Ken Broderick and Frank Paolercio presenting a check to Renee Ann Chimento, Recreation Director at Stratford Manor. These funds donated will go toward the manor's Secret Santa program.. Renee, along with some elves, will go shopping and purchase gifts that the residents need. They are wrapped and placed in each room for Christmas morning. For some of the residents this will be the only gift they receive since they do not have family. Some of the gifts will include clothing. Opening presents on Christmas morning will help to uplift their spirits and add some additional joy to their day.

UNICO an Italian American service organization is very active in the community raising funds for local and national scholarships, Cancer Research, Mental Health programs, First Aid Squad, Cooleys' Anemia and much more.



STAMFORD CT

UNICO Stamford Chapter sponsored a local soccer team of the Italian Americans Clubs League. This year after a winning season they qualified in 4th place at the finals played on the Columbus Day weekend. Posing with the team are Chapter VP Giorgio Papallo kneeling on the front left and CT 1 IPDG Giuseppe Pampena on the far right.



HERITAGE AND CULTURE

Italian American Tenor Sings for UNICO

Fairfield, NJ - At a recent UNICO National regional meeting, young Italian American tenor, Christopher Macchio, a rising star in the entertainment world, gave a special, surprise guest performance of his vocal talent to UNICO National delegates and guests from across the Eastern Region. Macchio sang some classic Italian songs and ended with the very beautiful aria from Puccini's Turandot - "Nessun Dorma." He received multiple standing ovations from the standing-room only crowd of UNICANS. All were enthralled by his powerful voice which is described as a cross between Andrea Bocelli and Mario Lanza.

The surprise performance was arranged between UNICO Past National President and Chief Media Executive André DiMino and Macchio's manager Vincenzo D'Angelo, who met recently while both were working on a campaign against Italian American stereotyping in the media.

Plans were made to have Macchio appear at the UNICO National meeting in Scranton, PA in early November. UNICO National President Chris DiMattio of Scranton, was enthusiastic to have Macchio perform. "What a great musical treat for our membership and what a terrific way to support a talented, young Italian American." At the conclusion of Macchio's performance, DiMattio presented Macchio with a new membership pin, naming him an honorary member. Macchio stated, "I am speechless and so pleased to be part of the UNICO family."

"This is the type of young Italian American that the world should be celebrating, not the disgraceful stereotypes portrayed on so-called 'reality shows' throughout the media," DiMino said. "Through our accepting Christopher into our UNICO family, we are again leading the way in supporting those who honor our heritage."

Macchio, a native of Long Island, is fluent in Italian and is proud of his heritage. He is a great example of an accomplished, talented young Italian American. With a tremendous vocal instrument, he performs the great music of his Italian heritage. Macchio is also the founding member of Bell' Aria. The five-person vocal ensemble revived beautiful Italian songs in its musical debut in a recent PBS special. For information on Macchio, please feel free to visit his website at www.christophermacchio.com.



(L - R) UNICO Past National President André DiMino, Tenor Christopher Macchio, UNICO National President Chris DiMattio, and Vincenzo M. D'Angelo, Macchio's manager.



Christopher Macchio singing at UNICO National's Eastern Regional meeting in Scranton, PA.

KEARNY NJ

Kearny UNICO supports Kearny Project Graduation



This year, the Kearny Chapter purchased a sponsorship in Kearny Project Graduation's fund-raising wrestling event. Representing the Chapter at the November 19th event were (L - R) Vice President Joe Sgalia, Secretary Celeste Pandolfi and President Lou Pandolfi.



National Wrestling Superstars entertained the crowd at Kearny H.S. Project Graduation's fund-raising event.

ANDRÉ'S ITALIAN TABLE



Thanksgiving Italian Style

I don't know if it is ingrained in our psyche or is just part of our genetic makeup, but it seems that it is just not a holiday meal without pasta! This is fairly straightforward with holidays such as Christmas - with the Seven Fishes on Christmas Eve, preceded by two kinds of spaghetti or macaroni and then Christmas Day with a big pot of gravy with meatballs, pigs knuckles, braciole, sausage and other assorted meats simmering away to be later served with lasagna, manicotti, ravioli or other special pasta dish. And, Easter is the same with traditionally prepared Italian entrees served after the specially prepared pasta for that holiday.

But what about Thanksgiving? This was where there was a convergence of a distinctly American holiday with our Italian American traditions.

My parents and grandparents, who came from "the other side" wanted us to be American. When it came time for Thanksgiving, they wanted to celebrate like Americans. But the only thing that differentiated Thanksgiving from our other holidays was that, in addition to pasta and other Italian courses, there was a turkey. That's it. There were no other "American" dishes - no cranberry sauce, candied yams, mashed potatoes, corn on the cob, green bean casseroles, squash, cornbread, etc. Instead, we would enjoy our typical multi-course meal - starting off with a cold antipasto with cappicola, prosciutto, mortadella, salami, provolone, roasted hot peppers and homemade giardinera accompanied with some delicious crusty Italian bread. Then the pasta course would be served - it was usually a baked pasta, like lasagna or baked Ziti. It was then on to the meat course with meatballs, sausage, chicken cutlets and steak pizzaiola. Along with the meats would be the side dishes of caponata, fried cardone, carcioffi, sauteed hot peppers with potatoes and onions, etc.

After the meat course would be, you guessed it - the turkey! But, at this point, there was not much room left to eat it - but it was served, just like "real" Americans! After courteously picking at the turkey for a while it was cleared from the table. Then the bowl of nuts and nutcrackers with a tray of fresh fruit would be laid out. This was followed by the dessert - usually some homemade Italian cookies and some special pastries from the Italian bakery - like Babas - dripping in rum, cannolis and sfogliatellas. Now that was Thanksgiving!!!

As the years passed, the turkey did move closer to the center stage of our Thanksgiving meal. And, we did cut back on some of the other Italian dishes and began to add some "American" dishes like yams and mashed potatoes. But, we would not - could not - relinquish our pasta! It just would not be a holiday without it! How about you? Do you have pasta on Thanksgiving?

Editors Note: I also remember all of us Italians fighting over the dark meat! Today, my kids, like most Americans, only want the white breast meat!

ATLANTIC CITY NJ

Ciao UNICANI!!

I am delighted to submit to ComUNICO this article about the Atlantic City, New Jersey Chapter of UNICO. I plan to submit an article on a regular basis to highlight our chapter's activity and to share the pride our members harbor for the good service our chapter provides for our community.

But first, a brief history. Our chapter was chartered in April 1980 and is in its thirty-first year of existence. It was given birth through the good efforts of locals Nick Russo and Paul Longo. As the casino era in Atlantic City took flight in the late 70's, there were several casino employees who moved in to the area. They were eager to share the UNICO experience and services provided in their hometowns with Nick and Paul. Both Nick and Paul took an immediate interest and began to lay the groundwork for an Atlantic City Chapter. After many meetings, resulting in the drafting of by-laws, the chapter was chartered and has served the Atlantic City region faithfully and ardently for the last three decades. Today, our chapter boasts over 100 members, each of whom takes great pride in our fine record of community service.

Our chapter meets monthly at one of several outstanding local restaurants. We recently updated and revised our chapter by-laws and instituted a leadership continuum to ensure that our chapter's leadership will remain strong.

Service activities and fund-raisers in which our chapter engages include spaghetti dinners, golf outings, car raffles, clothing drives for the homeless, toys for kids, and an annual "Person of the Year" ceremony which honors individuals in the community that exemplify the UNICO motto of "Service above Self." Ninety-five percent of our money raised through our fund-raising efforts is designated for scholarships for local high schoolers. To date, over three hundred thousand dollars have been awarded to worthy high-schoolers. The balance of the monies is contributed to a fund for a member suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) and to programs devoted to cure Cooley's Anemia.

In closing, we are proud of the work our Atlantic City Chapter performs and look forward to a busy, exciting, service-oriented future. We are honored to join UNICANs around the country who provide needed service to our communities and, as a result, enhance the fine reputation of Italian-Americans everywhere.



Back: Dave Lorenzini-Director, Nick Russo III-vice pres. Front: Gina Benvenuto-Director, Michael Jennetta-Executive Vice Pres., Linda Novelli-Chapter Pres., Chris DiMattio-National Pres., Tina LoBiondo -Director, Joe Mangano-Treasurer, Maryellen Capuano-Secretary, Bo Christian-Director, Andrea Longo Wescoat-vice pres.

PORTLAND OR

Over the past few months, the Portland Chapter has enjoyed some interesting and entertaining guest speakers at their monthly General Meetings.

Vincenza Scarpaci, author of *The Journey of the Italians in America*, gave a talk about her book, and signed copies for members and guests. President Gallo purchased a copy of the book, autographed with a special message from Vincenza to UNICO-Portland, to keep in the UNICO-Portland Library for members to check-out. *The Journey of the Italians in America* explores the presence and influence of Italians in small rural towns as well as large urban areas. Originally from Brooklyn, New York, Vincenza grew up in an ethnically diverse neighborhood where she recognized and observed the ongoing interaction of Italians with other ethnic groups. Vincenza attended Rutgers University where she researched the field of Italian American studies. She then travelled to Louisiana to learn how immigrants, mostly from Sicily, worked on sugar plantations. There, she discovered and broadened her appreciation of how Italian immigrants became involved with every aspect of America's economy and society. Vincenza now resides in Eugene, Oregon, where she continues to be intrigued by the phenomenon of how the descendants of Italian immigrants retain a strong identity with their heritage although they live in communities where they constitute a small portion of the population. *The Journey of the Italians in America* is available for purchase through Vincenza's Web site. You can visit Vincenza's Web site at www.italianamericanjourney.com

Anne-Louise Sterry, a.k.a. Aunt Lena, also paid the Chapter a visit. Anne-Louise is a dynamic and compelling inspirational speaker, singer and storyteller working nationally and internationally, and a current UNICO-Portland member. Born in New Jersey into a large Italian-American family, Anne-Louise experienced the joy, fun and community that come from music, storytelling and lively family discussions. This background, combined with her experiences as a Psychiatric Nurse and in the educational world following her BA in Psychology, is the foundation of her work. Anne-Louise speaks and performs for audiences of all ages and all walks of life. Her performing repertoire is extensive, ranging from the sublime to the riotous, and includes the notorious 'Aunt Lena', everyone's outrageous Italian Aunt, whose view of life and advice to get through it, are both hilarious and full of "Cutting Edge Mediterranean Wisdom." You can learn more about Anne-Louise and her alter ego, 'Aunt Lena' at www.auntlenasez.com

They say the best way to enjoy Venice is with a Venetian . . . someone who loves and understands the unique qualities of this incredible city, and recently, Celia Curfman Latz, gave UNICO-Portland members and guests a chance to do just that. Celia Curfman Latz is an "adopted" Venetian who has lived and worked as an artisan in Venice for 32 years. Now based in Portland, Celia conducts what she coins, 'Secret Venice' tours twice a year, and offers experiences inaccessible to most visitors! Tour participants meet artists and artisans in their private studios and enjoy Venetian cuisine in private

palaces. Visitors have the chance to learn Venetian style rowing in the canals and get to know Venetians and residents. Celia provided Chapter members with a wealth of information and history about the City of Venice. She also prepared and shared a traditional Venetian dish of Pumpkin Risotto with everyone! Celia also offers Venetian cooking classes for local residents.

Check out Celia's Web site at: www.inveniceveritas.com



(L-R) Vincenza Scarpaci presents a copy of her book, "The Journey of the Italians in America" to Portland Chapter President Jo Ann Gallo.

TORRINGTON CT

An Italian Journey

The Torrington Chapter of UNICO sponsored an "Italian Journey" at the Torrington Library on Thursday October 21st. Ashley Turney who spent five years working throughout Italy as a tour guide and ten years in a travel agency gave a very informative talk. The presentation covered the 20 regions of Italy, from north to south, including the islands of Sardinia and Sicily. Ms. Turney spoke on "la vita italiana" (the Italian style of life) and what it means to live in a country that contributes so much of the world's culture. She touched on Italy as a rich and complex culture with its unique history of foreign invasions and occupations. She discussed Italy's geographic peculiarities with the Apennine mountains dividing the country into west and east.

Torrington UNICO is committed to promoting awareness of Italian Culture and Heritage in the community.



(L-R) Event co-chair Joe Adorno, event presenter Ashley Turney, event co-chair Ray Mascetti.

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."

-St. Francis

NIAF GALA WASHINGTON DC

Annual Gala in the Nation's Capital

The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational foundation that promotes Italian American culture and heritage. NIAF serves as a resource on the Italian American community and has educational and youth programs including scholarships, grants, heritage travel, and mentoring.

NIAF is also the voice for Italian Americans in Washington, DC and works closely with the Italian American Congressional Delegation and the White House. NIAF's mission includes advancing American and Italian business, political, and cultural relations and has a business council that promotes networking with corporate leaders. The NIAF was founded in 1975 as a non-profit organization in Washington, DC. It is entirely non-partisan.

NIAF and UNICO compliment each other and have developed a close working relationship.



It has become a UNICO tradition to hold an Executive Board meeting in Washington DC to coincide with the annual NIAF gala.



Emmy-Award Winning Actor (The Practice), Michael Badalucco also serves as a UNICO spokesman.



The Honorable Amato L. Berardi is a member of the Italian Parliament.



Immediate past Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi.



First Lady Ann with actor Danny DeVito.



Baseball great Mike Piazza is a 12 time All-Star.



Supreme Court Justice, The Honorable Antonin Scalia.



Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Samuel Alito.



(L-R) President Chris with ESPN Host of "Around the Horn" Tony Reali, UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli and PNP John Alati.



(Second from left) ESPN National Correspondent, Sal Paolantonio.



UNICO National General Counsel Frank Blasi (L) and President Chris DiMattio (R) flank Univision Sports Host Fernando Fiore.



Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Peter Pace (L).



President Chris and First Lady Ann with Actor Tony LoBianco.



Actor Joe Pantoliano.



Mario Gabelli, from the Gabelli Funds.



Ambassador of Italy to the United States, H.E. Giuliomaria Terzi.



Noted Italian Chef, Lidia Bastianich.



Actor Robert Davi sang the songs of Sinatra at the NIAF Gala.

NJ, NY & PA MEET THE PRESIDENT

Chris and Ann DiMattio Honored at Gala Dinner

On Tuesday, October 26, 2010, a very large delegation of members from UNICO National Chapters in the states of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania assembled to meet, greet and honor our National President, Chris DiMattio and his lovely wife, our First Lady, Ann. There were 348 people at this event.

The event was held at the very elegant Venetian Restaurant in Garfield, NJ. A superb dinner was served.

The committee put a great amount of effort into making this another successful "Meet The President" Dinner. We are confident that our National President and his wife, First Lady Ann, thoroughly enjoyed the entire event.

Twelve Past National Presidents, along with many of our National Officers from the East, and two of Our National Vice Presidents were in attendance to help make this a most successful evening.

The Co-chairs of this event were Past National Presidents, Joseph Agresti, Salvatore J. Mangano and Michael J. D'Arminio. The committee consisted of all the District Governors and National Officers from this area and a few special members of UNICO.

Immediate Past National President, Andre DiMino, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and did a great job. Executive Vice President, Glenn Pettinato and Third Vice President, Rick D'Arminio, assisted with the presentations.

PDG Lou Pandolfi and Past National Treasurer Gene Santoli, and their ticket committee did a super job. For that matter the entire committee is to be congratulated for a job well done.

We wish our President, Chris DiMattio, a most prosperous and successful year in UNICO National.



The royal couple! President Chris with his lovely wife Ann.



A portrait of UNICO leaders from New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.



(L-R standing) UNICO National President Chris DiMattio, PNP Michael D'Arminio, PNP Sal Mangano, Immediate PNP André DiMino. (L-R sitting) Bill Greco, U.S. Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-8) and PNP Joseph Agresti.



NUTLEY NJ

Nutley Celebrates

The Nutley, NJ Chapter of UNICO National has had a very successful start to its new year. The September meeting speaker was Tina Cervasio, a reporter with a long resume of work in the sports entertainment business. Tina was a reporter for MSG (Knicks), MSGNY, FOX 5 NY Sports and the Imus in the Morning show. She continues to be an engaging ambassador of sports and the Italian heritage as she progresses in her career as a sideline reporter.

Several chapter members received individual accolades, including Sal Cocco who was inducted as a member of the Seton Hall University, Stillman School of Business Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame, Dan Geltrude who was named to the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy by Governor Chris Christie and Steve Mairella who was the Nutley "Man of the Year," in the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day parade.

October found the chapter celebrating Italian Heritage Month in New Jersey. Among the activities were a ceremony at the Columbus statue donated to the community of Nutley by the chapter in 2001. In attendance were local dignitaries and honored guests from Italy; Gino Trematerra, Mayor of Acri, Michelangelo Famiglietti, Deputy Mayor of Torelli dei Lombardi and honored members of the Italian Carabinieri. A dinner for the guests from Italy was held at Nanina in the Park, Belleville, NJ. New members sworn in at the October meeting were Mark Conti, Pasqual Pisani and Vito Marturro.

Nutley UNICO honors its members who are veterans each november. This year's honorees are Carl Graziano, Charlie De Lorenzi, John Verrico, Mike Festa, Vincent Cappabianca, John McGuire, Al Pepe, Ernie Capalbo, Bob Montanino, Angelo Moscaritola, Joe Pepe, Carmine Ucci, Anthony Biondi, Sal Cocco, Sr., Mario DiMaggio, Sam Stellatella, Mario Cocchiola and Paul Digaetano.



Nutley UNICO President, Marie Solimo (right) and Secretary, Bob Montanio (left) welcome new members sworn at its October Meeting; Mark Conti, Pasqual Pisani, and Vito Maturro.



Tom Sposato (left) and First VP Anthony Malfitano (right) from Nutley UNICO present checks to local charities including: The Nutley Library, Special Young Adults, Nutley Family Service Bureau and Breast Cancer Awareness at their October meeting.

SCOTCH PLAINS NJ

Scotch Plains Fanwood New Jersey 2010 Columbus Day Ceremony & Banquet

25 members of the community joined with SPF UNICO, the Knights of Columbus and the Italian-American Club of Scotch Plains to honor Cristoforo Colombo, Admiral of the Ocean Seas. The Columbus Monument, affectionately known as "The Hand," stands in the center of our town. It commemorates Columbus showing Queen Isabella of Spain that, in his view, the world was shaped like an orange. In the statue the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria are shown sailing to discovery. Students of the primary schools were asked to find these ships in town as a part of the holiday celebration.



Knights of Columbus and SPF UNICO member Pat Harrington with Chapter President Joe Triano in front of our Columbus Monument.



Students from town with their Mom happy to successfully find the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria.



Master of Ceremonies and SPF UNICO member John Perrotta with Chapter President Joe Triano.

"Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."

-St. Gregory Nazianzen

ANTI-BIAS COMMITTEE

UNICO Italian Heritage Calendars



UNICO National's Anti-Bias Committee ("ABC") was founded to foster a positive image of Italian Americans by opposing stereotyping and denigration of our culture and heritage.

The ABC actively and continuously monitors entertainment,

advertising and news industries. ABC contacts offending parties by e-mail, letter and telephone. We network with other Italian American organizations to have one united voice.

Through our "Mille Grazie Award" program the ABC honors individuals and institutions that promote a positive image of Italian Americans and speak out against negative stereotyping.

Through our Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar we celebrate the incalculable contributions made by Italians and Italian Americans around the world. UNICO National is so proud of these calendars that we are sending one free to every member of UNICO! Cases of calendars are shipping now to our districts and chapters,

We need your Chapter's involvement now in our 2011 Heritage Calendar Project! By having chapters distribute our heritage calendars to schools, universities, libraries and museums, we educate and celebrate our heritage, improve our image and promote UNICO National.

The UNICO Heritage Calendar helps to counter the media's continuous negative portrayal of Italian Americans. This Heritage Calendar is UNICO National's legacy to instill pride in our children and grandchildren and improve the country's perception of our culture and heritage.

Please support our calendar program by becoming a sponsors or booster:

- Back Page Sponsor- Get 300 Heritage Calendar (includes shipping costs)
- Month Sponsor- Get 2 200 Heritage Calendars (includes shipping costs)
- \$200 Booster- Get 40 Heritage Calendars
- ABC Donation of \$200 or more- Get 40 Heritage Calendars
- ABC Donation of \$100 to \$199- Get 20 Heritage Calendars
- Sponsors, Boosters and donors to ABC can purchase cases of 100 Heritage Calendars for \$100 plus postage.
- All others can purchase cases of 100 Heritage Calendars for \$200 plus postage.
- Single copies are \$6.00 which includes postage.

Please join the ABC in helping to distribute the 2011 Heritage Calendar across the country!

Sincerely,

Dr.. Manny Alfano
ABC Chair

POINT PLEASANT & BRICK NJ

Point Pleasant & Brick Italian Culture Night

Two chapters in NJ District 1 joined forces to plan events to celebrate October as Italian Heritage Month. Chapter Presidents Alan Floria from Brick and Tony Scardaville from Point Pleasant Beach are part of the Ocean County Columbus Committee which organized the parade in Seaside Heights' Columbus Day weekend. Each chapter marched with its banner along with the UNICO National float. Then both chapters hosted an Italian Culture Night later on in the month at The White Sands Hotel. District Governor Grace Gynn opened the evening with an introduction of special guests including UNICO National President Chris DiMattio and Anti-Bias Chair Manny Alfano. Point Pleasant heritage chairperson Michael Zeke Zaccaro gave an interesting and interactive quiz on famous Italian Americans and then guests were treated to entertainment by the New Jersey Cameo Club. Teenagers from the Point Pleasant Junior Chapter (ACES) as well as officers from other NJ 1 chapters were also in attendance. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to UNICO charities.



Point Pleasant ACES Co-Presidents Danny Richiuso and Allison Kreutzer greet the National President during Italian Heritage Night Celebration.



District Governor Grace Gynn and IPDG Lisa Pizzella join NJ One Chapter Presidents Marco Gugliemini:Stafford/Toms River, Mark Mastroberti:Lincroft Chapter, Alan Floria:Brick Chapter, Tony Scardaville:Point Pleasant in celebrating October as Italian Heritage Month with UNICO National President Chris DiMattio.



Speakers for Italian Culture Night at The White Sands Resort in Point Pleasant Beach were Manny Alfano, National President Chris DiMattio, Alan Floria, Tony Scardaville and Zeke Zaccaro.

MEMPHIS TN

UNICO Memphis Columbus Day Banquet

UNICO Memphis remembered Columbus Day with an Awards and Dinner Banquet on October 9, 2010 at the Double Tree Hotel. We honored Director Larry Godwin, recipient of the Italian American Award and Lewis Donelson, Recipient of the Civic Award. Both gave heart felt speeches which included gratitude for the award and stories of their Italian Heritage. UNICO Memphis also awarded Ron Giometti with a Special Recognition award. This wonderful event was co-chaired by Mike Camurati and Michael Spano. Some UNICO members in attendance were Sharon Thompson (Memphis Chapter President), Frank and Sally Navarra, George and Linda Bond, Ted and Kellie Cortese, Dan and Theresa Vaccaro, Joe Monti, Angelo and Denise Lucchesi, Manette Singer, Chrisann Schiro-Geist, Jack Conway, Mike and Anna Delosso, Ann Barnett, Mike and Gerri Camurati, Ron and Kathy Poletti, Michael, Linda and Donna Spano. Everyone had a festive and lovely time.



Award Winners (L - R) Mike Camurati, Dan Vaccaro, Lewis Donelson (Civic Award), Sharon Thompson, Larry Godwin (Italian American Award), Frank Navarra, Michael Spano and Ron Giometti (Special Recognition Award).



(L-R) Linda Spano, Ann Barnett and Regina Giometti.



Kathy and Ron Poletti.



Ron and Regina Giometti



(L-R) Mike Camurati, Sharon Thompson, Sally and Frank Navarra




(L-R) George and Linda Bond, Manette Singer, Angelo Lucchesi and Ron Giometti

DISTRICT VI NJ

DISTRICT IV SPONSORS A SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER

Help raise money for UNICO and enjoy a tour of Yankee Stadium and lunch at Arthur Avenue. All net proceeds from the event will be donated to Montclair Scholarships. Even Red Sox fans are invited!



**NJ DISTRICT VII SPONSORS A
SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAISER**




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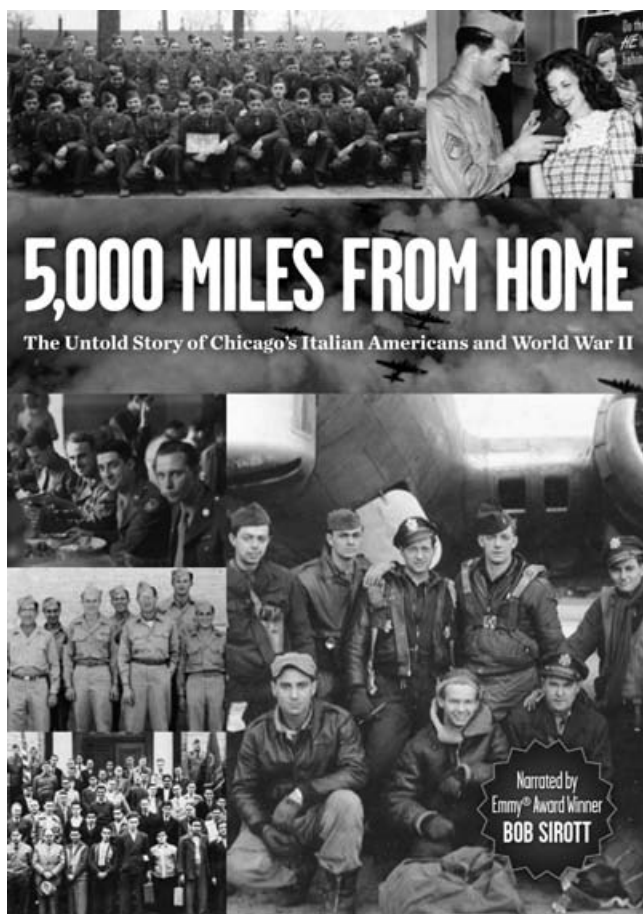
\$ 70.00 PP *Further details to follow: time, restaurant, etc.*

For information/tickets call:

Joe Pitocco
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CULTURE & HERITAGE



The Emmy Award-winning documentary "5000 Miles From Home" tells the untold story of Chicago's Italian Americans and World War II.

Honoring Our Heroes

"5,000 Miles From Home" earned the title "the little documentary that could" along with a host of accolades in 2010.

Funded entirely by a \$22,000 grant from the UNICO Foundation, the hour-long film about World War II's impact on the Chicago-area Italian-American community garnered two Midwest Emmys this fall on the strength of five nominations. The victories capped a banner year that included six national Telly awards and a viewers' choice nod from the local PBS station, which aired the documentary twice in two years.

"I couldn't be prouder," says Executive Producer Anthony Fornelli. "These honors are a testament to the courage of a generation of heroes and the talent of a dedicated band of filmmakers."

"5,000 Miles From Home" tells the riveting tale of tens of thousands of Italian kids from the rough-and-tumble streets of Chicago who became American men in the crucible of war. In-depth interviews with two dozen veterans are interwoven with film footage and archival photos as the film tracks the arc of their lives from working-class roots to wartime travails to the very different lives they lead when they come back home.

The documentary also serves as a testament to the vision and perseverance of Fornelli, a past president of UNICO; founder of the Italian American Veterans Museum in Stone Park, IL, and publisher of the Chicago-area Italian-American newspaper, Fra Noi.

The documentary was conceived in 2007 by

Fornelli as a fundraiser and awareness builder for the museum, as well as a tribute to his uncle James Orlando "Lon" Fornelli. "Uncle Lon" was an Army sergeant stationed at Guadalcanal during the war, and earned a Silver Star after single-handedly dispatching 13 Japanese snipers in a valiant effort to get his platoon out of a battle zone and back to safety.

"Lon didn't talk much about what he did during the war," Fornelli says. "He was very typical of that generation — men who did their duty and returned home to their lives without thought of acclaim. The goal of '5,000 Miles From Home' was to spotlight these heroes and offer them the opportunity to share their unique experiences with future generations."

Fornelli and Fra Noi editor Paul Basile, who served as the film's producer and co-writer, enlisted the help of co-directors Jim Distasio and Mark McCutcheon of Forward March Media to bring the veterans' stories to life. After amassing more than 50 hours of interviews and historical footage, the filmmakers began the arduous task of assembling all of the pieces into a feature-length movie.

"We were blessed with a treasure trove of information — everything from the vets' oral histories to the personal mementos and photographs they shared — that gave the film a distinct perspective not typically seen in your run-of-the-mill war documentary," Distasio says. "It's a one-of-a-kind story about these humble Italian-American guys from the old neighborhood who contributed to a defining moment in American history." To give the film a distinctly Chicago voice to match its local subject matter, the filmmakers approached legendary newsman Bob Sirott to serve as the film's narrator. Sirott, who previously hosted the news program "Chicago Tonight" on WTTW, graciously donated his time in an effort to keep the film on budget.

"'5,000 Miles From Home' is a touching portrait of Chicago's Italian-American community and its contributions to America's victory in World War II," Sirott says. "This is a stirring and worthy tribute, not only to this proud 'Greatest Generation,' but also to the uniqueness of the American way of life."

Distasio and Basile earned an Emmy for writing the documentary, and Joe Flood received another for sound. Earlier in the year, the film took home Telly awards for documentary, cultural programming, writing, music, sound and editing.

To order a DVD:
www.5000milesfromhome.com.



(L-R) Jim and Kathy Distasio and Paul and Sheryl Basile celebrate Jim and Paul's Midwest Emmy win.

MEMPHIS TN

UNICO Memphis Shows Community Support

UNICO Memphis supported the local community by participating in the annual University of Memphis Homecoming Parade. We decorated a truck and trailer, displaying the UNICO Memphis Banners. Along the parade route we threw out lots of candy and beads to the crowd. Afterwards the gang went to dinner to continue the camaraderie. It was a fun time.



DENVILLE NJ



Enjoying the "Meet the National President" dinner at the Venetian honoring Chris DiMattio are Denville UNICO members and guest. (L-R standing) Lou Maffei, District Governor Nicki Carpinelli, Anne Marie Mattaliano and Vice President Lou Mattaliano. (L-R sitting) Carol Maffei, Treasurer Jim Scannelli and Secretary Sue Carol Scannelli. They all had a great time "mixing it up" with Chris and fellow UNICANS.

DENVILLE NJ

District Meeting

The Denville Chapter of UNICO hosted the District XI November District Meeting at the Hanover Manor in New Jersey.



Front row (L - R) Gino Loiacono-Denville Chapter Past President, Lou Mattaliano-Chapter Vice President, Dominick Nicastro-Eastern Regional District Governor, Nicki Carpinelli-District XI Governor, Jay Clauss-Chapter President, Mike Rizzo-Chapter Delegate, surrounded by the rest of the Denville Chapter members.

MEMPHIS TN

National Scholarship Winner

On August 17, 2010, at our monthly dinner meeting, UNICO Memphis Chapter honored Troy Anthony Mannino, winner of the National UNICO Theodore Mazza Scholarship!! Troy will be attending the University of Mississippi (Sally Barksdale Honor College) in the fall. He plans to major in science and hopes to use these courses in his plans to become either a doctor or engineer. His wish is to use his knowledge of the sciences in order to serve those in need. At the meeting, Troy spoke of his love of his Italian heritage, how proud he is to be Italian, his plans for his career and of his family. Troy, the son of Carl Thomas Mannino and Ollie Avery Mannino, has one brother and one sister (Carmelo and Avery). He is a recent graduate of Christian Brothers High School. UNICO Memphis' Scholarship Chairperson, Alicia McKenzie, presented him with a framed certificate for the National UNICO Theodore Mazza Scholarship. Memphis UNICO is proud of this young man!



GREATER RAMSEY NJ

Fund Raiser

A great traditional fundraiser for UNICO is the Greater Ramsey Chapter's Charity DiVino. Besides a live and silent auction, hundreds attend to sample wine and Italian delicacies.



Celebrity guest Chef "Cooking with Nonna" sensation Rossella Rago poses with her Nonna, National President Chris DiMattio, Greater Ramsey President Lou LaVigna, National Third Vice President Rick D'Arminio.



WCBS Channel 2 News Food Expert Tony Tantillo presents his newest sauce and dressing to Chris DiMattio and Hackensack Chapter President Ralph Contini.

SAN DIEGO CA

New Members.



Maryann Maletta-Paul and her daughter Catarina display their completed membership application.

CONNECTICUT MEET THE PRESIDENT

The UNICO Chapters of Connecticut sponsored a "Meet the President's Night" at the Villa Rosa Pontelandolfo Club on October 20th. The Pontelandolfo Community Club was formed in 1965 in Waterbury, Connecticut. The Pontelandolfo Community Club was founded by Italian immigrants from the village of Pontelandolfo.



Ann and Chris DiMattio pose with their friends Bob Summa from the Torrington Chapter and Patti and Bill Mascetti, PDG.



After the dinner, President Chris toured the Pontelandolfo Club with leaders of the Club.



President Chris is pictured with Francine Nido, Chairperson, and the Honorable Michael Jarjura, Mayor of Waterbury.

HERITAGE & CULTURE

Vince Edwards



Vince Edwards was born Vincent Edward Zoine III in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Julia and Vincenzo Zoine (a bricklayer), immigrants from Italy. He had a twin brother and was the youngest of seven children.

His parents were hard working people who wanted the best for their children. Vince worked with his father as a laborer on the Eighth Avenue subway, wielding a pick ten hours a day during the summers of his youth.

When asked about his family life, he responded by saying: "I was one of seven children in a family that had its problems in surviving and wanting to get ahead. I was the baby. I wasn't spoiled, I don't believe. My parents got along well. I loved them and had great respect for them."

Vince was a standout on his high school swim team and went on to study at Ohio State University on an athletic scholarship. There, he was part of the university's swim team that won the United States National Championships.

Zoine later studied acting at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. He then earned a small part in "High Button Shoes" on Broadway. Vince then toured with the road company of "Come Back Little Sheba." It was during this time that Vince fell under the spell of the then-fashionable "Method" school of acting.

In 1950, he was signed to a contract by Paramount Pictures, making his film debut as "Vince Edwards" in 1951's "Mr. Universe" then played the lead next year in "Hiawatha." Although he had major or lead roles in several films, including the 1958 film noir, "Murder by Contract," it was not until he starred as the title character on the highly successful "Ben Casey" television series that he achieved a real level of stardom. The medical drama show, which he occasionally directed, ran from 1961 to 1966 and as a result of his popularity, Edwards released several music albums that met with reasonable success.

When the television series ended, Edwards returned to acting in motion pictures with a major role in the 1968 war drama, "The Devil's Brigade. In 1970, he starred in the brief series "Matt Lincoln." He continued to act in films as well as in guest spots on television. He also directed a number of episodes in a variety of television series including the original "Battlestar Galactica." Edwards made his last film in 1995, after which he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Vince died in Los Angeles, California on March 11, 1996. He was 67 years old, and was buried in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, California.

His life was short but his memory lingers on.

Researched and adapted from various Internet sites by Salvatore J. Mangano, PNP. UNICO National, 2009-2010, Italian Heritage and Culture Chair

ST LOUIS MO

Meet Me in St. Louis

President Chris DiMattio was given the "first class" treatment when he headed for a weekend visit to St. Louis. PNP Angelo Sita even arranged for a local proclamation for Chris.



Father Leo Spezia, Past National Chaplain (St. Louis Ram's Chaplain) was able to grant Chris entry on the field before the Rams took on the Atlanta Falcons.



President Chris meeting with members of the St. Louis Metro Chapter after the Rams game.



Chris and Vince belting out a few Neopolitan melodies.



Chris having breakfast with members of the St. Louis Chapter after mass at St. Ambrose Church on "The Hill."



National President Chris DiMattio was an honored guest and speaker for the 144th Societa' Unione e Fratellanza Italiana Dinner. Pictured, (L-R) Hon. Chris Saracino, President St. Louis Metro Chapter Joe Gandolfo, President St. Louis Chapter Vince Montelione, Mr. DiMattio, PNP Angelo Sita, Past National Chaplain Fr. Leo Spezia.



National President Chris DiMattio and St. Louis Chapter President Vince Montelione pose at "The Italian Immigrants." The statue memorializes the Italian families that arrived in St. Louis looking for a better life. Today, the statue has become a preferred symbol of the neighborhood, right along with the Hill's famous green, white and red painted fire hydrants.

DENVILLE NJ

Ella Grasso Essay Winner

Denville Chapter member Lou Maffei was the winner of the UNICO National Ella Grasso Essay Contest. His essay on "Growing up in an Italian family" won him the first place honor this year.



(L-R) Essay winner Lou Maffei is congratulated by NJ DG XI Nicki Carpinelli and Denville Chapter President. Jay Clauss.

ANTI BIAS

Big Friggin Wedding Big Friggin Italian American Stereotype

Contact: Sebastian D'Elia 908-770-3662
UNICO National Communications Director

FAIRFIELD, NJ - Describing the show as yet another disgraceful and disheartening chapter of Executive Producer SallyAnn Salsano's malicious exploitation and stereotyping of young Italian Americans for profit, UNICO National is asking VH1 to pull the plug on "My Big Friggin' Wedding."

"Stereotyping and slurring young Italian Americans means big, big bucks for bottom-feeder networks like MTV and VH1," said André DiMino, UNICO's Chief Media Executive and immediate past National President. "No one does this better than Salsano, who's done more harm to the perception of young Italian Americans than everyone before her, combined."

Salsano's, "495 Productions" that specializes in trashy reality programming, also produced MTV's infamous "Jersey Shore" series, which UNICO National successfully fought last year.

"It's hard to believe, but Salsano actually tops the damage she did to the Italian American community with 'Jersey Shore' with her newest pile of garbage on VH1," DiMino said. "Salsano sells out her ethnicity in a big way for her '30 pieces of silver.' The damage is especially insidious and malicious since it comes at the expense of young Italian Americans, who will endure these stereotypes for years to come."

"My Big Friggin' Wedding" is a "reality" show about 5 couples preparing for their wedding in the New Jersey area, and as DiMino notes, Salsano outdid herself to find the "...worst bunch of bad-acting, insipid individuals portraying themselves as trashy, drunken, low-class, bimbos and buffoons."

At least six of ten cast members are identified as Italian Americans, while two do not have their ethnicity identified and two others are identified as Haitian and Hispanic.

Of special note is "celebrity wannabe" Johnny DeCarlo, who in the past has blogged and appeared on a panel, defending the use of the pejorative term, 'Guido' in 'Jersey Shore.' "It appears Salsano paid him back for defending 'Jersey Shore' with an opportunity to disgrace himself before a much wider audience," DiMino said.

"DeCarlo, so desperate for his 15 minutes of fame, starts the show off explaining that he started dating his current fiancé when he was married and she was engaged at the time with a child. She is now pregnant with his kid. But, she says 'I'm really stressed out because I want to drink at my wedding so I need to pop the kid out before the wedding.' What class!" chided DiMino.

"It's particularly sad that it's Italian Americans prostituting themselves to make this show the next 'train wreck' for people to watch - and connect with Italian Americans," DiMino said, ending with a call to action:

"If you're Italian American or of any race or ethnicity and you don't stand for bigotry, please contact VH1 and its parent company, VIACOM, and express your disgust and lack of support for negative stereotypes by demanding they pull 'My Big Friggin' Wedding' off the air," DiMino stated.

ON THE ROAD WITH PRESIDENT CHRIS



President DiMattio was invited to speak at the Ocean County Columbus Day Parade Meeting in December. There he thanked the organization for presenting a tremendous display of Italian heritage and culture. As a token of gratitude, Chris presented all in attendance with the UNICO 2011 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar. Pictured (L-R) are parade co-chair Paul Perillo, Chris DiMattio, parade chair Mike Blandina, and parade co-chair Cav. Mario Marano.



Gathered in a corner at the Brick Christmas Party chatting about UNICO finances are President DiMattio with current National Auditor, Anthony D'Alessio (L) and past National Auditor Joe Colino (R).



(L-R) President DiMattio, restaurateur Nino Selimaj, PNP John Alati and Foundation President John DiNapoli. The UNICO trio dined at Nino's newest restaurant, Scarpina, on University Place in Manhattan. UNICO members have long dined at many of the five Nino's located throughout New York City.



Chris and Ann with Mike Greenberg of ESPN.

PARAMUS NJ



Three generations enjoy the national convention in Hershey, PA, together.



The Paramus Chapter had a large group of members attend the convention.



Chapter President, Joseph Iula with Gerry Heytink.



The Paramus Chapter re-dedicated the Christopher Columbus Monument in Paramus. District Governor NJ IX Frank Putrino and Chapter President Joseph Iula conducted the ceremony. A wreath was placed at the monument and mums were planted to make the monument more noticeable from the road. In the photo above, chapter members and their families enjoy the ceremony.

IN MEMORIUM

Al Dante



Al Dante, a Past National President and recipient of the prestigious Vastola Award, passed away after a brief illness on November 15th. He was 83. He served UNICO with distinction and last July, was presented a 50-year pin for his active involvement at the National Convention in Hershey by National President and close friend

and fellow Scranton Chapter member Chris DiMattio. He served UNICO as National President from 1979 to 1980 and rarely missed a national meeting in almost forty years. On Thursday, November 18th, UNICO members and friends gathered with Al's daughter Lisa Bieri and family for the UNICO Memorial Service which was led by Fr. Robert Wolfee, National Chaplain. Participating and attending the service were fellow Past National President's Joseph Agresti, Renato Biribin, Frank Cannata, Salvatore Mangano, Anthony Gaglioti and Frank Tidona, UNICO Foundation President, John DiNapoli, past and present UNICO National officers, the UNICO National office staff both past and present and over 100 members from the Scranton Chapter, PA District II and surrounding chapters. Others visited the home earlier in the day.

The eulogy offered by UNICO National President Chris DiMattio is as follows:

This is certainly a sad day in the almost ninety years of UNICO. But Al wouldn't want it that way. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if he, (his wife) Louise and Father Cottone were all dancing the Tarantella right now having a big reunion dinner with all their friends and family who went before him!

To the family of Al Dante especially (daughter) Lisa, we in UNICO express our deepest sympathy and gratitude for sharing with us the gift of Al. Many of us know so much about you because Al was so proud of each and everyone of you and often loved to brag about his family at every opportunity.

How fitting that we are in the home of one of his closest friends Pat "Bucky" Guido who joined UNICO the same day Al did fifty years ago.

The word UNICO in Italian means "UNIQUE" – and that certainly was Al Dante. In today's world where so many people drift away from what's really important in life – Al didn't – he was the strong navigator who never left the ship. He was unique - maybe that's why he was known as "Mr. UNICO"!

He was unique because, in today's society, we rarely see people who truly care about another human being. As I look around, none of us are shocked at the sight of so many who are gathered here tonight for his service because in some way, Al touched the lives of each and every one of us.

How many of us here did Al telephone to ask how you or a family member were feeling after an illness or loss? How many did he visit when times were tough or when he thought you just needed a smile or a joke?

Al cared – that's why he was as PNP Frank Licato told me today, "Mr Nice Guy" in New Jersey! He cared! Whether helping his wife Louise during the difficult times when she was ill, other family members and friends – he really cared and his actions spoke louder than any word could. One person who is not here tonight knew just how much Al cared and that's (PNP) Joe Manganaro, who's loss of vision was to

prevent him from attending any UNICO National function and meetings. But Al wouldn't allow that, he arranged for Joe's transportation and, holding his hand, kept Joe close to his side every step of the way, just as a brother would do for his brother. Al made him feel comfortable and special even when his own health wasn't one hundred percent.

But that's just one example of how he cared. I'm sure you are recalling your own experiences. Many experienced his personal out of the way hospitality by how he always greeted you with a warm smile, making sure your meal was right or you had a special seat at the table. He was as (PNP) Nick Quercetti told me a gentleman's "gentle man."

Appropriately, one of his last duties in UNICO was serving as head usher for Mass for the convention in Hershey, a task he performed exceptionally at each National meeting, making sure the priest had the proper arrangements and that everyone was appropriately seated for worship. He also made sure the collection was given to the priest for the poor.

And you never doubted his integrity – he was as honest as his life was long and fulfilled. Whether dealing with him during an automobile sale or UNICO business Al put the needs of the customer and his friends FIRST! He was the one man in UNICO National so many called upon for advice for they knew they would get an honest and true opinion – and that's just what you got – as he would holler "NO BOLONEY – just do the right thing!" And you know your conversation was always kept in the strictest of confidence because you could trust Al.

We're here tonight certainly out of respect for his family but more importantly to gather together in prayer to give thanks to God for having him. And if each one of us can live our lives just a little bit like he did, we'd all be better people. His passing certainly leaves a void in UNICO and the Scranton community but it also leaves us a shining example and a legacy of how to live our lives.

There's a passage from Corinthians in the Bible that is so appropriate for Al and whenever you hear it, I hope you think of him and say a prayer for his soul:

Love is kind; it does not envy, it does not boast. It is not proud, it is not rude, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is love.

Please allow me one personal privilege in remembering Al. (Chris imitating Al's voice) "Hey get it while it's Hot!" Well Al ... we got it when it was hot and your memory will live warm in our hearts forever!

God Bless You!



Al Dante was very active at the most recent national convention at the Hershey Lodge! Above, Al (R) works the limbo stick with another PNP Renato Biribin.



LOMBARDI

UNICO ON BROADWAY

On Friday evening November 19th, over 100 UNICO members and guests attended a showing of "Lombardi," the smash Broadway hit featuring the talents of Dan Lauria and Judith Light. The Hazleton and Scranton Chapters both chartered busses to attend. The play was written by Academy Award winner and Steppenwolf Theater Company member Eric Simonson

The play is based on the bestselling biography "When Pride Still Mattered: A Life of Vince Lombardi."

The play brings the audience into the life and times of one of the most inspirational personalities, Hall of Fame football coach Vince Lombardi.



Chris and Ann DiMattio pose outside the show's marque window.



Pictured at the November Lombardi trip are (L-R) PNPs John Alati and Mike D'Arminio, Third National Vice President Rick D'Arminio who made the arrangements for UNICO, "Lombardi" star Dan Lauria and National President Chris DiMattio.

HONORING ANOTHER GRIDIRON GREAT



Honoring a promise made long ago, Manny and Pat Alfano were the guests of President Chris DiMattio for a Penn State Nittany Lions football game versus Michigan State at Beaver Stadium in November. Although, they didn't want to say "no" the Alfano's were hoping for an earlier game as the Mount Nittany chilling wind got the best of them. Here Chris, Manny and Pat pose with the legendary coach, Joe Paterno's winning statue outside the stadium.



UNICO
"Serving Those Who Serve"

In celebration of the contributions that our chapters and members have made to the history of our organization, UNICO National will be working with Harris Connect, LLC to create a commemorative showcase book to be release in 2011. This historical publication will feature photos and stories submitted by you the members and will be a great addition to your personal library.

We want to hear from each of you. Stay tuned for more information on how you can participate in this publication and visit the UNICO National website at www.unico.org for periodic updates.



EAST LONGMEADOW MA

Dinner for Senior Citizens



RIDGEFIELD NJ

Halloween Canteen

The Ridgefield, NJ, chapter held its annual Halloween Canteen in the Ridgefield community center on October 17th in support of the UNICO Mental Health Program.

189 clients with their counselors attended. Food was donated by Anna Bella's Deli in South Hackensack, Cake was donated by Cosco's, Ice Cream was donated by Shop-Rite and music was donated by DJ Joe Gennuaro. Volunteers were Al and Stacey Oriente, Lucy Cintron, Maddy Massare, Carlo and Lee Buonsanto, Danny and Estelle Buonsanto, Dom Ranuado and Gerry Hanson.



Event chairpersons were Chapter President Annette Tabbachino and Grace Oriente.

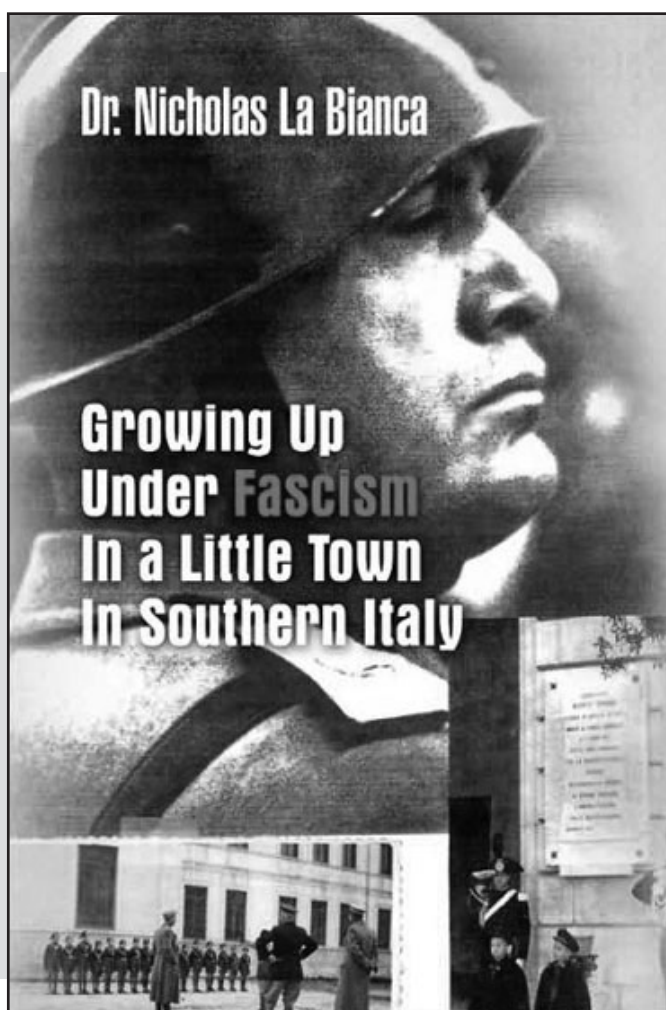
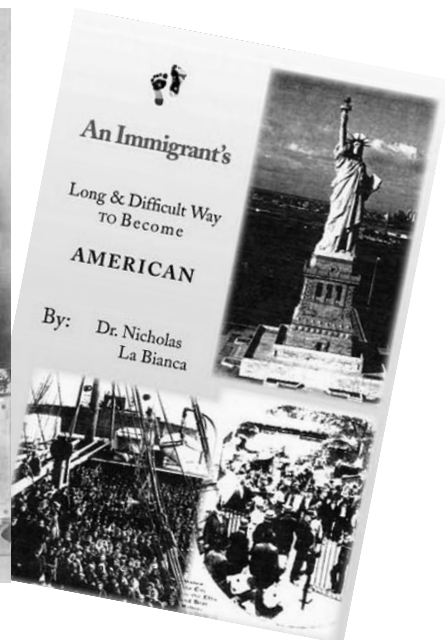
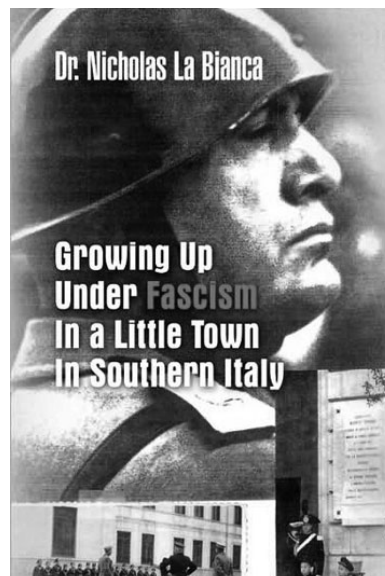
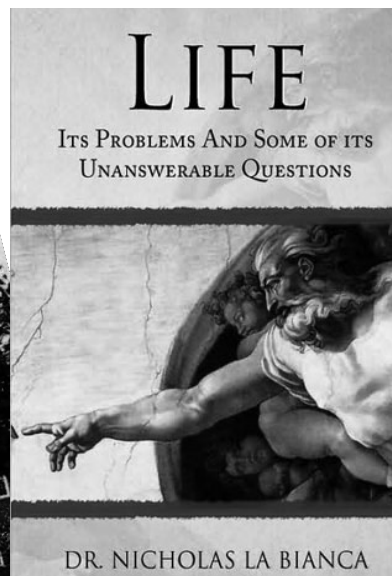
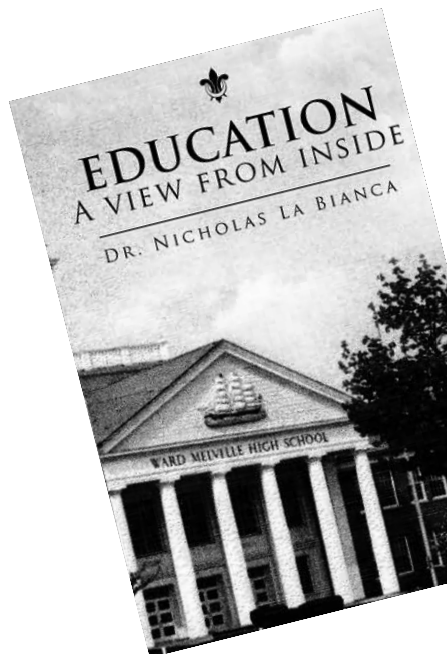
NJ DISTRICT IV



The Annual Christmas Party for UNICO NJ - District IV

Held now for over 25 years, the NJ District IV Christmas party was started by UNICO member Michael Corradino. After all these years, the celebration is still actively attended by many members and is held for the clients and staff of the North Jersey Development Center, which is located in Totowa, NJ. (L-R) UNICO National Sargeant-At-Arms Frank Greco, PNP Frank Tidona, National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona, PNP Sal Mangano, UNICO National President Chris DiMattio, Michael Corradino from the NJ District IV Passaic-Clifton Chapter and past co-chair, PNP and also the current co-chair of this event Joe Agresti, Nina Corradino who is this events long time other co-chair, PNP André DiMino, ERDG Dominick Nicaastro, NJ DG IV Lou Serafini, and PNP Paul Alongi. All the pictures from this event will be put onto the UNICO National website www.UNICO.org and uploaded into the photo gallery section. Just click on the upper right corner of the photo gallery page and then on the Picasa Photo Album link.

Makes the perfect gift ...



Born when Fascism was very well established, author Dr. Nicholas La Bianca superbly pens down a recollection of the early years of his rich and colorful life in his unforgettable stirring memoir.

Tender and poignant, "Growing Up Under Fascism in a Little Town in Southern Italy" shows how people coped up with the same difficult dilemmas of making a living, striving to improve their living conditions, and secure a better future for their children.

This book is also a clear representation of real life battles and of family goals — once founded with precision and strength, political regime and economic conditions that control the daily life could not obstruct in achieving success.

Through "Growing Up Under Fascism in a Little Town in Southern Italy," readers will have a glimpse at the author's memorable life during the fascist regime and will learn more truths on human existence.

Fra Noi's FRED GARDAPHE says, "this book is a lesson in life worthy for all to learn."

(254 pages, illustrated with personal and historical photos)

About the Author:

Dr. Nicholas La Bianca was born in Giovinazzo, (Bari), Italy in 1930, and during his early life had to live under the Fascist regime and witness depravation, death, and destruction brought by World War II. He received the best classical education available in that country and after the war moved to the United States. He joined the US Air Force during the Korean War and after being discharged he obtained a BA from the University of Illinois (1957). Moved to New York City and attended night school at CCNY where he obtained an MA in Education (1965). After three years of teaching in the public schools of New York City and an additional three years teaching overseas for the State Department, he settled in Stony Brook, Long Island, where he received a DA from SUNY at that location. He spent the next 25 years teaching Languages at the Three Village School District in that area. He retired in 1990 and continues to be active in the field of Education.

He is the author of an article on a linguistic study he made on the influence of the Romance Languages on the English Language. In addition to "Growing up under Fascism in a Little Town in Southern Italy," La Bianca has published "Life: Its Problems and Some of Its Unanswerable Questions," "Education — A View From Inside" and "An Immigrant's Long & Difficult Way to Become American."

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A big DeNiro fan growing up, hunky half-Italian Bradley Cooper has transitioned effortlessly from the dramatic to the comic in just over a year.

NEWSMAKERS

by Jim Distasio

Accidental comedian

When producers were looking to revive the 1980s television show "The A-Team" for the big screen, everyone wondered who would be cast as B.A. Baracus, the role made famous by the fool-pitying, tough-talking Mr. T.

But as the film started coming together for its summer 2011 release, all of the attention shifted to the casting of actor Bradley Cooper as the charming, fast-talking team member Templeton "Faceman" Peck, or simply "Face."

A half-Italian, half-Irish actor from the Philadelphia area, Cooper was suddenly in demand after a small comedy he co-starred in struck big at the box office in the summer of 2009. That movie was "The Hangover," and it went on to gross more than \$465 million worldwide, making it the highest-grossing R-rated comedy of all time.

Cooper's acting career up until that point consisted mostly of playing, for lack of a better term, jerks in smallish television and film projects. His most high-profile role was as Vince Vaughn's obnoxious, blue-blooded tormentor in 2005's "Wedding Crashers."

(See *Newsmakers* on Page 45)

LOU&A Toast of the town

by Louis R. Carlozo

When it comes to conveying the passion, artistry and precision of Italian cuisine — and we mean authentic dishes made by authentic Italians — you'd be hard pressed to find a classier ambassador than Ornella Fado.

As the CEO and executive editor of *Brindiamo!* magazine, Fado helms a publication just as stylish and substantive as its leader. Fado is a dynamo: She's celebrating five-plus years of "Brindiamo!" on NYC TV Ch. 25, and has just launched the very first *Brindiamo!* Scholarship with the Italian Food Style Education Culinary Institute. As if that weren't enough, she's also working on "Brindiamo! The Movie."

It's a fabulous run for this native of Italy, who studied at the Conservatory of Music Stanislao Giacomantonio in Cosenza, while earning a second degree in Ballet Studies. Eventually, Fado found her passion in hosting, performing and producing for TV. Now it's a dance of a different sort as she expands her ambitious *Brindiamo!* enterprise, based in New York.

Fra Noi caught up with Fado to learn her secret recipe for folding her many passions into a multi-faceted career.

Fra Noi — How has it been adding magazine publisher to your list of accomplishments?

Ornella Fado — It was a natural transition. The magazine is just a paper version of my television show. I am so lucky that I've had a photographer, almost from the beginning of the show, who has given me so many beautiful pictures. So the magazine excites me a lot. It gives me an opportunity to go behind the show; if I am in Italy and meet someone interesting, I can talk to

them right away. With television, it's a bit more complicated — you have to take three people around with you. It's also very stressful. [Laughs.] But it's a fun experience, definitely.

FN — Why restaurants as opposed to some other expression of Italian culture?

OF — Restaurants are something immediate that everyone can approach. If you do a show about fashion, not everyone can go to Versace on Madison Avenue, (See *Fado* on Page 45)



As queen of Italian dining in the Big Apple, Ornella Fado really cooks.

FEATURE Recapturing L.A.'s rich Italian past

by Jim Distasio

When you think of Los Angeles, a once thriving Little Italy isn't the first image that comes to mind. But the City of Angels has been home to Italian Americans since the 1820s, and this rich — albeit largely unknown — history will take center stage with the planned Italian American Museum of Los Angeles.

Targeted for an early 2012 opening, the state-of-the-art historical and cultural education center will be located in downtown Los Angeles at Italian Hall, a historic brick building constructed in 1908 to serve as the social and cultural hub for Italian-American residents who once called the area home.

"Most Italian Americans have no idea there is a substantial Italian community in Los Angeles," says Marianna Gatto, executive director of the Italian American Museum. Today, the Los Angeles metropolitan area is home to the nation's fifth-largest Italian-American population, according to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and compiled by the Order Sons of Italy in America.

A major fundraising push is currently



A century-old social club will soon be home to a state-of-the-art museum celebrating the vibrant history of one of the nation's largest Italian-American communities.

underway for the estimated \$1.5 million project. The Foundation already has secured a healthy grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and has made inroads with potential donors while hosting a successful Taste of Italy fundraiser in October.

The museum has not yet crossed the million-dollar fundraising threshold, but Gatto says the group is "getting close."

The project is part of a decades-long plan by the foundation to commemorate and recapture the ethnic flavor of Los Angeles' Little Italy. During the early 1990s, the group raised approximately \$2 million for badly needed repairs to the building, which along with more than two dozen other historical structures nearby, is owned by the City of Los Angeles and leased to the Historic Italian Hall Foundation, the group behind the museum.

Phase two of the project is the establishment of a museum in the 7,000-square-foot hall, which will serve as a mixed-use (See *Los Angeles* on Page 45)

LIBRI Flights of imagination

by Judith Anne Testa

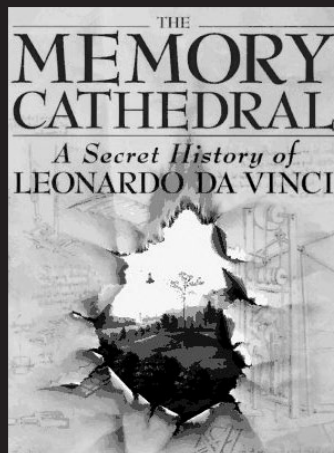
With the exception of Michelangelo, no other Italian artist exerts such a hold over the modern imagination as Leonardo da Vinci. Even more than his younger contemporary, who was first and foremost an artist, Leonardo defined the term "Renaissance man." Aside from his achievements as a painter, he also had a reputation as a scientist, a tireless investigator of the phenomena of the physical world, and an equally tireless recorder of those investigations in notes and drawings. He was also a dreamer who imagined both manned flight and some of the most horrible weapons that modern technology much later produced. And making him even more fascinating to the writer of fiction, he was a mysterious man who never revealed his inner life, so the author can give free rein to his own imagination in re-inventing Leonardo as a fictional character.

Author Jack Dann asks intriguing questions about Leonardo and answers them with great imaginative verve in this unusual novel. Although Dann is neither the first to wonder what the consequences might have been had Leonardo's inventions actually worked, nor the first to work out those consequences in a novel, "The Memory Cathedral" goes further than any other work of fiction in leading the reader into both the physical and the mental worlds that Leonardo inhabited. We see late 15th-century Florence in its artistic and intellectual splendor as well as in its sordid corruption and searing violence. We meet Lorenzo de' Medici and other leading figures of

the time. We spend time in the busy workshop of Verrocchio, Leonardo's teacher, mentor, and rival. Dann makes a bold attempt to explain Leonardo's prodigious mental gifts, asserting that Leonardo was able to retain such amazing amounts of information on a variety of subjects by constructing a "memory cathedral," a mental storehouse in the form of an enormous church, with theories, facts, and images neatly organized and stored within. (Dann didn't invent this idea, nor did Leonardo;

and enters the service of a Middle Eastern potentate who is happy to have Leonardo in his employ as a military engineer and designer of weapons systems. Most of the second half of the novel concerns the grisly battlefield results of Leonardo's weapons being put to use. The descriptions are detailed, gory, and definitely not for the faint-hearted.

Dann is a good writer, but not a great one, so after a while the violence becomes repetitious. The readers starts to lose track of what battle is being fought where and by whom. The same holds true for the novel's numerous sex scenes: they have a mechanical quality and lack any real sensuality or sense of attraction between the partners—rather like Leonardo's war machines, they're a bunch of grinding gears. Since the artist himself was utterly silent about his sexual life, Dann has to construct a sexual identity for his fictional Leonardo. Although many modern scholars emphasize that Leonardo had no mistresses, never married, was overly attached to certain of his young male apprentices, and was once accused of "sodomy" (homosexual relations), Dann presents that episode as a frame-up and Leonardo as a vigorous lover of women. To me, though, the author oversteps credibility in making Leonardo the lover of Ginevra de' Benci, an upper-class woman whose exquisite portrait by Leonardo now hangs in our National Gallery, in Washington, D.C. But after all, this novel is a historical fantasy, and for the most part a successful one.



The Memory Cathedral: A Secret History of Leonardo da Vinci

by Jack Dann

- 508 pages
- ISBN: 0-553-37857-0
- Publisher: Bantam Books

such systems have been around for centuries.)

In reality, Leonardo's flying machines all crashed, or never got off the ground, and the fiendish weapons he imagined in his drawings were never built. But in this novel, although Leonardo's flying machine is a limited success, he doesn't succeed in interesting the ruler of Florence, Lorenzo de' Medici, in its military potential. So the artist-inventor disappears from Florence for a year

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LIBRI Artistic crimes

by Fred L. Gardaphe

With the right artists involved, even a felony crime can become a masterpiece, and that's what lies at the heart of Frank Lentricchia's latest novel. In the strange, grotesque tradition of some of his earlier work such as "The Knife Men" and "Lucchesi and the Whale," Lentricchia's "Italian Actress" pushes the boundaries of realist fiction into a nearly surreal place where sex and death combine to create a coming-of-age tale involving a video artist, a famous actress and a mysterious couple who orchestrate a fantastic scenario that will free a once-famous artist from the oblivion of academia.

The artist is Jack Del Piero, a middle-aged professor of visual aesthetics, once an avant-garde filmmaker whose work provoked reviewers to say things like "What exactly is 'done' in Mr. Del Piero's disturbing art is unspeakable in public print, even in Paris." We never learn exactly what it is he's captured on film, but we do know that whatever it is it earned him international fame without fortune and a pitiful professorship with a future he dreads.

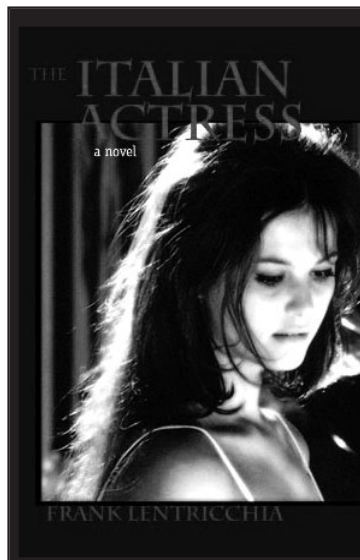
At an Italian film festival, Jack meets the famous Claudia Cardinale, now in her 70s, who takes a liking to him and invites him to live with her. A hasty leave from the university places Jack with Cardinale in Volterra, Tuscany, where "the land falls disastrously away, undermined by obscure forces that create a desolate terrain of cliffs." Those forces seem to dominate the

artist's mood and leave him vulnerable to a Mr. Malatesta and his beautiful accomplice, who lure Jack back into producing a film of something that's never been viewed through lens or seen on the screen — something that I'm pretty sure has never been seen in print as well. Suffice it to say that in Jack's desperate attempt to gain back his fame he

then is he able to meet Claudia on equal grounds and become her lover. But when she finds out just what it is he's produced, she leaves him to stew in the misguided aftermath of his "masterpiece."

More myth than real, "The Italian Actress" is a fable about art that lives and bodies that decay, about the impossibility of youth to live forever anywhere but in the mind. Jack is only happy (if you can call what he has happiness) when he's working; that's when he eats good food, works out and sleeps by himself (mostly). The couple who engage him in this most devastating act of art summon the spirits of the legendary Sigismondo and Isotta of 15th-century Rimini. The strangeness of that early history repeats itself as a kind of farce through the machinations of Malatesta and his partner in artistic crime. Jack dutifully and artistically films their bizarre actions and in the end is left brooding "until dawn — on the compelling woman I knew in Volterra, on the man who could not love her, and on the woman I live with now — inside moving images — forever young."

The novel itself is like Del Piero's films, and that is the beauty of Lentricchia's art. This is not a novel for the weak-hearted or the light-headed for it can turn even the most seasoned reader into both. But it is a novel to be reckoned with by those looking to do something new with fiction, and for that, it's a worthy contribution to the literary arts.



The Italian Actress by Frank Lentricchia

■ \$12.95, paperback

■ 108 pages

■ ISBN: 978-1-4384-3044-7

■ Publisher: SUNY Press

www.sunypress.edu

pays a tremendous price, surviving the experience with a changed life and the prospects of earning a teaching award.

Jack is alive only when he's working and since he hasn't worked for years he finds himself trapped in adolescence with the object of his teenage fantasies, the actress who Fellini made famous in film. Jack and Claudia are merely roommates until he starts working on the secretive film project. Only

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by Dr. John Bello, M.D.



Never let go of your dreams!

After a long day of examining patients, I feel drained, yet at the same time, I feel satisfied, fulfilled and elated. These emotions consume me at the end of a typical day in my office. They are incredible emotions to experience every day. I realize I am fortunate and a very lucky man to live in America, which was my parents' dream.

When I become disappointed with myself and begin to whine about how difficult it is for me, I look at the photo on my desk of my nonni. One look at that photo is all it takes to bring me back to reality, and for me to realize that I have no reason to complain! Every day, as I pass by their photo, I thank them for the heroism and courage they had, as they transplanted their family from Italy to Chicago.

As I continue to concentrate on my efforts to obtain an Italian medical license, I feel myself begin to weaken in my resolve. I look back to when I first started on this journey to fulfill my dream. Even though it has been over 10 months already, it seems as if I am still at the beginning of my journey. Fortunately, I have been able to get help from a cousin in obtaining the correct documentation that I need to satisfy the Italian government's bureaucracy. This has been a perfect example of "the spirit of the Italian family." We help our family members in their time of need by giving of ourselves and our resources. This "spirit" of help is what I draw on when there is no more fight in me! Since I started this journey, I cannot and I will not give up on my dream. I have my own and my family's pride to honor and protect. My hope is to obtain my Italian medical license in the next few months — "Buona fortuna!"

(See Bello on Page 46)

by Jeannine Guilyard

With a larger than life personality that immortalizes every character he plays, Roberto Benigni is one of the most recognizable faces in Italian cinema today. Widely known on this side of the Atlantic for his Oscar-winning film, "Life Is Beautiful," Benigni has had his share of career ups and downs but manages to win over audiences with each new project he tackles.

Born in 1952 in Tuscany, Benigni's beginnings were humble. Benigni's mother worked as a fabric inspector in the textile industry and his father was a farmer, carpenter and bricklayer. Luigi Benigni was actually a prisoner in the concentration camp Bergen-Belsen located in northwestern Germany for two years. The camp was liberated by the British 11th Armoured Division in 1945 and Luigi was freed. Benigni drew from his father's experience in the making of "Life Is Beautiful."

He started his career working in Roman theaters and earned a reputation as one of the area's funniest comics. He then moved on to television, where he soon became a national sensation. Italians loved him and his slapstick humor, but Benigni had much more in store for Italy and the world. Considered a genius by his idol, Federico Fellini, Benigni lived up to expectations when he made the transition to the big screen.

He delivered his first hit movie in 1985 with "Non ci resta che piangere" (Nothing Left to Do but Cry), which he co-wrote, co-directed and co-starred in with the beloved Massimo Troisi. The story centers around a teacher and a schoolkeeper who get lost in the Italian countryside and find themselves in the late 15th century. Among their adventures, they meet up with Leonardo da Vinci

(See Cinema on Page 45)



No Italian comedian has captured the imagination of the world quite like Roberto Benigni.

SPOTLIGHT Perfection in protection

by Nicola Orichuia

Leonardo's "Mona Lisa," Michelangelo's "David" and the prized jewels of the British royal house have one thing in common: They are all protected by glass casings created by Goppion, a small glass-works company in Trezzano, Milan. Outside the world of museums, few are familiar with the work done by Alessandro Goppion, the Milanese entrepreneur who joined his father's small commercial glass-making workshop in 1977 and soon came up with a successful design for museum showcases that has transformed his "Laboratorio museotecnico" in Milan into one of the most sought-after producers of glass casings for invaluable works of art.

The company's story is the perfect example of how a great idea can transform a seemingly dull product into a valuable asset that combines efficiency with style. Founded in 1952 by Alessandro's father, the Goppion company specialized for many years in commercial glass casings. In 1956, the Museum of Ancient Musical Instruments in Milan commissioned the elder Goppion to produce showcases designed by local architects Sergio Cossovich and Aldo



Some of world's most prized possessions are encased in shatterproof glass cases produced by a small Milanese company.

Monzeglio. Despite the success, the company went back to commercial glass casings for the next two decades. In the '70s, Alessandro started working in his father's workshop while studying political science at university.

The breakthrough that would change the company forever came in 1977, when Alessandro transposed his passion for early 1900s German industrial design into the Alva glass casing, which soon became the gold standard for small art collections' showcases. The Alva's success convinced Alessandro to create the Laboratorio museotecnico, a workshop within Goppion dedicated to researching and producing museum showcases. What makes Goppion so special is the fact that everything, every single detail, is thought of and created, modeled, cut, sized, assembled and tested within the group's laboratory. The 1980s were a period of slow growth and experimentation, as the company sought and achieved recognition within Italy. Commissions came from museums in Rome,

(See Spotlight on Page 45)

CIRCO ITALIA Cultural ruins

by Nicola Orichuia

The city of Pompeii have survived a volcanic eruption, various World War II air strikes and all sorts of adverse weather for almost 2,000 years. Then came the Italian Ministry of Culture, and the fabled city began to crumble before the world's eyes.

On the morning of Nov. 6, 2010, a huge mass of rubble formerly known as Pompeii's House of Gladiators was found by custodians. The building was situated on the city's main street, Via dell'Abbondanza, and had numerous frescoes adorning its inner walls. After the 79 A.D. eruption of Mt. Vesuvius that covered the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum, the building was forgotten for centuries. Its ceiling was partly destroyed during a World War II bombing and was rebuilt shortly after the end of the war. Ultimately, neglect proved to be the final straw for the ancient structure.

"If I had any responsibility for what happened, it would have been right to resign," said Culture Minister Sandro Bondi shortly after the disaster caused worldwide "embarrassment," as President Giorgio Napolitano said. In typical political fashion, Bondi accused his predecessors of not doing enough to preserve the country's archeological treasures: "The problems Pompeii and Italy's artistic heritage deal with today is a problem that has been dragging on for decades, without anyone finding an efficient strategy to solve it."

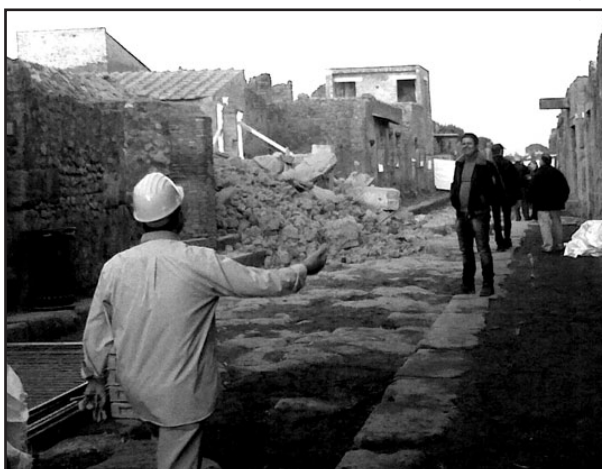
During a parliamentary debate on the causes of the disaster, Bondi defended himself from the opposition, which demanded he step down immediately. "It isn't fair to ask for my resignation," he said. "I don't deserve it." Bondi, who is

famous for writing poems celebrating Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, then went on to make a bold statement: "One collapse should not obfuscate the work we've done in the past two years." Bondi was quick to add that "more collapses are possible" in the near future. It's unclear, in light of this revelation, what positive impact Bondi's work might be having.

Bondi isn't new when it comes to witnessing damaged historic sites. The 2009 earthquake in Abruzzo destroyed, among other things, dozens of old churches and damaged many museums, although the natural phenomenon is definitely not Bondi's fault. The Ministry of Culture had a little more responsibility in the collapse, last March, of the ceiling of Nero's home, the Domus Aurea. As shocking

as it was, very few asked for Bondi to step down as minister, as the structure was known to have many problems and had been closed since 2005 to undergo restoration. But the disaster in Pompeii was viewed by many, including former opposition leader Walter Veltroni, as a "metaphor" of a crumbling government that is going in the wrong direction when it comes to cultural investments. No wonder hundreds of cultural organizations, museums and libraries decided to go on strike on Nov. 12. The initiative's goal was to highlight the growing problems the Italian cultural world deals with every year. With the most recent budget cuts approved by Berlusconi's government, some institutions might see their funding drop by as much as 80 percent. "The cuts will amount to 800 million euro," Reggio Emilia's mayor, Graziano Delrio, told l'Espresso magazine.

The problem, in the end, boils down to money and how to get more of it. The government doesn't seem to have a solution, although Education Minister Mariastella Gelmini has proposed putting a group of business managers at the head of Pompeii. A business solution was enacted recently in Venice, where historic buildings' repairs are being paid for by funds raised through huge billboards that have sprung like mushrooms all over the city of canals. A far better solution is the one proposed by Neapolitan singer Gigi D'Alessio: "It would be nice to have a Live Aid concert to raise funds for Pompeii. Maybe when the weather gets better, next spring or summer." Let's hope the concert will be held just on behalf of Pompeii, and not some other disaster that befalls Italy's cultural treasures in the meantime.



The recent collapse of Pompeii's House of Gladiators has drawn international attention to the abysmal state of cultural preservation in Italy.

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VIAGGIO Rome's last palazzo

by Judith Anne Testa

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JAN 2011

COMUNICO

It may come as a surprise to learn that one of the grandest, as well as the last, of the great Roman palazzos was built in late 19th and early 20th centuries by an American woman! Just about any large building in Rome — even an apartment complex — can claim to be a “palazzo,” and by that definition Rome has thousands of them. But a real palace requires that somebody noble built it, or at least lived in it, and that reduces the number considerably. Most of Rome's great palazzos were in fact built by members of the city's noble families — the Colonna, the Barberini, the Farnese, the Doria Pamphili, and so on. But smuggled in among all those residences is Palazzo Brancaccio.

From its Italian name you'd never know who really built it — but the name was just to save the reputation — what Italians call the “bella figura” — of a penniless Neapolitan nobleman, Prince Salvatore Brancaccio, who in 1870 had married an American heiress named Elizabeth Field. Prince Salvatore came from an old and illustrious aristocratic family in Naples, but one whose properties and wealth had been subdivided so many times over the centuries and none of its members any longer controlled any great wealth. It was Elizabeth's mother, Mary Elizabeth Bradhurst Field, a very rich and formidable New York City socialite, who controlled the purse strings the prince was no doubt eager to loosen, and who decided that her daughter and son-in-law needed someplace to live that would be appropriate to their princely pretensions. Palazzo Brancaccio was among the most important pri-



What happens when a bride from a monied American family marries an Italian prince with more in the way of lineage than wealth? Palazzo Brancaccio, of course!

vately commissioned buildings of late 19th-century Rome.

Mrs. Field chose a site on via Merulana, a broad, straight avenue first laid out in the late 1500s by Pope Sixtus V, to connect the church of S. Maria Maggiore with the cathedral of S. Giovanni in Laterano. By the late 19th century the newly united Kingdom of Italy had settled on Rome as its capital, and an enormous amount of building was going on throughout the city, including on via Merulana. In keeping with the anti-clerical stance of the central government, the Commune di Roma had closed and taken over a number of convents and monasteries within the city, and in 1879 Mrs. Field purchased a choice property on the corner of via Merulana and via dello Statuto that had formerly belonged to a convent of Franciscan nuns. Behind the convent and included in the property were extensive gardens and various Roman ruins, including an enormous, mostly underground structure known as the “Sette Sale,” or Seven Halls — actually an ancient Roman cistern, or water storage facility. According to a popular but unproven legend, the tower from which Nero delightedly watched Rome burn (he'd set the fire himself, or so the story goes) was also located on the site to be occupied by the palazzo.

Mary Field ordered the convent demolished and hired the architect Gaetano Koch to design a grand palazzo, one worthy to stand comparison with those of the Roman nobility. Evidently money was no object for this determined lady, because in 1883 she decided the site was too small, and purchased still more land on the side toward the Lateran. This necessitated the hiring of

several more Italian architects, who worked on integrating what had already been built with what the imperious Signora Field now demanded. Documents pertaining to the construction always refer to the building as “Palazzo Field.” It's amusing to learn from these same documents that Mrs. Field and her husband had decided that they wanted to live in the palazzo, too, and that they requisitioned the entire “piano nobile” — what we'd call the second story and always the most important floor of a private palazzo — for their own use. Their daughter and her husband the prince would have to make do with living on the ground floor. It's obvious who was in charge in THAT household!

Building this enormous palazzo, which eventually extended an entire city block along via Merulana, was only the first step. There was also the vast interior to be decorated. For this project Mrs. Field hired a local Roman painter-decorator with an excellent reputation in his own time, although he's pretty much forgotten today: Francesco Gai. He'd made his reputation as a painter of aristocratic portraits as well as mural decorations in Italian churches. He spent so much time working on projects for Mrs. Field that she gave him a building on the property to use as his studio. He began submitting designs for the interior while the palazzo was still under construction and he worked for the family until his death in

(See *Viaggio* on page 46)



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by Charles P. Pecoraro

The Montillos share their recipe for Cheesecake Bars

There's an old proverb among pork producers that everything is used in a pig except the squeal. That same logic can be applied to the grape harvest, where everything is used except the wind whistling through the vineyard.

Wine is the principal product of grapes, of course, but nothing is wasted, including a juice byproduct called vino cotto that infuses recipes with a naturally sweet element without the fermented essence of wine.

Vino cotto (cooked wine) has a smooth, rich flavor similar to that of plums, figs or raisins. It contains no alcohol or vinegar, and isn't as thick as honey or maple syrup. Its versatility is evident with uses in meat, seafood, poultry, vegetables, desserts, sauces and salad dressings.

One of the more prominent makers and distributors of vino cotto is Montillo Italian Foods, founded by Greg and Deena Montillo and based in Framingham, Mass. The two-year-old venture actually is the U.S. extension of a company established by the Montillo family 100 years ago in Montepaone, Calabria.

The Montillos buy freshly pressed grape juice from a California source, cook it in a commercial kitchen, bottle and distribute it to retail and wholesale outlets plus direct via the internet. The shelf-stable product has earned U.S. Food and Drug Administration approval.

From a health perspective, vino cotto contains no salt, fat or cholesterol, no artificial flavoring or coloring, is low in calories and rich with antioxidants.

The business has become a family affair for the Montillos. Son Joseph designed www.montilloitalianfoods.com, while daughter Christine helped design the packaging.

Here, in time for making holiday season desserts, is the Montillo family recipe for Vino Cotto Cheesecake Bars:

Vino Cotto Cheesecake Bars

Crust:

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 cup almond flour
3/4 cup pecans, finely chopped
1 stick margarine, melted
1/4 cup vino cotto
1/4 cup sugar

Filling:

8 ounces cream cheese
1 cup granulated sugar
3 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Crust: Using fork, mix all dry ingredients into a bowl. Add margarine and vino cotto, thoroughly combine all ingredients. Hand press dough evenly into ungreased 13x9x2-inch pan. Bake for 20-30 minutes, until lightly brown and firm.

Filling: In separate bowl, add all filling ingredients and mix until batter is smooth. Pour filling over crust. Bake 20-30 minutes or until surface is golden brown and springy. To determine doneness, insert toothpick then remove immediately. Toothpick should emerge clean when cake is done. Allow to cool before cutting into squares. Yields 35 bars.

IN VINO VERITAS

Quality meets affordability

by Dick Rosano

The Bianchi Winery is the culmination of an immigrant's dream, and of four generations of Italian-Americans pursuing the dream of owning a winery that can produce premium wines at affordable prices.

It began with Carmelo Bianchi, a leather glove maker from Sicily, who came to the United States in 1906. He was followed in 1907 by his future wife, Carmela who hailed from Rome. How they survived at first is not well documented, although Carmelo's glove-making machine was sent from Italy to America sometime after they emigrated.

Like many other immigrants from the boot, Carmelo made his own wine and surreptitiously selling it during Prohibition. Sons Joe and Ray were the delivery boys, and they made a tidy profit selling their wine to the Irish neighborhoods nearby. But beyond wine, Joe (originally, Giuseppe) had quite a varied list of accomplishments. A self-educated chemist by trade, he flew helicopters and airplanes, spoke four languages, wrote books on philosophy and winemaking, and played the piano.

Joe and his son, Glenn, bought a winery in Kerman, Calif., on the San Joaquin River, in 1974. With unrelenting hard work, the family business grew and today is run by Beau Bianchi, Glenn's son and Giuseppe's grandson. Beau proudly boasts his Italian heritage in the wines he produces, including varietal wines like Pinot Grigio and Refosco, and proprietary wines like Quattro.

"Our focus today is to make world class wines at a good value," says Beau. "I'm also coming out with a red table wine, 'Omaggio de Giuseppe,' which will be a throwback label design to our original 1974 Chianti label."

Ever inventive, like his grandfather Giuseppe, Beau intends to continue to improve the wines, add new varietals, accentuate his Italian heritage, and deliver great values for the wine-consuming public.

When asked to describe what's next, Beau says, "Future plans ... to become a household name for excellent wines." With four generations and decades of experience to build upon, and a host of already good wines, his future should be secure.

WHITE WINE

Chardonnay 2008 El Camino Vineyard (Santa Barbara County, \$15) — Scents of

melon and toast on the nose; soft textures, medium body, flavors of melon, toast, and hazelnut. Score: 86

Pinot Grigio 2008 Los Alamos Vineyard (Santa Barbara County, \$16) — A crisp, dry wine with flavors of pineapple and tangerine. Score: 85

Sauvignon Blanc 2009 San Lucas Vineyard (Monterey County, \$12) — Zesty aromas of grapefruit, citrus and lemon peel, followed by similar impressions on the palate, zesty and bright. Score: 85

RED WINE

Barbera 2006 (Paso Robles, \$22) — High notes of cherry pie and cinnamon on nose, soft oak and brown spice accents, flavors highlight cherry and raspberry. Score: 87

Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (Paso Robles, \$19) — Deep sensuous aromas of earth, toast, and black fruit; soft textures, black cherry, plum, and raspberry flavors; touch of cassis on finish. Score: 91

Merlot 2006 (Paso Robles, \$17) — Ripe red cherry aromas, soft textures, cherry focus continues on the palate. Score: 87

Petite Sirah 2007 Plummer Vineyard (Paso Robles, \$20) — Deep dense purple red, suggestions of coffee, spice, and black cherry continue from nose to palate, chewy mouthfeel. Score: 87

Pinot Noir 2007 (Edna Valley, \$22) — Subtle accents of coffee and tea on the nose, soft textures, earthy red fruit flavors, light bodied. Score: 84

Quattro 2007 (Paso Robles, \$32) — Forward aromas of earth, plums, and roasted coffee; soft textures, medium body, long velvety finish. Score: 88

Refosco 2006 San Juan Vineyard (Paso Robles, \$22) — Black fruit aromas accented by notes of cinnamon; medium body, red fruit flavors with tobacco leaf and cinnamon accents. Score: 86

Zinfandel 2007 Zen Ranch Heritage Selection (Paso Robles, \$20) — Rich, dark fruit and earth on nose, dark fruit flavors, subtle yet evident acidity, soft tannins. Score: 88

Editor's Note: Dick Rosano's wine rating system is based on quality and price and breaks down as follows: 96-100 (excellent, worth any price), 91-95 (very high quality, worth a high price if you can afford it), 86-90 (high quality, worth the price if you like that type of wine), 81-85 (moderately good, should shop around for best price), 76-80 (some defects but generally acceptable), 70-75 (of doubtful value), below 70 (not worth drinking).



Bianchi isn't a household name, but that may soon change thanks to the unrelenting hard work and innovation of this fourth-generation winemaking family.

RECIPES A family affair

by Dolores Sennebogen

I was very young when my mother invited me into her kitchen. "Invited" might not be the exact verb I'm looking for, because it was a command appearance. My sister Patricia and I were always expected to be in the kitchen while dinner was being prepared. At the beginning, not much was required except to set the table (correctly) and find the necessary serving dishes. When I complained about such mundane tasks, saying, "I want to learn how to cook," Mom replied, "But you are learning how to cook."

Eventually, Patricia and I graduated to peeling vegetables and grating cheese. When Mom told me one evening to start making the salad dressing, I was quite surprised that I knew exactly how to proceed. It dawned on me that I had absorbed quite a bit of information by being in the room where food was being prepared. Somehow I knew when the oil was hot enough for frying, when the sizzling fish needed to be turned, and when the pasta was exactly al dente.

It also dawned on me that Mom was pretty smart. Most of our friends' mothers didn't want anyone underfoot and shooed them out of the kitchen. Our mom had the advantage of two extra sets of hands, and the certainty that she was passing on knowledge to us that had been passed on to her. While learning to cook we also learned nutrition, creativity, and teamwork.

Encourage your kids and grandkids to share food experiences with you. Even consider including very young children in food preparation. There are opportunities to learn colors, shapes, fractions, cleanliness and family history. And don't forget love. There is a reason that the kitchen is called the heart of the home.

Here are some simple recipes for the whole family. In the spirit of "eat dessert first," I'll start off with those recipes because I think they're fun for kids.

PIZZELLE

(Star Wafer Cookies)

1-1/2 sticks butter, very soft
3 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1-3/4 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
1 teaspoon anise, lemon or orange extract
Confectioners' sugar

Beat the butter with the eggs and sugar. Gradually add the dry ingredients and flavorings. Drop by the tablespoon onto the center of an electric pizzelle iron, close the cover and cook only a few minutes. When golden, carefully lift each pizzelle from the iron and place flat on a wire rack to cool. They may also be rolled while still very warm, if desired. Store airtight. At serving time, sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.

— Linda Lucatorto

SPUMONE

(Spumoni Ice Cream Mold)

1 pint chocolate ice cream
Toasted chopped hazelnuts
1 pint pistachio ice cream
1 pint cherry chunk ice cream
1/4 teaspoon almond or rum extract (optional)
Whipped Cream

Allow the chocolate ice cream to soften at room temperature till soft but not soupy. Stir in the toasted hazelnuts. Pack it into the bottom of a 2-



(Illustration by Robert Cimbalò)

quart casserole or mold. Freeze until solid, at least 45 minutes. Repeat the process with the pistachio ice cream, layering it smoothly over the chocolate ice cream. Return to the freezer for 45 minutes. Repeat with the cherry ice cream, adding the extract to it (if using). At serving time, slice and add a dollop of whipped cream to each portion. This recipe may be doubled.

— adapted from Denise Oliveri

POLPETTONE

(Italian Meatloaf)

1/3 cup bread crumbs
1/3 cup grated Romano or Parmesan cheese
1/3 cup water
1 clove garlic, pressed
1 tablespoon minced onion (or to taste)
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
2 eggs
1-1/2 pounds ground round steak
Onion salt (optional)
Worcestershire Sauce (optional)

Combine the crumbs, cheese and water. Add the seasonings and eggs and mix well. Add the meat and combine thoroughly with your hands. Shape into an oval loaf and place in a baking pan. Sprinkle with optional salt and Worcestershire. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 60 to 70 minutes. Let rest 10 minutes before slicing.

— Ann Sorrentino

VERDURE IN BRODO

(Broth with Greens)

1/2 cup small ditalini (see below)
1 large or 2 small heads escarole (see below)
3 tablespoons minced onion
Olive oil or butter
6 to 8 cups clear chicken or beef broth
Dash each: nutmeg, thyme
Black pepper (optional)
Grated Romano or Parmesan cheese

Any small pasta, such as tubetti or small shells, may be substituted for the ditalini. You

may use either escarole or flat-leaf endive for this dish.

Select fresh greens and separate the outer leaves, discarding any that are bruised or discolored. Cut into pieces. Cut the heart of the endive or escarole into wedges. Wash thoroughly and cook in a small amount of salted boiling water until just tender. Drain and set aside.

Sauté the onion in a small amount of oil or butter. Set aside. Cook the ditalini or other small pasta in salted water until al dente. Drain.

Heat the broth and add the greens, onions, pasta and seasonings. Heat through and serve very hot together with crusty bread. Pass the grated cheese.

— Ann Sorrentino

CONDIMENTO PER L'INSALATA

(Salad Dressing)

1/3 cup red wine vinegar
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
1/2 teaspoon onion salt
1 clove garlic, pressed
1/2 teaspoon basil
1/2 teaspoon oregano
Pepper to taste
1 cup olive oil

Stir all of the seasonings into the vinegar and mix until the salt is dissolved. Add the olive oil and mix well. Taste to correct the seasonings. Store in the refrigerator in a cruet or a covered jar. Shake very well before using.

VARIATION: Substitute 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar for the red wine vinegar.

— Ann Sorrentino

TONNO E FAGIOLI MARINATI

(Tuna and Bean Salad)

2 (15-ounce) cans cannellini beans
2 or 3 plum tomatoes
4 tablespoons chopped green onions
1 tablespoon chopped flat-leaf parsley
Condimento per l'insalata (see above)
1 clove garlic, pressed
1 (6-ounce) can tuna fillet in water
Chopped fresh basil (optional)

Drain the beans. Rinse them gently with cold water and drain again, very well. Cut the tomatoes in half, scoop out and discard the seeds, then dice into small pieces. Toss the beans with the diced tomatoes, chopped onions and parsley.

Prepare the salad dressing, adding the extra clove of garlic. Add some of the salad dressing to the beans to moisten. Drain the tuna, add it to the beans and toss again. At serving time add additional dressing and taste to correct seasonings. Refrigerate any unused dressing.

— Ann Sorrentino

SALSA ALLA MARINARA

(Meatless Tomato Sauce)

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 large carrot, finely chopped
2 stalks celery heart, finely chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 (28-ounce) can Italian plum tomatoes
2-3 cloves garlic, minced

(See Recipes on Page 46)

NEWSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 35)

But “The Hangover” allowed Cooper room to not only be funny in an ensemble alongside comedic heavyweights such as Zach Galifianakis (“Due Date”) and Ed Helms (“The Office”), it also let him flaunt his more female-friendly attributes — the hair, the blue eyes, the permanent five o’clock shadow. On screen, amid a circus of Vegas debauchery, a naked Asian man trapped in a trunk and Mike Tyson, was an actor effortlessly applying for movie star status ... and nailing the interview.

“In an industry that is desperately low on real nuts-and-bolts leading men, I don’t think it’s a surprise that Bradley has rocketed to the top of all the lists. Because he is that guy,” “A-Team” director Joe Carnahan told Details magazine.

But Cooper’s ascent to the top of the Hollywood food chain seems almost accidental. Even while shooting “The Hangover,” Cooper and his costars were surprised the studio was betting big on a summer comedy starring three guys who never headlined a single mainstream film in their careers.

“It was the first opportunity for all of us to do starring roles,” Cooper told GQ magazine. “I remember thinking, ‘When are the other actors who are the stars of the movie going to come and shoot their scenes? The whole movie about the three of us? That’s so f---ed up!’”

Although his big break came in comedy, Cooper always planned to be a dramatic actor. A graduate of the prestigious Actors Studio Drama School in New York City, he grew up idolizing fellow Italian-American thespian Robert De Niro. Most of his dramatic roles to date have been on television, including stints on “Alias” and “Jack & Bobby,” which makes his emergence as Hollywood’s go-to guy when you need hand-some and hilarious such a surprise.

“I’m not even funny at all,” Cooper told Details. “That’s what’s so ironic.”

But “Hangover” director Todd Phillips says Cooper’s success has more to do with the actor’s fearlessness — a staple of dramatic actors — than with his comedic timing.

“The key with any comic actor is the willingness to fail and make a fool of yourself,” Phillips told Details. “A lot of times, guys that look like Bradley think, ‘Ah, I don’t have to do that. I have this other thing.’ But Bradley doesn’t give a f---.”

Cooper, who is currently shooting a sequel to “The Hangover” in Thailand, is also making headlines of a tabloid variety thanks to his romantic relationship with actress Renee Zellweger (“Chicago”). Last Christmas, the duo hosted Cooper’s parents (his dad is Irish American and his mom is Italian American), and were famously spotted by paparazzi buying Italian delicacies at the Bay Cities Italian Deli in Santa Monica, Calif.

The actor has tried to keep his relationship with Zellweger out of the limelight, but he has cited his parents’ and grandparents’ successful marriages as an inspiration for keeping the romance alive in a relationship where both halves of a couple are fiercely independent.

“I grew up in a very old-fashioned Roman Catholic, Italian-Irish family in Philly,” Cooper told Us Weekly magazine. “Now my parents have evolved into completely different creatures, in terms of their marriage and the roles of the man and the woman. And I think that’s great, but it’s still romantic.”

Cooper is big on tradition, and often cites his Italian heritage as a major influence in his life. He learned to cook by watching his grandma Assunta create handmade pasta every Saturday while growing up, according to Details, and the actor would often spend his days wreaking havoc in the kitchen.

“He’d get up in the morning and make himself a huge breakfast,” Cooper’s sister, Holly, told Details. “Eat it, clean it up, start making something for lunch, pasta or stromboli, that he’d make himself. Then he’d clean that up and start working on a snack.”

For audiences and co-stars alike, Cooper’s off-screen behavior — humble, congenial, old-school — is at odds with his various onscreen personas.

“I expected Bradley to be more like his character in “The Hangover,” actor Sharlto

Copley, Cooper’s costar in “The A-Team,” told Details. “He’s still a guy. He’s got that man’s-man, I-like-football thing. But he’s way more gentle and has more heart than you might think watching him in some of his roles.”

Joe Carnahan, Cooper’s “A-Team” director, says it’s the actor’s commitment to his work and friends that makes him one of Hollywood’s good guys.

“Bradley’s one of the guys I’d go to war with,” Carnahan told Details. “If I’m in a bad way, I’m calling him, saying ‘Can you help me out?’”

FADO

(Continued from Page 35)

or meet the stylist who created the suit. With food, you can have a direct approach to the people who make the dishes. The recipe you see, you can actually meet the chef and try it.

FN — Why is Brindiamo! such a passion?

OF — In Italy we have so many shows and all the personalities from Dustin Hoffman to Julia Roberts have a place to go to promote their work. But Italian personalities coming to America have so few places, and few Americans may know them. So my goal is to give Italians a place to promote their art and the Italian lifestyle.

FN — I notice that you said “lifestyle,” not food.

OF — It’s not only about food. It’s a path to discover everything else. I’m sorry but if you are not Italian, you can’t create that atmosphere. It’s one of my issues. Restaurant owners who aren’t Italian can celebrate Italian food, but they can’t give you the Italian culture. Brindiamo! is more a celebration of how Italians immigrated here and what’s behind the dish.

FN — Tell us about “Brindiamo! The Movie.”

OF — To me the movie is visual and I do television, so I like visual. But I’m not going to play myself, so I’m going to be more distant. I want to do this movie for the same reason I want to do the television show: Food is food, and sometimes I think Americans give it too much importance. It’s natural and it’s beautiful, but it’s not everything. I want to show the real Italians. No one in American will think it’s romantic and cute; it’s being written with a filmmaker who’s also Italian. Julia Roberts going to Italy with a bed and breakfast and no hot water? No, no, no! We’re going to write a movie that says the truth about Italy as it is.

FN — So what do Americans expect from the Italian restaurants here?

OF — Americans have traveled so much to Italy that now they want the real thing. The first immigrants who arrived here brought “la cucina povera,” the poor people’s cuisine. They had to cook what they could afford; it was meatballs and Parmigiana, the cuisine of the South. Then you had people who arrived from culinary school, and they opened things up. It’s a lot different now, and it’s been a long process where 20 years ago, you couldn’t find as many good Italian restaurants as you can today. No way.

FN — How about Brindiamo! 20 years from now?

OF — I just want to grow and build; I don’t want to throw a big party and disappear in a year. I don’t want Brindiamo! to be trend; I want it to last a long time. It can’t just be a thing of the moment. I want to create a show that is international; I want to go around the world and discover Italians. We have so much to say; I’m going to London to do a show soon, because I discovered a chef there who is from Calabria and has a restaurant called Anima. I am 100 percent sure when we do shows in Japan, we’ll discover a different way of presenting Italian dishes to the Japanese public. That’s what’s fascinating: how Italians learn to adapt in presenting their culture while preserving it as well. That’s what I want it to be — Italians outside of Italy.

For more, visit www.brindiamotv.com.

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LOS ANGELES

(Continued from Page 35)

facility for permanent and traveling exhibits, lectures, film screenings, art showings and festivals.

The adjacent historical structures, which include the Avila Adobe Museum, Chinese American Museum and the Firehouse Museum, already welcome more than 2 million visitors annually, so the Italian American Museum is thinking big. Plans for interactive exhibits, multimedia presentations and an Internet-era approach to sharing information are in the works, and those bells and whistles have fueled the need for additional funding, Gatto says.

“In order to do that, we’re looking at raising more money than a 20th-century museum that’s more static and text-driven would require,” she says.

Although the physical space isn’t completed, Gatto and her team already have produced Italian-American-themed exhibitions for other institutions, including one titled “Sunshine and Struggle” that debuted in Los Angeles and has since traveled to the California State Capitol Museum in Sacramento and to Los Angeles’ San Pedro.

When the museum eventually opens, the Historic Italian Hall Foundation will have a vast and growing collection of historical artifacts to populate the space. Those include approximately 5,000 objects — comprising journals, maps, legal documents, artwork and personal belongings — and more than 2,000 extremely rare, one-of-a-kind photographs.

Plus, Gatto says the museum’s collection will be digitally catalogued, which means visitors can find out if they are a part of history by giving their surname and seeing if any artifacts can be traced back to their families.

It’s all part of the museum’s efforts to highlight how deep the city’s ethnic roots extend, Gatto says.

“Los Angeles today and pretty much throughout its history has been a multiethnic place, and the Italian American Museum will speak to that history,” she says.

That means the institution won’t be geared just toward Italian Americans curious about their heritage, Gatto says, but also will focus on capturing the attention of the wider populace and discovering some common cultural ground among the area’s diverse ethnic groups.

“The story of Italians, while it’s unique in many respects, is also the story of our nation and immigrants regardless of where they’re from,” she says. “This isn’t just an Italian pride museum.”

For more details, visit www.italianhall.org.

CINEMA

(Continued from Page 39)

and try to teach him how to play cards. It is a ridiculously funny movie that put both filmmakers on the map. Of course, Massimo Troisi went onto make the Oscar-winning “Il Postino” right before his untimely death in 1994. Benigni’s next hit was the 1991 film, “Johnny Stecchino,” which he wrote, directed and starred in. Benigni plays two roles in the film: a down-on-his-luck school bus driver and the town mobster whom he uncannily resembles. The film is brilliant on so many levels, showcasing Benigni’s impeccable comic timing and his razor-sharp screenwriting skills.

“And the Oscar goes to Roberto!” Those famous words were delivered by Sophia Loren at the 71st Annual Academy Awards ceremony in 1999. Benigni’s life changed forever with the mega-hit “La vita è bella” (Life Is Beautiful). The film is about the relationship between a Jewish father and son

during their internment in a Nazi concentration camp. Perhaps just as entertaining as the movie was Benigni’s enthusiasm at the 1999 Academy Awards ceremony. The film earned Oscars for Best Foreign Language Film, Best Actor in a Leading Role and Best Music, Original Dramatic Score. When Benigni accepted his second Oscar of the night, he said, “Thank you. This is a terrible mistake, because I used up all my English!” His appearance at the Oscars was so wacky and memorable, that the following year, when he announced the nominees for the Best Actress Award, Billy Crystal stood behind him with a large net to keep him in line!

After the international success of “Life Is Beautiful,” Benigni went on to make a big-budget version of Pinocchio and the wartime love story “The Tiger and the Snow.” Both films garnered their share of criticism but did little to harm Benigni’s enduring reputation. His most recent project is a new English translation and stage adaptation of Dante’s “Divine Comedy.”

Many of Benigni’s films are available through rental venues and Amazon.

SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from Page 39)

Palermo, Venice, Milan and many other Italian cities, and German and French museums also started paying attention to the group’s work.

The big leap forward came in 1991 thanks to an unfortunate incident. Late that year, a failed artist hit Michelangelo’s David on the left foot, chipping one of its toes. Italy and the whole world were shocked, but it gave Goppion the opportunity to design and produce the low glass fence that surrounds the gigantic statue today. When visiting the 17-foot statue in Florence’s Galleria dell’Accademia, visitors hardly notice the elegant barrier that prevents them from getting too close to Michelangelo’s masterpiece. That glass fence caught the attention of the world’s finest collections and most renowned museums. After the work in Florence, Goppion was called to produce the glass casings that would hold the precious jewels that have been in the British royal family for centuries. The showcases had to be perfect in every detail: Fifteen different case sizes, all made of shatterproof glass, with maximum-security locks and internal fiber optic lighting. Needless to say, when the new exposition was inaugurated in 1994, Her Majesty was quite satisfied with the casings.

In the 1990s, as the Laboratorio kept researching technological innovations to be applied to its showcases, the company started receiving dozens of orders from all over the world, including the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, the Byzantine and Christian Museum of Athens, Greece, the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. In 1999, Goppion’s workshop was entrusted with the new frame for one of Renaissance’s most sublime paintings, the “Lamentation Over the Dead Christ” of Andrea Mantegna, held at the Pinacoteca di Brera, in Milan. Three years later, Leonardo’s “Vitruvian Man” at the Gallerie dell’Accademia in Venice was given a new Goppion-signed home, too. The thin sheet paper on which the great Leonardo drew a perfectly proportioned man is now held inside a showcase of colorless laminated safety glass, with a top-hinged opening system. The showcase is not just a box. As with most of Goppion’s works, the container comes with microclimate control and a highly sophisticated dehumidifying and humidifying machine. A system of miniscule directional mirrors allows for the fiber optic lighting to be set in dozens of different ways.

Perhaps the most prestigious showcase made by Goppion so far is the Mona Lisa’s new home in the Louvre Museum, in Paris.

(Continued on the next page)

Curators at the French museum had long wanted the world-famous painting to stand alone while staying within the museum's Salle des États, or Room of the States. The chance to do so came in 2004, when the painting was given some "time off" for curatorial maintenance, recording and analysis. That's when Goppion was handed the task of designing and creating a glass framework that would make sure the painting remained safe at all times, but could also be rescued quickly in case a fire broke out in the museum. So in 2005, Leonardo's famous painting was given an entire wall constructed with a metal structure and veneered with plasterboard. At the center of the wall is a recess in which a rectangular glass casing holds the "Gioconda," as it is also known, and only the museum curators know how to open it. Regulated by a specially built humidifier, a complex system of small pipes and ventilators filters the air inside the casing, preventing dust or humidity from gathering on the painting's surface.

Now, with more than 300 expositions worldwide — the latest one being the new Art of the Americas wing at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts — showing off their masterpieces through the protective eye of a Laboratorio glasswork, Goppion is more active than ever, constantly refining both the protective and artistic aspects of his craft.

BELLO

(Continued from Page 39)

As with all dreams, mine started out small and then began to grow, just as I'm sure the dreams of my parents and grandparents did. I continue to challenge myself, questioning why my desire is to fulfill this dream at this stage of my life. Part of the drive that I feel can be attributed to pride in myself, pride in my family, but also, pride in my Italian heritage.

I would like to see a new practice of exchanging doctors between America and Italy. This would encourage and promote new experiences, both medically and personally, for doctors and patients alike. I would also like to create a new medical center in Southern Italy, where I can help the Italian people with our American medical expertise. I would also like to learn about new medical devices and surgical techniques used in Italy and throughout Europe. Many of these medical advances are not yet FDA approved in the United States. My dream includes bringing my skills and knowledge that I obtained in Italy back to Chicago so they can be used as soon as the medical advances become approved in America.

It saddens me that my parents and their friends are slowly departing from us, to return home to God. As they leave, they take with them a piece of our hearts. Their presence is no longer in our children's and our grandchildren's lives, but we must always remember to share memories of our fun-filled days with them. The familiar sound of broken English, so easily recognized when spoken throughout the Chicago area, will be silenced forever. This thought also drives me on my journey to fulfill my dream, of creating a medical center in Southern Italy. This center would have medical, social and other outreach programs to keep our Italian heritage alive. This dream will hopefully bring me to new places, allow me to meet new people, and provide enriching interactions that will continue to allow me to grow as a person.

I plan on expanding my eye care practice to treat patients with the best of each country's medical and surgical expertise, not only in my Chicago office, but in Southern Italy, as well. I am NOT retiring my eye care practice in Chicago, but rather, EXPANDING my practice to include Southern Italy. This is my personal challenge and desire to help "my people" (Italian and American) with the best medical and surgical advantages from each country.

I want to thank all of you for reading my articles over the past few months, and I appreciate those of you who have shared your own warm memories of your immigrant

parents and grandparents with me. My hope was to not only evoke a strong sense of cultural pride in all of you, but to motivate and help you restore your heritage and traditions before they become extinct.

Continue to dream out loud so others can hear and help you make your dreams come true.

Dr. John Bello is a Chicago ophthalmologist and founder of Advanced Vision Specialists.

VIAGGIO

(Continued from Page 41)

1917. He produced numerous portraits, especially of the Princess Elizabeth, her husband Prince Salvatore, and their three children. His works also leave us a precious record of the appearance of the interior of the palazzo and of the gardens that he helped design. In addition, he painted the couple's daughter Eleonora with her newborn son. She'd married Prince Francesco Massimi, a member of a Roman noble family that claims to trace its ancestry all the way back to Imperial Rome. Not a bad entrance into the nobility by the granddaughter of a lady from New York City.

Gai's paintings within the palazzo are mostly not to the taste of people today, but the majority of them are typical of the over-decorated, fussy style favored by wealthy individuals of the 19th and early 20th centuries in both Europe and America. Some seem unintentionally comical, such as the "Glory of the Brancaccio Family" — a ceiling painting in a pseudo-Baroque style full of clumsy figures flying and floating up into the sky. The inspiration was the fresco in the Grand Salon of Palazzo Barberini, painted by Pietro da Cortona in the 1600s, but Gai couldn't even begin to compete with the work of his great predecessor. Nonetheless, Gai was a cheerfully eclectic, uninhibited decorator who must have had a wonderful time going from room to room, covering the surfaces of each with an amazing variety of painted and sculpted decoration. Some rooms reflect a rather austere style, while others are Rococo confections full of flying cherubs. The room that was originally the Princess Brancaccio's bedroom is painted with scenes that feature the goddess Venus. Gai also designed elaborately decorated fireplaces, chimneys, cabinetry, mirror frames and even candlesticks.

During the early years of the 20th century the family seems to have fallen on hard times, and were obliged to rent out parts of their palazzo — not an unusual happening among members of the often cash-poor Roman nobility. Today, many of Rome's noble palazzos have sections that have been turned into apartments for which tenants pay outrageously high rents just so they can say they share a home with a "prince." From 1901 to 1905 George Meyer, the American ambassador to Italy, rented the first two floors of Palazzo Brancaccio, forcing the family to move into the upper stories. In subsequent years the palazzo hosted a variety of tenants, and numerous changes were made in the original decor.

Although Prince Salvatore Brancaccio died in 1924, his descendents continued to occupy a portion of the palazzo until 1961. The last family member to live there was Principessa Fernanda Brancaccio, the wife of Prince Salvatore's youngest son, Marcantonio. But a new chapter in the history of Palazzo Brancaccio was about to begin. In 1957, a decree of the President of the Republic founded Rome's first museum dedicated to non-Western art, which opened to the public in 1958 on the ground floor of Palazzo Brancaccio. The Museo dell'Arte Orientale contains an impressive collection of objects from Asia, India and the Middle East, ranging from pre-history through the present. Each object is identified with a label in both Italian and English. Between 1992 and 1994 the museum was renovated, removing many of the false walls and other impediments that had been part of the initial transformation of the palazzo's enormous salons and ballrooms into muse-

um spaces. The restoration also cleaned and restored some of Francesco Gai's original decorations, making the rooms themselves as interesting (at least to me) as the objects they contain.

Palazzo Brancaccio is so huge that even a good-sized museum doesn't fill up all its spaces. There's also a library specializing in Oriental art, a restoration laboratory, a photographic archive, another archive of other collections of Oriental art in Italy, a Department of Bio-archeology featuring electronic microscopes, and an Education Department. And if this weren't enough, there are rooms left over for commercial purposes. The splendid banquet hall of the original palazzo — where Princess Elizabeth and Prince Salvatore once famously hosted Umberto di Savoia, the King of Italy — is now available from a company called Società Roma Party as a rental for wedding receptions and other festive occasions both public and private. Another room is used as a restaurant and contains a kitchen also used for preparing the dinners held in the banquet hall. The Società Roma Party people claim that the original carpets, tapestries, crystal chandeliers, and silver service that belonged to the Brancaccio family are still used by their company for the grand events they host, but this seems somewhat doubtful, given the number of tenants who have tramped through the place in the last century. Still, it's pleasant to imagine a young Italian bride feeling like a Brancaccio

princess-for-a-day, as she presides over a reception in the same place once occupied by a young American girl who really did marry a prince.

RECIPES

(Continued from Page 44)

1/4 cup red wine
3/4 teaspoon basil
1/2 teaspoon oregano
1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
Black pepper to taste
1/2 teaspoon sugar, or to taste
1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Heat the oil in a skillet and sauté the carrot, celery and onion slowly, until they soften and begin to take on color. Stir frequently. Add the garlic and sauté for 2 or 3 minutes longer. Dice the tomatoes in small pieces. Add them to the skillet along with their juices. Add the wine and seasonings through the sugar. Cook, uncovered, until the liquid is reduced by half. Cover, reduce heat to lowest simmer and cook an additional 30 minutes. Stir in the optional cheese near the end of the cooking time.

— Dolores Sennebogen



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MID YEAR BOARD
AND
MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

Mark your calendars for March 24th-27th for the UNICO National Board Meeting. The event will take place in Kansas City at the InterContinental at the Plaza. You are encouraged to attend, participate and join the discussion!

This meeting will also include both the West and Mid-West Regional Meetings and various

national committees will meet to discuss business. One key part of the Mid Year Meeting is the selection of the winners for all of our convention awards. The UNICO Foundation will also convene to determine how we give away our charitable dollars. All members of UNICO are welcome to attend these meetings. Get involved in UNICO at the national level!



BOARD of DIRECTORS

Mid-Western & Western Regional

MEETINGS 2011

UNICO Registration Form

March 23 - 27, 2011

The Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza

Kansas City, MO

Member Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____
(If spouse is a member please complete a separate form)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail: _____

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

	UNICO Member	Spouse/Guests
FEES & CHARGES		
Registration <small>Includes Friday & Saturday Continental Breakfasts</small>	\$ 50	NA
Social Package <small>Includes Thursday Welcome Reception, Friday night reception, and Saturday Gala Marconi Award Dinner</small>	\$ 75	\$ 75
Total Amount	\$125	\$ 75

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

*****NOTE:** Registration Opens at 9 AM on Thursday, March 24, 2011
Meetings begin at 1 PM on Thursday, March 24, 2011

Completed forms and payment must be received no later than **Friday, March 4, 2011**

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

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

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MID-WESTERN & WESTERN REGIONAL

MEETINGS 2011

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

March 23 - 27, 2011

The Intercontinental Kansas City at the Plaza

401 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri 64112

Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card for the reservation to be processed and confirmed.

All reservations must be received at **The Intercontinental by Friday, February 18, 2011**

Reservations received after this date will be confirmed on a space available basis and may not be at the group rate!

Attendees **MUST** call 866-856-9717 to make room reservations - ask for **UNICO National-Board Meeting or Group Code UNICO**

Hotel Registration Information Needed When You Call

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Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Group Room Rate: \$129 + taxes (single or double) Non-Smoking Only

Room rate will be offered by Hotel three (3) days prior and three (3) days after the meeting dates, subject to availability of guest rooms at the time of reservation.

Credit Card required to hold reservation.
Deposits are only refundable for cancellations occurring up to two days prior to arrival.

*****NOTE:** Registration Opens at 9 AM on Thursday, March 24, 2011
Committee Meetings begin at 1 PM on Thursday, March 24, 2011

EASTERN REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETING SCRANTON PA



Sal Benvenuti, UNICO's Business Administrator at the Eastern Regional Meeting. Sal reviewed the efforts of the national office and answered questions from the floor. Sal is a true professional and is of great service to our organization!



Glenn and Terri Pettinato. Glenn is our current Executive Vice President and will be sworn in as President of UNICO National at his convention in Arlington, VA in August of 2011.



Mark McDade, UNICO's Membership and Retention Chairman at the Saturday morning meeting



Eastern Regional District Governor Chair (ERDGC) Dominick Nicastro and National First Vice President David Doninni. The photo was taken at a seminar class for District Governors.



PNP André DiMino, (L) and National President Chris DiMattio (R), flanked by Chris Macchio. Chris is our newest UNICO member and sings with the musical touring group Bell 'Aria. The photo was taken at Friday evening's casual dinner get-together in Scranton, PA.



Gene Santoli at the podium! Gene serves as the 2011 Convention Chairman and in the photo he is talking about our next UNICO National Convention. The event will be held in Arlington, VA at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel. Please visit the Convention website at www.2011UNICOconvention.org. President Chris DiMattio sits in the foreground concentrating on the presentation.



On Saturday morning, Eastern Regional District Governors met at the Hilton in Scranton, PA.



UNICO's new major sponsor, Campagna Mediterranean Classics, being introduced at the Saturday morning meeting. Campagna is headquartered in Salerno Italy and imports a wide variety of Mediterranean foods including olive oil and pasta.



Celeste Pandolfi waits patiently for her next sale of merchandise from the UNICO National Store. All items will also be on-line soon and available through the UNICO National Website. Wear the UNICO emblem proudly on your hats, shirts and ties!



At the Saturday Night Dinner, (L-R) PNP Mike D'Arminio and his wife Mae, and our National Third VP Rick D'Arminio and his wife Emanuela



Benvenuti in Scranton. Special thanks to the Scranton PA chapter for hosting the 2010 Eastern Regional Meeting