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MARCH 2014 · VOLUME 69 · ISSUE 03

UNICO National Continues to GROW!





"Service above *Self* "



MOZZARELLA MAKING Page 20

AN OLD-SCHOOL EASTER FEAST Page 24 ۲



THE CARUSO MEMORIAL CHAPEL



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The largest Italian American service organization in the United States

Italian & Italian American Heritage Calendar



UNICO National 2014 Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar

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DENVILLE, NJ

On February 8, 2014 the Denville Chapter held its 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Dinner Dance at the Hanover Manor in East Hanover. There were over 100 people in attendance including UNICO National President Michael Veselka. Each lady in attendance was presented with a long stem red rose when they entered the dance as a sign of love for this special holiday. Good time, excellent food and drink, beautiful music and great camaraderie were had by all, as we danced the night away. Special thanks to Denville Chapter members Denise Sabeh and Pat Strocchia for arranging and coordinating this romantic evening.



From left: Pat Pelonero, UNICO National Office Manager; Carmine Campanile, New Jersey District XI Governor; Joe Cardinale, Gino Lolacono, Michael Veselka, UNICO National President; Carol Cannata, Lou Mattaliano, Chapter President; Angela DiNapoli and John DiNapoli, UNICO Foundation President.

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Pat Pelonero, UNICO National Office Manager holding her red rose with UNICO National President Michael Veselka.



From left: Gino LoIacono, Fred Mongelli and Benny Catanzariti posing for the photographer.





Lou Mattaliano, Chapter President center with two future Denville members, Rich Mattalian left and Carl Mattaliano right.

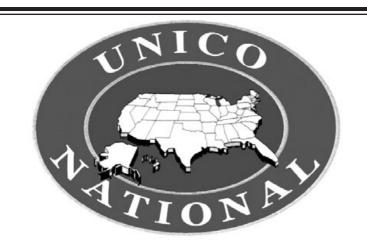


From left: Angela DiNapoli, Diane Lynch, Carmine Campanile, New Jersey District XI Governor and Pat Pelonero, UNICO National Office Manager, enjoying the dinner.



President Mike Veselka addressing the guests!

ComUNICO



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The Staff of the National Office is dedicated to serving our Members and Chapters! 973-808-0035 • UNICOnational@UNICO.org • www.UNICO.org

COVER PHOTOS

Top Main Photo: The Pequannock, New Jersey Chapter of UNICO National holds a Heritage Event. (Page 20)

Bottom Main Photo: Seven new members were installed into the Waterbury Chapter. These new members were recruited as a result of an Italian Heritage/Membership night. (Page 6)

Top Sidebar Photo: Pequannock, New Jersey Chapter member Garry Legregni demonstrates how to make mozzarella. (Page 20)

Bottom Sidebar Photo: Our Story-Korea: The Forgotten War. (Page 35)

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2013-2014 CALENDAR

Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting

March 28-29, 2014

Embassy Suites, Chicago, Illinois

Community Service Day

April 26-27, 2014

August 4-10, 2014

92nd Annual Convention

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Message from National President: Michael Veselka

The growth initiative is starting to work at a slow pace, but it is beginning to show progress. Through the efforts of our members we will preserve UNICO and continue to help the charities and students that depend on us. Please do your best to help UNICO.

I received an e-mail from a young man, Michael Bouselli, the President of the Happy Valley Chapter. Michael has tripled his membership since taking over as President with the help and encouragement of Past National Presidents Chris DiMattio and Joe Agresti. The future of UNICO depends on our youth. The last two chartered Chapters, St. Joe's and Manhattan are young and vibrant. Show how proud you are to be a UNICAN by asking your children and relatives to join.

Executive Director Andre' DiMino has put together a heritage night program that he has offered to present if your Chapter is willing to host the event. In order for the heritage night to be a success, the program must be followed exactly from start to finish. UNICO National intends to help the Chapter offset a portion of the cost of the event if the rules are followed. Please contact Andre' if you plan on holding a heritage event and he will walk you through it.

Along with the Vice Presidents, Executive Director and Office Manager, we have been pursuing different ideas to benefit the growth of UNICO. By the end of this year, each Chapter should have 501(c)(3) status. People and corporations would be able to deduct their charitable contributions to your Chapter. Your members would be able to deduct their membership fees, too. We are also looking to start a UNICO social media program where we can share information about fund-raising events and create a business and professional network. As a group we are also looking to provide benefits to help supplement the increased costs of your insurance.

On February 6th, I attended the Nutley Chapter's Scholarship Raffle Dinner Meeting. Pasquale Pisani delivered a personal invitation to me at the Columbus Day Parade in New York. He told me that it would be a wonderful evening and it was exactly that. I would like to thank Chapter President Phyllis Coldebella and all the members of the Nutley Chapter for making me feel right at home. At this meeting I met a father, son and grandson that are members of Nutley. They are Sal "Pops Cocco", Sal Cocco Jr. and Mike Cocco. We could use more of that throughout the country. I also sat with Anthony Malfitano, his son David and Marie and Bob Solimo. Thank you, Nutley.

February 8th, Treasurer Sam Prudente held the budget meeting for 2014-2015 at the National Office. Many thanks for our committee members for their participation. After the meeting the Vice Presidents, Andre', Pat Pelonero and I had a meeting focusing on the growth initiative.

The evening of February 8th, I was invited to the Denville Chapter's Valentine's Day Dinner Dance by Gino LoIacono and his wife Patty. I would like to thank Chapter President Lou Mattaliano and event Co-Chairs Denise Sabeh and Pat Strocchia. I received a Denville pin that evening from the Mayor of Denville, Tom Andes. He told me that his favorite restaurant in the Chicago area is Palermo's on 95th in Oak Lawn. I told the mayor that the Chicago South Chapter holds most of their meetings there. Thank you, Denville.

We look forward to seeing you at the Board of Directors meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rosemont on March 28th and 29th. Please make an effort to bring a new member into the UNICO family.



President Mike shows off his pizza making skills on a recent trip to New Jersey!

Nationwide

The Breakers, Palm Beach, Florida

EDITOR'S DESK



Editor's Comments: Pat Pelonero

As I look out the window of my office, all I see are mounds of snow and I wonder when this will all melt and become spring? I know it cannot be far away. As we were leaving to go home yesterday there was a Robin frolicking in the snow. For me this is always one of the first signs of spring and that Robin was a welcomed sight.

As for ComUNICO you will notice that this issue has fewer pages as events were changed, cancelled, or postponed. Much of the March content will be in the May issue and of course the Mid Year Board meeting will be held this month in Chicago, Illinois.

Although the weather was severe, the National Office "plowed along", pun intended. We need to find some humor in all of this. Executive Director Andre' DiMino and I looked into many programs to bolster fund-raising for the UNICO Foundation and promote the Italian Culture and Heritage. The first program which you will be hearing about is Affinity Banking through TD Bank. They have a unique way in which to code our member's accounts as UNICANS, so that we receive a benefit at the end of each year. This allows us to include all current, new and even business accounts. You will be getting much more information soon.

The second program is Jet Vacations. They are a tour group out of Hoboken, New Jersey with an office in Rome, Italy. After speaking with the representative, their product seems very affordable and noteworthy as they will do prepackaged or customized tours at rates which are far less than other tour groups and inclusive of airfare. Better yet, they came to us wanting to advertise in ComUNICO. We receive many calls from members wanting to know if we run tours to Italy, so we may try to put something together as a UNICO group tour. We will keep you posted as we determine what the interest of members would be. It seems to me we would have a lot of fun traveling to Italy and enjoying the historic sights and of course the food as a UNICO group.

I hope to see many of you at the Mid Year Board meeting where we will honor the Marconi Awardee and proceed with the business of UNICO. Until the next issue, stay well!

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Executive Vice President: Rick D'Arminio

UNICO has come a long way since its inception in 1922. Chapters centered most of their energy on raising funds to provide scholarships. Today, we have approximately 128 Chapters in 22 States who participate in providing Scholarships both on a National and local level and also are able to participate in our causes of Mental Health, Cooley's Anemia, Cancer Research, and various local causes such as Autism.

I am proud to be a member of UNICO since it gives us all an opportunity to live our Heritage and meet people from other states. Perhaps many of you, like me, lived with your Grandparents years ago? UNICO reminds me so much of them and the great experiences we had years ago which we continue to practice with our children.

UNICO affords us all the opportunity to be involved in various committees and if we choose to be an officer of our Chapter, District, or on a National level we can seize the opportunity if we so desire. We have committees that honor Italians in Sports, our Armed Services, and people who have contributed much to the betterment of mankind. We have volunteers who meet at the National Office and give of their time to prepare budgets, and strategize to come up with different ideas on how to better UNICO and serve those less fortunate while at the same time keeping the interests of our members in our minds.

While I am busy as Executive Vice President working with our many National Committees as we prepare for the Mid Year Board meeting in Chicago, I am looking forward to doing the business of UNICO as we begin preparations for the National Convention in August.

With all of the things I have said above we cannot accomplish them unless you as a member participate. Whether you may be a Chapter Officer, a District Officer, a delegate, etc. we need you to be there and participate on at least one committee. This is where we get much accomplished and your input is important.

I look forward to welcoming our new Chapter in Washington, DC and visiting other Chapters and Districts before the Convention.

I am proud to work with our National President Mike Veselka, and two other Vice Presidents in Ann Walko and Dominick Nicastro who truly care about the work we are engaged in and like me hope to keep UNICO strong for many years to come.

We can only do so with your assistance as a member. We are all members and all should have some input. Please allow us to help. Please be at our meetings and Conventions and express your concerns.



March 2014

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from First Vice President: Ann Walko

Looking through my inspirational quotes-I seem to keep getting ones that encourage change. This one by C. Joybell C. highlights what we have been advocating over the last few columns "we can't be afraid of change. You may feel very secure in the pond that you are in, but if you never venture out of it, you will never know that there is such a thing as an ocean, a sea. Holding onto something that is good for you now, may be the very reason why you don't have something better."

This quote indicates where we have been... slowly we are becoming Partners toward Progressbut we are not moving fast enough. This is the time for us to do two things: reflect on where we have been and what we have accomplished and look to our vision as to how we will accomplish the next phase of our work and how we are going to arrive at results-driven data.

COMMUNICATION is a key component to recording our successes as well as where we must improve if we are to remain a viable organization. Reporting is essential. We cannot help districts unless we have their input.

Our Mid-Year Meeting will be an active one and then we need to look forward to the Convention where you will again be involved in the business of our organization. Change will occur-be part of that process by your attendance and involvement at both important events. Let your voices be heard. You will set the pace for where we need to go as a service organization with guidelines as to how to get out of the pond. Change is good----it drives us into the direction that will make us stronger.

To get us through to completion of our Growth mission, we need the commitment of everyone. We need your pledge to maintain a line of communication with officers. We need your commitment to honor requests that will highlight our good work and show the country that we are the largest service organization in the United States. But that will not happen if you want to stay in the pond rather than reach the sea!

While we are moving to become Partners toward Progress and while we are trying to swim out of the pond and into the sea—continue to be the Patriots of Humanity. You are the catalysts for the common good...but let's tell the story of all you do to make life a little bit better for others through your hard work and generosity! Thank you for letting me share in your Service Above Self *efforts*. TOGETHER-we are going to get out of the pond and swim into the sea for a stronger UNICO! TOGETHER-we will *achieve more*. WE ARE-TEAM UNICO!

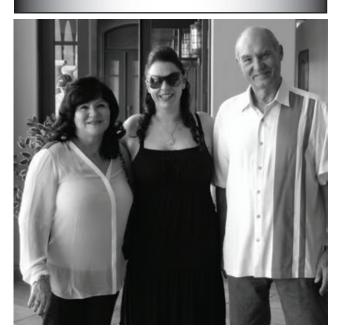
First Vice President Honored by the Boy Scouts of America

UNICO National First Vice President, Ann Walko, was recently honored by the Boy Scouts of America at the Baltusrol Country Club

ComUNICO

in Springfield, New Jersey at their Tribute to Women Award Luncheon. This annual event honors outstanding women who serve as exemplary role models for young people through their vocations or avocations and who live their lives according to the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. Walko was noted for her work for more than fifteen years as a member and as an officer of UNICO, the Civil Air Patrol and for garnering the highest awards leading to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol, her study in Homeland Security, involvement in scouting and international projects, and her work as an educator for more than 45 years at Kean University both as an administrator and member of the faculty in the School of Education.

SAN DIEGO, CA



The San Diego Chapter sponsored a Wine Tasting trip to the Temecula valley located about one hour north of San Diego. A party bus transported the UNICANs and friends to three wineries where fun was had by all. From left: Patty Mical, Valeri Orsini and Ben Mical.



The Group at the Thornton Winery.

Scholarship Deadlines

All completed Scholarship Applications are due to the National Office by May 1, 2014. Please make sure all applications are complete by reviewing the Chapter Check List before sending them to the National Office.

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SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Second Vice President: Dominick Nicastro

I hope to see a lot of District Governors, Chapter Presidents, and Delegates at the Mid-Year Board meeting in Chicago in March. This very important meeting needs to have representation.

In order to achieve change, to have things passed in our Constitution, we need your support. Please everyone, we must start to pull together on all levels from fund-raisers through National meetings. Change cannot occur if we do not start with ourselves and put the effort in - your participation is key.

Membership is crucial. Our President, Mike Veselka, along with the entire Executive Committee is working hard to do a nationwide UNICO membership drive. We need participation from District Governors, Chapter Presidents and members. It is a lot of work, but together we can make it happen. Please get involved.

We also must retain current members. It is up to Chapter Presidents to get these members involved and feel welcome. District Governors, we need you to oversee the Chapter Presidents and assist them in any way.

Many Italian Americans out there do not know anything about UNICO. That is why we are trying this nationwide initiative. Some examples to recruit: put an ad in a local paper and/or Church bulletin. Post flyers in the library, deli, coffee shop super markets, drug stores, pizzerias, a favorite restaurant, cleaners, etc. I am sure if you frequent some establishments, they would not mind. Who knows, you might even sign the owners up! It does not hurt to try.

I apologize if I am being repetitive, but in years to come as our membership ages, we need to have people to carry on the great work that those before us have done and keep us UNITED.

My job as your Second National Vice President is to help the Chapters, their Presidents and Secretaries. I took that oath this past summer and I promise all of you if you let me know what help you may need, I will get your problem addressed and fixed if possible. My e-mail and home phone number are in the directory.

At your Chapter meeting, always take care of UNICO business first, but make it a fun time, too. Delegate work to your Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretaries. Let them speak at your meetings, too. Everyone should have a voice. While I made my visits and phone calls these past few months, these were some of the suggestions that were given to me from various people to make a successful Chapter. If you try to make it on the order of your Sunday dinner with your family you will get a lot of respect and work done. We are the best Italian American Organization.

We are a UNITED family -- unique and one of a kind. Be proud and spread the word to come join us. I have always believed this since I joined UNICO. Everyone stay well. I hope to see you in Chicago and in Palm Beach, Florida at the Breakers Hotel Convention. We will have a great time. God Bless





Scholarship Director: Joan Tidona

Appreciation

"Thank you for these multiple scholarship opportunities. It's really hard to afford college with today's costs and economy. I am very grateful for the people and organizations, like UNICO, that take time to do this for us."

Along with her request for scholarship information about our undergraduate program, a young student named Andi expressed sincere appreciation for the chance to participate. I assured Andi I would share her comment with our members.

The financial outlay for higher education continues to spiral. Not only do students and their families struggle with the cost of tuition, they face additional expenses such as books, housing and everyday necessities. Consequently, UNICO scholarships are valued and highly sought after.

As Italian Americans, we fully understand that education is an essential investment in the future. We recognize and respect the far-reaching, life changing empowerment education offers. We know that as we help talented young people to realize their aspirations, we also benefit society by enabling our recipients to become exceptional, contributing adults.

Scholarships have been a UNICO priority since our very beginning. Dr. Vastola and the founding members were committed to assisting deserving young students. We continue this purpose today. Designated our "number one project," the tradition of providing aid to worthy scholars has greatly expanded through the years. Member dedication to this principle is clearly evident. Virtually every Chapter offers local scholarships, as do many Districts. Our National program is outstanding and continues to grow.

Newly established National scholarships are fully underwritten by our patrons. Older programs are funded with interest generated by the corpus account, supplemented by donations. Owing to careful investments and Chapter support, we have been able to avoid invading the corpus to finance our programs. This was not always the case. To ensure our continued success, all Chapters are asked to contribute to the National Scholarship Program. Do what you can, but please do something.

As we offer young students scholarship opportunities, we invest in the future. And our efforts are recognized and greatly appreciated.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The UNICO Foundation is pleased to offer doctoral scholarships to assist candidates pursuing PhD degrees in science, music or Mediterranean history/archaeology. These excellent programs have been established through the generous support of UNICO member Ralph Torraco. We recognize Ralph's exceptional commitment to promoting higher education; we especially appreciate his decision to do so through UNICO.

Offerings include:

Louise Torraco Memorial Scholarships
 for a Doctorate in Science

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

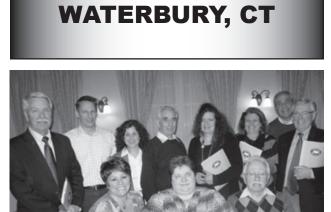
• <u>Ralph J. Torraco Doctoral Scholarships</u> <u>for the Study of Ancient Mediterranean</u> <u>History/Archaeology</u>

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students enrolled as PhD candidates pursuing study of the history and/or archaeology of ancient Mediterranean cultures. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

Ralph J. Torraco Doctoral Scholarships for Music Study

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

Mille grazie to National Vice President Dr. Ann Walko and Dr. William Connell for their tremendous help in developing the doctoral applications.



Seven new members were installed into the Waterbury Chapter at their January Dinner Meeting which was also the Connecticut District I meeting. These new members were recruited as a result of an Italian Heritage/Membership night conducted by the Chapter in October. Front row from left: National Membership and Retention Director Francine Nido, Chapter President Joanne D'Angelo and District Governor Tony Lancia. Back row from left: new members Frank Lifrieri, Ken Lamberti, Lia Orsini, Saverio Romanelli, Mary Ann Sagnello, Clare Nardiello George, Ronald Vitarelli and Chapter Membership Chairman Bob Gerace.



MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION



Membership and Retention Director: Francine Nido

In church last Sunday, the topic of my priest's homily was the importance of Jesus' statement of "follow me". He explained that those words were not so much a summons as they were a promise of trust, protection and care. While the words expressed extended an invitation to join, the personal message behind them emitted a sense of hope and comfort. Think about it, when you ask for directions and people give them to you....you feel somewhat confident that they are correct. But if someone says "follow me"....you are secure in knowing that you will get to where you need to go and that this person cares enough to ensure your safety.

As always, I take my "Sunday Message" and relate it to my personal life. Immediately I thought of UNICO and how we are constantly looking for people to join UNICO. And I realized that our simple requests are deeper than just words....we are asking people to trust, believe and support UNICO. So therefore, our words and actions need to give sustenance to our invitations.

Basically, this is how membership attraction and retention works best. It is very easy to follow steps and suggestions to recruit and retain UNICO members. It is simple to hand out a flyer, host an event, refer to the website or encourage them to read a magazine. However, as good and as detailed the information is, NOTHING is better than a personal invitation, connection and follow-through. In a time when e-mails and texts have replaced handwritten notes and phone calls, it is important to keep those personal interactions in tact. People need to feel that they are wanted, valued and appreciated.

There must be a balance of progressive marketing tactics and traditional personal contact. So hold an event, but be sure to say hello to everyone there. Send an application/brochure, then call or visit to follow-up. Individually welcome and thank a new member. Make an effort to reach out to someone you think would be a productive member of our UNICO family. Think about what made you join UNICO and share that passion, memory and experience with someone else. No man's an island.....it is up to each UNICAN to personally reach out, make the effort and invite people to "follow us".

As always, I am available to talk to you about ways to attract and retain new members. You can reach me at 203.510.0276 or unicodoll@gmail. com.



CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



Chaplain's Message: Fr. Bob Wolfee

No one likes to face awkward moments or confrontation, but there are situations that require making hard decisions or confronting people even though we know we will be ridiculed or rejected. However, we cannot be ruled by fear because it can prevent us from being the kind of person we want to be. We cannot be afraid to stand up for what we know in our hearts is just and right.

Jesus taught his disciples not to remain silent in the face of evil because remaining silent allows evil to spread. He prepared them for the challenges that lay ahead. He knew that their lives would not be easy because the message they would preach was counter-cultural. Following his example, they would tell people to love their enemies, to offer their other cheek to those who would strike them and to give their riches to those who did not have anything. Those were not popular notions then and still are not. Jesus told them to expect rejection, criticism and persecution. We can expect the same.

Jesus reassured his disciples and reassures us that God watches over us and takes care of us. He pledges never to abandon us, no matter what trials or ordeals come our way. Jeremiah knew that. He suffered greatly because he was a prophet. His message met with resistance from both the political and the religious officials of his day. Even his friends turned against him. However, he was never deterred from his commitment. He found courage, knowing that the Lord was always with him. Confident that God would intervene, Jeremiah remained steadfast in the face of bitter persecution.

Jeremiah was not afraid to say what he was thinking, even when he was praying. He loved God enough to tell him honestly what he thought and what he felt. God was never bothered by that and continued to help Jeremiah. That should be encouraging for us.

Like Jeremiah, we are called to evangelize and spread our Lord's teachings. Sometimes, that means being put in situations where we have to speak out about things that must be changed. We do not always like to do that. We do not always have the courage to be truthful. Sometimes, we would rather hide in the safety of silence than face conflict.

Jesus asks us to think about our fears. Who do we fear the most? Are we willing to sacrifice doing the right thing or speaking the truth because we fear losing someone's friendship or love? Which do we fear more: risking our salvation or facing the hassles in this world? Jesus tells us that we should not be afraid. He assures us that we are under the loving protection of a God who cares for every hair are on our head.

God bless



BRIDGEPORT, CT



On January 28, the Chapter installed four new members at its first meeting of the New Year at Ralph & Rich's Restaurant in Bridgeport and bolstered its membership to 49. The new members pictured from left Angela Vincenzi, Rozanne Lancia and Lisa Gallucci (Lucille DeNardo was absent). Welcome ladies and thanks for your enthusiasm!



On Sunday, February 2, the Bridgeport Chapter celebrated its fifth annual Super Bowl Party at Circolo Sportivo; 75 people were in attendance. The game lacked luster, but a good time was had by all. Thanks to all of our helpers that assisted with decorating, the raffles and the cooking. Special thanks to Sylvester Nicolia for fixing the audio/visual problems, to Anna Rodrigues for her great job with the raffle and to some junior UNICANs (Danny, Anthony and Vincent Bartoli) who helped wherever it was needed. From left were members of the prep team: Gino, Mario, Anthony, Perry, Maurizio, Joe and Dan.



Lastly, the Chapter had a rustic rabbit dinner meeting at Massimo's Restaurant in Bridgeport. That evening members brought food and clothing for our end of year drive; also discussed were potential donations for a Sandy Hook Memorial to be built at St. Margaret's Shine in Bridgeport, Connecticut.



March 2014

CLARK, NJ



From left: Bill Hearon, Ed Danbury, President of Raritan Valley; George, Union Chapter; Joe Almeida, President of Union and Antonio Leone.



Clark Chapter members enjoy the dinner and presentation from My Italian Family at the Annual New Year Kickoff meeting at Bistro 1051 owned by UNICO member Mike Savvis. From left: Anna Pace, Fran Parisi, Tom and Natalie Belverio, Jill Curran and Chris DiBiasi.



The guest speaker invited to the New Year Kickoff meeting was Bianca and Bill Ottone from My Italian Family, Searching Your Roots in Italy.



District Governor Courtney Villani swears in five new Clark Members at their recent Annual New Year Kick off meeting. Welcome – Chris DiBiasi, Tom Belverio, Vincent and Anna Pace and Vinnie Amato.





LOS ANGELES, CA



The Los Angeles Chapter held a Pasta and The Rat Pack Dinner to raise money for a local teen youth center. We sold out and had over 200 in attendance. Deanna Donnini collected tickets from attendees.



Past National President David M. Donnini and Dino.



Larry Guidi (L) presented a check to Jan Vogel of SWIB for his teen youth center.



Featured entertainment, Dean Martin impersonator, Steve Waddington.



Entertainers Steve Waddington and Susan Ritter.



Chefs Bob Marsalla and Silvio Serrapica.





Point Pleasant Beach Super Bowl Pool Chair Carl Johnson explains the team chart to newly installed member Lenore Millan with committee members Rich Canale, John Pusterla and Charlie Brema.



Point Pleasant Members had fun while learning body parts in Italian. ACES leader Marena Lobosco led Youth and new members DonnaMaria Diaz and Louis Rendemonti along with President Debbie Vaccaro in a game of "Simon Dice" (Simon Says) at a recent dinner meeting.



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March 2014

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

Greater Binghamton had to look no further than in its membership for their January guest lecturer, Charter member Maria Pezzuti. Maria is also the Administrative Director in the Department of Public Archaeology at Binghamton University. Maria gave an interesting and informative presentation on the Walking Tour of Endicott's Historic Little Italy. Maria noted that the project is concentrated on an area bordered by Odell Avenue, Oak Hill Avenue, Jenkins Street, and Watson Blvd. Six properties were included in the initial research:

- The Concordia Building
- Municipal Parking Lot-127-129 Oak Hill Avenue
- George W. Johnson Recreational Park
 Carousel
- Sons of Italy Building
- St. Anthony of Padua Church

For more information and/or self-guided tours, visit the website at cap.binghamton.edu./ site-tours. Also of interest, several members of the Chapter participated in researching the above sites. Their research and explorations aided in the development of this project, one that can be preserved and handed down for generations. The

smile on Mama Pezzuti's face, was the smile of a



Back row from left: Lisa Carluci and Grace Pezzuti. Front row from left: Maria Pezzuti, Anna "Mama" Pezzuti, and Katie Whalen.



Greater Binghamton UNICO is truly a family oriented Chapter, the Gioia Family is one example. Here we have three generations of UNICO Members: from left: Youth Member Samantha Behlog, Samantha's mother Diana Behlog, and proud grandparents and parents Don and Joyce Gioia.





Greater Binghamton UNICO member Dr. Francis Battisti is in the news. Dr. Battisti, SUNY Broome Community College's Executive Vice President, was recently promoted to the rank of State University of New York Distinguished Service Professor, and inducted into the ranks of the SUNY Distinguished Academy. The Distinguished Service Professorship award is one of the highest honors that can be conferred upon faculty members of SUNY Colleges. It is granted to exceptional individuals who go "above-and-beyond" their job-requirements and who apply their intellect and scholarly research to suggest solutions to public problems. It is also important that they have solid reputations for serving their campus, state and nation. Members of Greater Binghamton salute Dr. Battisti in his continuance of "Service Above Self."

GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA

The last few months of the year are the busiest time for the Greater Philadelphia Chapter. In addition to holding its largest fund-raiser, the Man of the Year Dinner, it also conducted two substantial charitable events.

On November 16, 2013, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter honored Daniel DiLella. Mr. DiLella is the CEO of Equus Capital Partners, Ltd., a national real estate development company. Along with Mr. DiLella's professional accomplishments, Dan is also a generous donor to many Catholic charities such as Villanova University and Roman Catholic High School, both of which he attended. Over 150 people ate, danced, laughed and bid on auction items to help raise over \$60,000 for local charities, and many Philadelphians in need.

On November 23rd, over 150 full Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to armed service personnel and local families, who otherwise might not have had a Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner included turkey, stuffing, bread, several side dishes and dessert. In returns, the recipients' offered hugs and thank you to our brothers. No doubt, all bellies were full this Thanksgiving.

In December, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter accompanied 150 inner city children shopping for Christmas gifts for their families. The day started with breakfast at the Philadelphia Independence Center. From there, the children were driven to Target where they each received \$150 towards Christmas gifts. Afterwards, the children were taken back to the Independence Center where they were again well fed and entertained by clowns and mummers. They also had their pictures taken with Santa and had help wrapping their presents.

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter takes enormous pride in helping those who fall between the cracks that larger charities cannot fill. We do so quietly and respectfully. Our Chapter takes great pride in giving back to those who need a hand, in the hopes that someday, they will, in turn, do the same.





Many years ago, the Chapter planted a beautiful blue spruce evergreen tree in front of our local church that was decorated by one of the original planters who continued this tradition on his own. As the tree grew bigger and our UNICAN grew older, the tree "fell off our radar screen". When it was brought to our attention, we formed a committee to decorate the tree. We also asked the pastor if we could add a Christmas sign from UNICO in front of our tree and he agreed. The pastor was a bit surprised at wording but approved its placement. On the ladder from top to bottom: Mike DeAngelus, Al Branchi and Al Anthony.



Livingston UNICO's Santa Claus was delivered to the Gazebo in the middle of the town oval by our Fire Department's Fire Engine with sirens blasting and light flashing to the thrill of our town's youngsters. Our Santa, Richard Rafanello, greeted over 75 children who braved the snow and cold weather to receive gifts. Hot chocolate was provided to the children and their parents by elves from left: Matt LaDolcetta, Nick Santinelli, Al Branchi and Margaret LaDolcetta.



March 2014

ComUNICO



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MICHELE AT: gem6@verizon.net

DR. M. ANN WALKO



FOR EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT-2014



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March 2014



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March 2014

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BAYONNE, NJ



The Bayonne Chapter sponsored a Halloween party for the adult disability day camp in Bayonne.



The Bayonne Chapter served Thanksgiving dinners to 400 seniors and families in Bayonne. Additional sponsors of the event included Bayonne Community Bank and the Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation.



Presents of clothes and toys are distributed to needy families.



Former Middleweight Champ of the World Vito Antuofermo, a guest at recent meeting in Bayonne, is pictured with 2013 officers.

2014 ComUNICO DEADLINES:

(DEADLINES WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO.)

FARMINGTON, CT

The New Year has brought three new members to our Chapter. Bob Fiondella, Steve Nestico and Beth Sticca were installed at the January meeting. We are looking forward to upcoming events which will include "Taste of Tuscany", a wine tasting event, and our Annual Golf Tournament in June which has been dedicated to a very special member of our Chapter, Joe Filomeno. We are preparing for the annual presentation of scholarships to high school graduates and grants to community youth groups and service organizations.



From left: John Caruso swears in new members Steve Nestico, Bob Fiondella and Beth Sticca.



From left: John Caruso looks on as Steve Nestico, Bob Fiondella and Beth Sticca are welcomed as new members by President Frank Dolce.

ROSETO, PA



Adrienne McKinney pays close attention during her installation into the Roseto Chapter while her sponsor Michelle Donatelli Walakonis looks on. The ceremony was conducted by Chapter President Frank DeFrank and Joe Danubio.

<u>ISSUE:</u> MAY, 2014 JULY, 2014 SEPTEMBER, 2014 NOVEMBER, 2014 JANUARY, 2015

ComUNICO

PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

POINT PLEASANT BEACH NEW MEMBERS

Ten new members were installed alongside new Youth members at a recent dinner meeting of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter. Special guests for the evening were UNICO National Second Vice President Dominick Nicastro and his wife Alina. In addition, fourteen members of the ACES Chapter attended along with their leader Marena Lobosco. District Governor Alan Floria and Immediate Past District Governor Grace Gynn performed the swearing in ceremonies at The White Sands Hotel Main Ballroom. Although the Chapter lost many members last year through dislocation or loss of homes due to Hurricane Sandy, the membership committee was able to attract several new members to the group.



Point Pleasant Beach New Members are joined by National Officers, Chapter Officers and Trustees at Installation Ceremony.

NEWBURGH, NY



Christmas 2013 was a brighter day for patients of St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital when Chapter President Vincenzo Napolitano and Antonella Lazar visited the Pediatric and Emergency Room units bearing gifts. The many smiles, especially from the little ones, made it a very rewarding day! From left: Antonella Lazar and Lisa Skinger, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital. Kneeling: President Vincenzo Napolitano.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014 MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014 MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014 MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2014 MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

Since our last report, here is what has been happening with the Rockaway Township Chapter.

Matt Mustachio went to the UNICO National Open House in Fairfield in December and met with Michael Veselka, UNICO National President.

We held our First Annual Rockaway Township UNICO Christmas Party on December 28th at the Hanover Manor. In attendance were 72 people, including members from UNICO National and other Chapters. The food (comprised of appetizers, buffet meal, wine, beer, soda and dessert) was very good.

Some attendees brought homemade Italian cookies with recipes. Kathy Quinn has offered to prepare a digital Italian Cookie Cookbook from these and send it out to everyone. Anyone who has a good recipe for Italian cookies, please send to Kathy by February 28th. We had live music entertainment by members of *The 1910 Fruitgum Company* (including our own Frank Jeckell). The music was terrific and enjoyed by all. Before you knew it, everyone was on the floor dancing to the music.

We saw a 12 minute film titled "Growing Up Italian in America" which was enjoyed by all. There were many door prizes (consisting of restaurant gift cards, watches, cosmetic basket, homemade wine, calculators, a cash register, etc), and an auction was conducted on our behalf on a few high end items by UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino for an expensive watch, a digital camera and a digital calculator. In addition, we installed six members (three members who had already joined... Chrissy Quinn, Deyna Jeckell and Jackie Baeder, and three new members...John LaValle, Kathleen LaValle and Greg DePaolo.)

All in all, the party was a lot of fun and we even raised some money for our budget!



Members and guests gather for a picture!



The 1910 Fruitgum Company!

March 2014



Party guests enjoy the music and conversation.



Guests enjoy time of the dance floor!

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

Well, this cold and snowy northeast winter has all of us thinking spring and the pleasant balminess that accompanies it. Despite the immoderate weather season, the members of our Greater Atlantic City Chapter are moving ahead with our spring and summer schedule of social and fund-raising activities.

One of most anticipated events is our Annual Pasta Dinner to be held at St. James' Memorial Hall in Ventnor, New Jersey on Sunday, April 27. A special feature of this year's dinner will be a "Best Meatball Contest". All those who believe that their meatballs are better than anyone's are invited to enter. (Of course, Atlantic City Chapter member "braggadoccio" is rampant. Several of our members have said that we just might as well go ahead and have their names etched on the first place trophy. We'll see.). Totally impartial judges for this event will include area chefs, civic leaders and everyday folks. The meatball champion will receive a \$500 cash prize and a trophy. Runner ups will receive trophies. With a large Italian American population in our region and many outstanding restaurants, we expect the competition to be fierce.

Other Chapter events in the planning stages include a Wine/Beer Tasting and Membership Drive, our Person of the Year Dinner and our Golf Tournament. As word gets out and excitement grows for those fund-raising events, our hopes for accruing significant funds for our Scholarship and humanitarian programs can be actualized. We are a proud and energized Chapter. Everything our Chapter does has one primary focus in mind raising funds to help those in need.

Ciao!

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

ComUNICO

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY



From left: Greater Binghamton members Don Adams, Laurie Adams, Angela Carro and Frank Carro start the New Year off right by attending the January 2014 Chapter meeting!



Donna Carlini and Jean DeSio: Just saying.... "Girls just wanna have fun" and what a better place to have fun than at a Chapter Meeting!!



From left: Greater Binghamton UNICO member Robert Stacconi and daughter Bonni Stacconi Phelps. Papa Stacconi beamed with pride at the Chapter Meeting. His daughter Bonni, owner of Baked Euphoria, was recently featured on the Bakery Boss with Buddy Valastro. Members have known what the world now knows, her Desserts are DELISH. We have been so fortunate to have Bonni supply her Baked Euphoria Desserts to our monthly meetings. So if you are ever in the area, be sure to stop at Baked Euphoria. You won't be disappointed!

OUR STORY



Past National Presidents Joe Agresti and John Alati are shown wearing the Bronze Medals they won at the Corrado's Wine Tasting competition. From over 60 competitors in the blend category, their wine took third place.

WESTWOOD, NJ

Westwood UNICO Holds First Italian Dinner and Game Night

On January 27, 2014, UNICO's Westwood Chapter held an educational cultural event to introduce its members and their friends to the experience of playing traditional Italian games. The event, held at Bella Campania Ristorante in Hillsdale, was the idea of member Frank Pizzella. With the cooperation of restaurant chef/owner Chris Tarta, over 32 members and friends of the Chapter took over the restaurant on a day that it is normally closed to the public, were served a wonderful Italian dinner, and were taught the basics of Tombola and Scopa. The first is an Italian game similar in some ways to American bingo, but with a higher level of excitement and socialization. Scopa is an Italian card game played with the traditional 40 card Italian deck involving both luck and strategy. For most of the attendees, this was either their first encounter with these games, or brought back distant memories. Frank met with several members a week earlier in a "train-the-trainers" session. To further embellish the experience, Frank and his wife Dina (who is the Treasurer for the Chapter) made some traditional Italian drinks during the evening for sampling by the attendees. The event was so thoroughly enjoyed by the attendees that there may be a run on Scopa playing cards on the internet!!! The Chapter hopes to hold other cultural events like this in the future.



Members prepare for the event!





President Nick Grillo (third from left) along with Jersey City Chapter representatives presents a \$2,500 check to Concordia Learning Center at St. Joseph's School for the Blind. This donation was realized through profits from the Chapters Annual Pig Roast, which was held in October.

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LODI, NJ

The Lodi Chapter held their January meeting at The Brownstone in Paterson. President Vincent Leto (r) welcomed guests UNICO National Second Vice President Dominick Nicastro and New Jersey District VII Governor Elyse Buonomo.



UNICO National Second Vice President Dominick Nicastro and New Jersey District VII Governor Elyse Buonomo are pictured with members of the Lodi Chapter.



For January, Livingston had a Heritage Meeting that was attended by almost 50 people to hear Richard Muti speak about his Italian Heritage and read passages from his new book "Essays for my Father" He is pictured being thanked by President, Al Branchi, for an outstanding talk that was well appreciated by all. Richard is a charter member and Past President of the Greater Ramsey Chapter as well as past prosecutor and Mayor of the town. He provided glimpses to his Italian American Heritage, being raised in a suburban town that at the time, had limited ethnic presence. His parents instilled in him the work ethic and drive that resulted in his graduating the Naval Academy as an aviator; received a Master's Degree in Business from Harvard and a law degree from Rutger's University. He is an adjunct professor at several local colleges and an accomplished author with over 100 publications to his credit.



Al Branchi is joined by new members installed at the January meeting.

PEQUANNOCK, NJ

Pequannock Member, Frank Elefante, publishes book "Angels All Around Me"

After a five year culmination of labor and love, Lincoln Park resident and Pequannock Chapter member, Frank Elefante published his first book entitled "Angels All Around Me".

While attending to his late wife Vivian's belongings, Frank discovered three books that his wife had purchased prior to her death all with the same title, "Grandmother's Memories to her Grandchild". Unfortunately Vivian was too ill to finish what she intended so Frank was then inspired to complete her message.

Within the book, Frank speaks about his life experiences and journey with Vivian, his father's travels from Italy and early life settling in New York City and the many stories growing up and raising his family with his wife Vivian.

Recently, Frank has been busy talking about his book at local events and has shared some of the storytelling to the audience with his son Joe. After his invite from the Lincoln Park Library, Frank was supported by a standing room only venue at the Pequannock Library. Frank is also looking forward to his next travels and continuing to fill the room with laughter as he reminisces about his years growing up and the sometimes mischievous adventures with his childhood friends. Both events closed with Frank signing his personal message to each book purchased by the audience attendees.

Frank has been a long time member of the Pequannock Chapter and has dedicated the proceeds from his book sales to the Chapter and their charity organizations.

If you would like a copy of Franks' book, please inquire by visiting the Pequannock Chapter website at www.pequannockunico.org.





OUR STORY

GOD'S DOING A EULOGY FOR TONI ALONGI PAST FIRST LADY OF UNICO NATIONAL BY PAUL ALONGI PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

I always marvel about how life has worked out for me. When I was young and relatively poor, I thought that there never would be a day when I could have the basic material staples like food, clothes, spending money in my everyday life. Never could I ever have envisioned that I would have a career, a beautiful wife of fifty seven years, two beautiful children and the treasures of our being, six lovely grand children. I firmly believe in my case that God had a hand for if it wasn't for his doing, we could not have made it from point one to present.

What is extremely unbelievable is that my father told my mother in law that someday these two would be married. Both my mother and her mother worked together at my Aunt Rosie's sewing shop. My father used to walk me to the shop to meet my mother and she would come with her sisters to meet her mother who only worked one year in her lifetime and that was it. We were only six and lived in different towns. Ten years later, unknown to our parents, we would meet each other at a sweet sixteen birthday party for my friend's cousin unaware of what my father had predicted. God managed to put us next to each other and "spin the bottle" took over from there. That ignited the spark in our romance. But four months later she told me that it was over and I was devastated totally.

I then started my campaign to win her back, not with her but with God. Everyday I would go to church, pray, light a candle and ask God to bring us together once more. All the time I remembered my father's prediction and it was not coming through. I couldn't believe it. Finally, after six months I gave up and went out to play the field.

A year and a half later she came looking for me. She was seated in the back seat of a 1951 Black Chevrolet Convertible. My future brother in law and her sister were up front. They asked me to jump in and so I did. From that time we were together for life. All God's Doing.

After our marriage, we were blessed with two children. They were born on the same day, three years apart. It was the twenty first of the month. Our house number for the last forty seven years has been number twenty one. Our lot number is nineteen. Five of our grand children were born on the nineteenth of the month, all different months. One was at 11:59 pm and just made it. The youngest was born on the twentieth, eight hours from the nineteenth. All God's doing

When my wife died just recently, I thought about all the evolutions, good experiences and yes, many obstacles that threatened our happiness. When we were first married, my father died unexpectedly. We had to support my mother and two younger siblings. Thus we inherited a ready made family and that was followed by my going to law school at night. Both of us worked two jobs during those years and not once did she complain about the cards she had been dealt. Despite it all, we manage to make it through fifty seven years with a positive effect on our family, church and community at large. She became a spokeswoman for St. Theresa the Little Flower with all who would listen to her. Toni had gone to her home in France and became a disciple thereafter. Her belief was so strong that she would light a candle for anyone who needed help and also lent her St. Theresa medal to anyone facing surgery or some hard time. Somehow it always worked out. All God's doing.

This was a very significant graduation from the very shy girl I married to a widely respected person who affected many lives because of her devotion and love. I credit our transformation from the streets of Newark for myself and Toni's ability to interact with anyone after our joining UNICO, an Italian American Service Organization some fifty seven years ago. That was also God's doing because I was asked to play center field for the Bloomfield UNICO softball team and we joined as an afterthought. Toni joined the Auxiliary where she served as President for a couple of years and later became one of the first female members of UNICO National.

Now we were part of society and fulfilling our destiny by serving others in need. That became our mantra and money became secondary. But the reward was that our lives were enhanced totally. The privilege of being National President and First Lady was our pinnacle. This was God's doing again.

When I led the Capital Campaign for our church, our Monsignor took us both aside and pointed to the window of Mary, the Queen of the Universe. He proclaimed that to be our window for life because we were directly facing it from our seats of some forty years. From that day on, we would pray to the window. God answered by his doing.

We emerged from point one to now only because he intervened and made it possible to claim the treasure he always planned for us to discover. Our loving children, Paul and Kim, Gina and Tommy and six beautiful grandchildren, Kara, age 17, Ryan, 15, Matthew and Michael, twins, 12, Jack, 11 and Eric, 6.

Toni passed, but truly satisfied that she was loved by all. She actually told me that before going to the hospital for her sixteenth surgery "I'm not coming back from this one but I can't complain for God has given me a lot to be happy about". I told her that she was being silly thinking like this because the operation was same day surgery and relatively minor. My reasoning was because she had been so resilient and vibrant after all her illnesses that she was able to lead a normal life without complaints. We always expected her to come back without an effect.

Finally, I remember her being in Intensive Care, not able to speak and just staring at us with tears in her eyes as all my grandchildren took turns holding her hand and comforting her. All were remembering how they wanted to sleep with her when they visited, how she used to stroke Kara's hair and rub the boys back to put them to sleep. I am positive as they looked at her, they remembered how she kissed and held them close to her heart. We all felt that way and Toni understood as she took her last breath. All God's doing.



PEQUANNOCK, NJ

Pequannock Chapter Continues Holiday Donations

Since the inception of Pequannock UNICO in 1988, hundreds of people, organizations, and individual charities have been the recipients of our Chapter's fundraising efforts which total in excess of \$300,000.

Each year, Pequannock UNICO Charities donate thousands of dollars to those in need in our surrounding communities as well as educational scholarships for our students and grants for other service organizations.

This past Holiday season, Pequannock UNICO was busy again supporting the local food banks, missions, and churches and were seen at multiple venues delivering their donations personally.



Seen here is Pequannock Chapter President Bob Diana (L) with Lincoln Park Town Council members donating a check for the local Food Pantry.

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

KEYSTONE, PA



The Keystone Chapter is conducting an extensive Flea Market and Bake Sale. This event will be held indoors in the Villa Maria Banquet Room at 1610 Washburn Street, West Scranton on Saturday, March 22nd.

ComUNICO

BOOK REVIEW

Angel's All Around Me by Frank Elefante Book Review

In *Angel's All Around Me*, Frank Elefante, a member of the Pequannock, New Jersey Chapter of UNICO, writes a heart warming book in which he pays tribute to the influential people that have contributed to his life story. These "angels", as he refers to them, have taught him many lessons along the way and were there to help him cope during challenging times. Written in a storytelling narrative, each Chapter is a personal account of his experiences in which he acknowledges the "angels" that have surrounded him throughout his life.

Elefante's book is filled with fond stories that include his parents and their life in New York City after emigrating from Italy; his wife, Vivian, and their children along with some of the challenges they faced; and the many events that shaped his life. The book has special touches that include many family photos along with letters by Santa and poems written by Elefante.

This book has you smiling at some of the adventures along with some laughter. It is an enjoyable, entertaining book that makes you think about all the "angels" in your own life!



Book Reviewed by Tony Arabia

I, Michelangelo, Sculptor by Irving Stone



This is a wonderful 1964 paperback of the famous artist's 400 personal letters sent to family, popes, debtors and creditors over 67 years and eight Popes!

Obviously, not a traditional book by the artist, Irving Stone compiled this work from the artist's writings which included his poetry. In all this he reveals great secrets about his life except his homosexuality. He did not enjoy at all painting the Sistine Chapel ceiling. He lamented the shoulder, back and neck pains, the many migraine headaches he suffered from lying on his back in painting the ceiling in a lonely, but lovely effort.

Stone's other great book, "The Agony and the Ecstasy" starred Charlton Heston in the film version. You will be learning about The Quattrocento (400) the artistic styles of early Renaissance and his lifetime (1475-1564) works, including his Pieta and David if you read this book and other books about this great Italian genius. Find them at your fine local library. ENJOY! Growing Up in the Butcher Shop by: Joseph C. DeFranco Book Review



This book was an insight as how Italians that emigrated from Italy worked hard for a living and managed to instill and pass on their pride and work ethic to their children and families.

They also were steeped in the traditions of their home land and lived those traditions with their family, friends and communities in which they lived.

Joseph C. DeFranco is very proud of his heritage and family that his love of them shows in every story he shared through the book. The reader can tell that he wants to keep the history and traditions alive and does so by carrying on as his forefathers showed him how to do.

Growing Up in the Butcher Shop is a delightful book of stories that I think most Italian families can relate to and will enjoy the many memories that are reminiscent of their own family lives as they were too growing up.

WESTFIELD, NJ



At the Westfield Chapter's 20th Annual Pig Roast Vinny Spira (right), Emcee of the event; awards Anthony Bengivenga (left), Westfield Chapter President the first place plaque in the Annual Homemade Wine Tasting Contest for Anthony's 2011 Cabernet Reserve. Over 220 members and guests attended this year's event.



Greatest help, Italian style, in the kitchen at the 20th Annual Westfield Pig Roast. On left is Maria Valles, wife of Tony Valles (committee Chairman of the Pig Roast). On Right is Gina DeFabio, wife of member Jerry DeFabio.



John Chiesa (standing) serves up some antipasto to his table of 26 guests at the Westfield Chapter 20th Annual Pig Roast.



Preparing the many trays of cut pig for the ovens in the kitchen are on left, John Palazzola and on right, Dan McGrath ...getting ready for the 20th Annual Pig Roast. The Pig Roast is one of Westfield Chapter's biggest fund-raisers.



Members of Westfield, Union and Garfield Chapters participate in the Rockaway Chapter's first Christmas party. From left: Mike Colucci, Deanna DeMarco, Ann Walko, UNICO National First Vice President; Rachel and Anthony Bengivenga, President of Westfield Chapter; Joe Almeida, President of the Union Chapter; Bob Tarte and Violet and her husband Al Focarino, President of Garfield the Chapter.



Westfield UNICANS Ann Walko and son Michael were pleased to share their Outstanding Performance Citations from the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the Unites States Air Force with Ralph Contini, Manuela and Rick D'Arminio and Anthony Bengivenga. Both Ann and son Mike completed their duty stations as Inspector Generals for the New Jersey Wing and Group 225 respectively. They were responsible for the monitoring of 1/3 of the squadrons in the New Jersey Wing which is housed at McGuire AFB.

ComUNICO

AP ITALIAN STRATEGIC PLAN

Advanced Placement Italian

The efforts to increase participation in the AP Italian exam have been remarkably successful as reflected in the 2013 data. The number of student taking the exam has risen to 1980. However this number still falls short of the 2500 students needed by 2015-2016 to continue the program.

UNICO National and the other Italian and Italian American organizations have worked very hard and spent a good deal of money to get this program reinstated. It would be a shame to lose this program that is so important to our culture and heritage. To that end, below is a list of recommends that can be followed to help increase the number of students taking the AP Italian exam.

- Instructors and courses: Need more courses of Italian. In order to do this, besides direct contacts with principals, superintendents and other school authorities, funding and certified teachers are essential.
- In order to obtain additional funding, there must be a new campaign geared at raising awareness among Italian and Italian American associations, organizations and companies. Each of these, in particular the larger ones, could "adopt a course, a school, or a teacher".
- Scholarships could be offered for participation in courses organized by the CB or other institutions, on the teaching of AP Italian, giving priority to those teachers without prior AP experience.
- Recognize teachers who get the greatest number of students to register for the AP Italian exam, as well as those whose students obtain the highest scores on the AP Italian exam by presenting them with a cash award or an official recognition at the appropriate Consulate or at the Embassy.
- Students could meet with principals of schools offering Italian courses, but not at the AP level, and ask for their support in opening new AP level courses.
- Inform teachers of non-AP Italian courses, as well as of the international schools that do not offer AP Italian that Italian students, or students of Italian descent, can take the AP Italian exam without having taken a specific course.
- Inform families, students and teachers that students, who take AP Italian together with two other AP courses, can matriculate at an Italian university to pursue their university studies.
- Cover the registration fee for the AP Italian exam (\$89) for needy students.

Please visit www.usspeaksitalian.org for additional insights and information.

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



HILLSIDE, NJ

Hillside UNICO honors fellow Chapter member Donald DeAugustine on his installation as the community's new Council President. DeAugustine was presented with a gavel and sounding block inscribed with the UNICO motto: "Service Above Self". Members pictured at the January re-organization meeting are from left: Jude DeLane, Deputy Fire Chief; Doug Ferrigno, Fire Chief; Dom Naples, Glen Volturo, Don DeAugustine, Chapter President Angelo Bonanno, Lena Bonanno, Angela Lawler and Bill Pellettiere.

KANSAS CITY, MO

Up To Date in Kansas City

Plans are well underway as the Kansas City Chapter moves forward developing ideas to enhance Festa Italiana 2014.

The three day event will be held for the ninth consecutive year at Zona Rosa, an upscale shopping and living development offering the ideal venue with its Italian style architecture and interesting variety of shops and theatre. The Festa annually attracts over 109,000 visitors during the three day event beginning May 30 and running through June 1st.

Kansas City Chapter was pleased and honored to welcome so many UNICANS visiting from out of town Chapters in 2013, including current National President Mike Veselka, 2013 National President David Donnini and old friends Chris DiMattio, and Andre' DiMino, both former National Presidents.

Festa Italiana is the Kansas City Chapter's largest single fund-raiser, providing \$55,000 in scholarship awards (2013) presented to the most deserving area high school graduates to help them attend college. The special awards and scholarship presentations will take place at 2:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon on the main stage.

Authentic Italian food, beverages and live entertainment will be featured continuously throughout the day and into the evening.

Featured nationally prominent entertainers include a return appearance of The Bronx Wanderers, Louis Prima Jr., and renowned musician Joseph Vincelli. Marking his first Festa performance is the great international Italian tenor Micheal Castaldo. Another popular event is the Auto Show featuring numerous exotic Italian automobiles. The entire event is planned, staffed, and carried out by a diversely talented Chapter all volunteer membership.



Joseph Vincelli, renowned musician and jazz saxophonist, will be a featured performer on Friday, May 30th Festa Italiana.



Luxury sport cars such as this Lamborghini will be on view at our Festa Italiana's Italian Car Show.



\$55,000 was awarded to the above scholarship recipients at a special ceremony at the 2013 Festa Italiana.

The DEADLINE for the May Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, April 7, 2014 Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: comunico@unico.org.

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

HERITAGE AND CULTURE



Heritage and Culture Chair: Sal Mangano

The History and Tradition of Easter in ITALY



The historic event that decided when we celebrate Easter in the Catholic tradition was the First Nicean Council of Christian Bishops in 325 A. D. Roman Emperor, Constantine, convened this council in Nicaea which is a part of Turkey. It was here that the decision was made to celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon to rise after the Spring Equinox. Unless the first full moon also rose on a Sunday, in which case Easter would be celebrated the Sunday after that. Wow, I hope you understand that because I am not sure I do. Anyway, let's continue.

For over 1600 years, we have continued to mark the celebration of Easter based on these calculations.

Although Carnevale officially starts in January and lasts up until Ash Wednesday, the last three days before lent are especially festive. Carnevale is best compared to Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras or Martedi Grasso

Pancakes are a traditional Shrove Tuesday feast food in Italy. Older Church Doctrines decreed that Catholics give up more than meat dishes for Lent. Eggs, milk and even fats were also restricted for the observant. Because Shrove Tuesday is the last day that people could spoil themselves until Easter, Pancakes soon became a traditional Food for the feast. There was also a practical reason for it. The people needed to use the dairy products and fats so they wouldn't go to waste, the same as meat, because for the next 40 days they were fasting from these foods. The refrigerator freezer would not be invented for centuries, but the tradition continues.

Lent (Quaresima) marks the forty days of fast and abstinence before Easter. Lent is also marked with the feast of St. Joseph (La Festa Di San Giuseppe) on March 19TH and Palm Sunday (Domenica della Palme). On Palm Sunday, many Churches in Italy still follow the tradition of having the priest knock three times from the outside of the Church doors to symbolize Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Holy Friday or Good Friday as it is known here in America (Venerdi Santo) is often marked in the churches with a ritual of washing the feet, with the priest symbolizing the role of Jesus and twelve church members symbolizing the role of the Apostles.

Easter Sunday begins with a bang in Florence, quite literally. The three hundred year old traditional "Explosion of the Carte" (Scoppio del Carro) has roots in the pagan ritual of ensuring a good harvest. Today it is considered a spreader of good luck for the city of Florence.

Traditional Easter meals vary from region to region, but eggs and roasted Lamb are common staples everywhere. Eggs represent life, fertility and renewal. These are all essential symbols of Easter. Dyed eggs grace many tables and they are found in soups and in the traditional Easter pie (Torta Pasqualina).

Roasted lamb is the symbol of birth and the Shepherd. Chocolate bunnies are not common in Italy but beautifully decorated chocolate eggs are a traditional Easter treat and gift.

The official Easter cake is the Easter Dove (Colomba) that represents peace. Pizza Rustica, Pizza Gaina, Pastiera di Grana, Pastiera di Riso etc. are all Easter specialties from the Southern part of Italy. One of the more exotic desserts of Easter is the Neapolitan, Sanguinaccio (Chocolate Blood pudding made with pigs blood & hazelnuts).

Easter Monday, also known as Little Easter (Pasquetta) is also an official Italian Holiday. It is often spent enjoying the spring weather with family and friends at picnics. The "Racing of the Egg" (Palio dell'Uovo) is a traditional Easter Monday game in the town of Tredozio in the Emilia-Romagna region. In Barano d' Ischia, a traditional Island dance called the "Festa della Ndrezzata takes place on the same day.

So, as in all Italian holidays, Easter is a lengthy holy and festive time in Italy with much praying, eating and merriness. Italians are certainly a people who love to party. We should be proud to call ourselves Italian Americans.

Buona Pasqua

Gathered from various Internet sites. Adapted and submitted by Salvatore J. Mangano, PNP.



At the January meeting, members celebrated a belated Christmas Party due to its original Christmas Party, which was scheduled for December, had been postponed twice due to inclement weather. The Christmas Party meal consisted of a dinner buffet of delicious Italian foods catered by Roseanna Crisci, owner of Roseanna's Restaurant and member of the Bethlehem Chapter. An array of homemade desserts completed the meal. Members socialized after the meal and everyone enjoyed the Christmas Party.



Bethlehem Chapter members enjoy their belated Christmas Party.

Italian Proverbs & Folk Sayings (from www.italyrevisited.org)

In Italian: A tavola non si invecchia. In English: At the table with good friends and family you do not become old.

In Italian: Troppi cuochi guastano la cucina. In English: Too many cooks spoil the broth.

In Italian: Non si fanno frittate senza rompere le uova.

In English: (Literally) You can't make an omelet without breaking eggs. (Meaning) You have to take action, if you want to bring about change.

In Italian: Non si vive di solo pane. In English: One does not live by bread alone.

In Italian: Amici e vini sono meglio vecchie. In English: Friends and wine are best aged.

In Italian: Nel vino la verita. In English: In wine, the truth.

In Italian: Amor di madre, amore senza limiti. In English: A mother's love has no limits.

In Italian: Chi si volta, e chi si gira, sempre a casa va finire.

In English: No matter where you go or turn, you will always end up at home.

In Italian: Per un orecchio entra e per l'atro esce. In English: In one ear and out the other.

In Italian: Giovane ozioso, vecchio bisognoso. In English: If you're lazy when you're young, you'll be poor when you're old.

In Italian: Dai nemici mi guardo io, dagli amici mi guardi id dio.

In English: I can protect myself from my enemies, may God protect me from my friends.

In Italian: Dimmi chi pratichi e ti diru chi sei. In English: (Literally) Tell me who you hang out with, and I will tell you who you are. (Meaning) You're friends become your family, so pick them wisely.

"V" FOUNDATION

Just to inform all that this year's \$50,000 Memorial Grant in the name of Susan Speciale will be for Lung Cancer Research. Lung cancer is the largest diagnosed form of cancer with the least amount of research monies.

Grant:

Timothy F. Burns, M.D., Ph..D. University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Targeting KRAS Mutant Lung Adenocercinoma through inhibition of TWIST 1.

Please continue your support of our National Charities.

UNICO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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

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

JANUARY

BAYONNE JOSEPH SCERBO

CLIFFSIDE PARK CLAIRE CAPOZZI

FARMINGTON ROBERT J. FIONDELLA STEVEN NESTICO

GARFIELD MICHAEL JAMES SULLIVAN

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY FLORENCE DALESSIO GREG DE DOMENICIS DONALD PALMER JOANN PALMER

GREATER HARTFORD MARIE A. BONELLI NORINE DE ROCCO ANNA SINATRO

GREATER PHILADELPHIA GREGORY DELLA PIA

HACKENSACK JASON SOME

KANSAS CITY THOMAS J. GREENWOOD

MONTVILLE REV. MARK A. OLENOWSKI DANIELLE M. SPECIALE

NORTH SHORE SR. CAMILLE D'ARIENZO

PASSAIC/CLIFTON ROBERT B. PULEO

PORTLAND LINDA MORELLI

QUEENSBORO JACK CALIENDO CHRISTOPHER PERANZO

SADDLE BROOK GIUSEPPE D'AMBROSIO ERIC M. NASELLO **SECAUCUS** NANCY GERARDI ROSE MARIE NELSON JOSEPH RANIERI

SPARTA

JOHN W. CAMPBELL JR. ANDREW COOK CARMEN FERRANTE JR. JOSEPH GARSETTI RONALD C. PONDISCIO JR. TONY TORRE

ST. JOES HS MONTVALE JUDI BECKMEYER BARRY DONNELLY DAVID TRIGLIA JANE TRIGLIA

ST. JOES HS MONTVALE-ACES MATTHEW MITCHELL

WATERBURY CLARE NARDIELLO GEORGE FRANK R. LIFRIERI SAVERIO ROMANELLI MARY ANN SAGNELLA CONCETTA SCARFONE LIA URSINI

WAYNE MICHAEL J. FALSO JOHN GAZDA PETE LEVA SHAWN O'HAGAN

WETHERSFIELD PAUL F. MONTINIERI



BAYONNE ROCCO DI ANTONIO

CEDAR GROVE JOHN IPPOLITO

CHICAGO W SUBURBAN

MARK BIANCHI MICHAEL D'ANGELO EMILIO DI CESARE DAN MOYNIHAN MATT MOYNIHAN TONY PUGLIESE

CLARK CHRIS DI BIASI CARRIE VELOTTI RICHARD VELOTTI

DELMARVA MARY M. CATANIA

GARFIELD CIRO GIUSEPPE RANDAZZO

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY VICTOR PLUMBO JOHN RUSSO

GREATER PHILADELPHIA ROBERT FLACCO JR.

HACKENSACK HELEN CONSIGLIO

HILLSBOROUGH MAX CAPRAROLA

DANIELLE M. DI PAOLA

ORANGE / W ORANGE EUGENE LA ROCHE

QUEENSBORO ALPHONSE GENTILE

SAYRE MATTHEW TALADA



SCRANTON ANN C. BENJAMIN ROBERT L. BENJAMIN II MARIA LYNN BOLAND SEAN ROBERT BOLAND GAETANA CACCIAMANI DOLORES CALABRO MARLENE CHIAVACCI ROSEMARIE CUTTITTA MARK DESTEFANO MARCEL LISI DAVID LUBAKAS THOMAS N. PYERON JR. TERRI SALLO DAVID SCALZO JR.

SECAUCUS FATIN NESHEIWAT

SOLANO MIA ANTOINETTE HORN

SOUTHINGTON WILLIAM KOWALEWSKI RICH SEGRETO JR. ANTHONY TARFANO

SPARTA LEONARD GIRARDO JOSEPH MORREALE





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PEQUANNOCK, NJ HERITAGE EVENT

Pequannock Chapter starts off 2014 with Annual Heritage and Membership Event.

Recently, the Pequannock Chapter started off their 2014 calendar year with an extended Heritage Event and membership campaign featuring traditional Italian foods and desserts mixed with live Italian music and Italian Heritage discussions led by Andre' DiMino.

Throughout the day, the event was attended by over 100 people who participated in learning about Italian culture, sampling the widespread selection of foods and desserts and singing Italian songs led by John Quatrone. In addition, Gary Legregni displayed to the hungry crowd the art of making mozzarella as Chapter members provided samples to the onlookers. Recent publisher Frank Elefante was busy discussing the inspiration for his book "Angels All Around Me" with the proceeds from the book sales donated back to the Chapter.

The event was chaired by Nick Cetani and members of the Membership Committee and Rocco Sellitti of the Chapter's Heritage Committee. Food tastings were provided by the Chapter's members and all had a wonderful time.

This year celebrates Pequannock UNICO's 25th Anniversary and based on the attendance and response, the Chapter will continue to add new members and continue to support the community with "Service Above Self"

Thank you to all who attended including members from UNICO National.



Members and guests enjoy an array of homemade food.



From left: Nick Cetani, Past National President Andre' DiMino, Eastern Regional District Governor Perry Russo and Chapter President Bob Diana.









Tom Bellas and Bob Diana welcome guests!



Sam Ciresi shows his artwork to Andre' DiMino.



Mozzarella making!







Perry Russo and Dan Leva chat with a guest.



John Quatrone plays traditional Italian Folk Songs for the attendees.



Frank Enfante discusses his book "Angels All Around Me" with guests.

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March 2014

SCRANTON, PA UNICAN OF THE YEAR

The Scranton Chapter held its 55th Annual Charity Ball on February 2, 2014. With great pride, the Scranton Chapter presented its highest honor to an outstanding member of our community, a woman who exemplifies leadership and grace, the "UNICAN of the Year" award was presented to Palma Yanni, the first female President of the Scranton Chapter. The program included Reverend Philip Altavilla, Chapter Chaplain; Joseph Agresti, Past National President; Ashley Yando, Frank Castellano, Andre' DiMino, Executive Director; Peter Cognetti, Deacon Robert Sheils, Lisa Bieri, Joe Guido, Dave Bieri, Scranton Chapter President; and Palma and Pat Yanni's son Anthony Yanni served as Toastmaster. Over 250 guests attended the event held at Fiorelli's and music was provided by THE POETS.



From left: Rose Cuttitti, Bonnie Blasé, Joyce Lomma and Patti Montalbano. Standing Lisa Bieri and Mary Marrara.



The Charity Ball Committee.



From left: Andre' DiMino, Executive Director, UNICO National; Dave Bieri, Scranton Chapter President; Lisa Bieri, Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Pat Yanni, Palma Yanni, UNICAN of the Year; Joe Guido and Anthony Yanni.



The Yanni Family

ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ SPORT'S BREAKFAST



Members of the West Orange High School Group 4 State Champion Soccer Team.



From left: John DiNapoli, UNICO National First Vice President Ann Walko and Frank Paolercio.



From left: Robert Parisi, Tony Vecchio and Anthony Vecchio.



Ben Spinelli (r), a 48 year member of the Chapter and the creator of the Sports Awards Breakfast, forty years ago, receives recognition for this great event. Making the presentation is his son, Ben Jr.



From left: Ben Spinelli, Frank DeMaio, Chapter President; Mayor Robert Parisi, Ed Lucas, Speaker; Mrs. Lucas, and UNICO National First Vice President Ann Walko.



From left: John DiNapoli, Frank Paolercio, Ben Spinelli, Speaker Ed Lucas and his wife, UNICO National First Vice President Ann Walko and Chapter President Frank DeMaio.





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FRANK J. GUARINI: Soon to turn 90, the former U.S. representative remains a force among national Italian-American leaders.

LOU&A by Louis R. Carlozo

National treasure

If any Italian American deserves the title of titan — for his contributions to politics, public service and rebuilding the proud city he was born and raised in — it must be former U.S. Rep. Frank J. Guarini, D-N.J. The congressman turns 90 on Aug. 20, but you'd be hard pressed to keep up with him if you were half his age — or a third, for that matter.

A raconteur and man of razor-sharp intellect, Guarini stays on top of current events as if he were still in Congress, keeping a very active schedule from his law office in Jersey City, N.J., where the local post office is named in his honor. The town is much more than his lifelong home — his family has a rich history there going back several generations.

Long before he entered the political (See Lou&A on Page 28)

NEWSMAKERS Sweet Latin beat

by Nicola Orichuia

sesión cubana."

Zucchero "Sugar" Fornaciari could easily lead a life of ease and comfort, dishing out records with minimum effort while enjoying the countryside surrounding his Tuscan farm. Instead, after more than 30 years of success, the Bologna native keeps digging into his musical soul, researching and refining his talent for composing catchy rock 'n' roll riffs and harmonious melodies. His latest experiment took him all the way across the Atlantic to Cuba, where he spent several weeks in 2012 performing while recording his album "La

"Let me start by saying that this is in no way an album of Latin music," Zucchero tells us in an exclusive interview. In fact, the album is a mix of past hits and covers, all spiced up with a paella of Caribbean flavors. "Some of my old songs already had that vibe to them." This reference is to songs such as "Baila," from the 2001 album "Shake," and "Cuba Libre," from the 2006 album "Fly." "Other songs were rearranged in a way I didn't think possible, like 'Così Celeste.' It was a beau-*(See Newsmakers on Page 28)*



ZUCCHERO: He traveled to Cuba to perform and record for several weeks, and he returned to his Tuscan farmland a changed man.

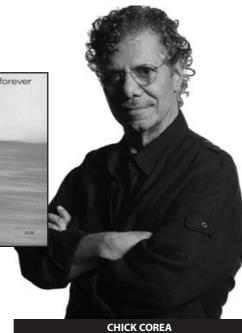
MUSIC REVIEW Jazz trendsetter

He is one of the most important jazz pianists and composers of the latter half of the 20th century, playing with Miles Davis and Stan Getz, and working with Al Di Meola to launch the jazz fusion movement. Nominated for 59 Grammy Awards, he has won 20, including Best Instrumental Composition and Best Jazz

Instrumental Solo at the 2013 ceremony. Before he was a

Bugle Corps.

"My father, Armando, was my guide into the music world," Corea



by David Witter

told All About Jazz Magazine. "He taught me to read music and play some tunes on the piano. He also introduced me to the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Bud Powell and many others in the '40s by constantly playing their records. I also played a lot of dance and wedding gigs with my father, where I learned many of the standard songs."

After studying with local piano master Salvatore Sullo, Corea traveled to New York in the mid-1960s. Stints with Cal Tjader and Blue Mitchell led to a 1967 tour with Stan Getz, a figure in the cool jazz movement and a leader of the bossa nova craze. Corea's next major gig was with another jazz legend, Miles Davis. "Tony Williams called me and said Miles wanted me to come and play with the band in Baltimore," Corea said. "I called Miles and asked him if there was going to be a rehearsal, and he said 'No, just play what you hear.' That set the stage for two years of some of the most exciting (See Music Review on Page 29)

superstar, Chick Corea was the son of an Italian-American musician and grandson of a Sicilian-American shoemaker, with roots in Chelsea, Mass., that reach back three generations. A

trumpeter, composer and arranger who led a 10-piece band in Boston in the '20s and '30s, his father bought Corea a piano at the age of 4, and got him his first gigs with a local festa band, the St. Rose Drum and



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LIBRI Second chance at greatness

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Writers

Afterlife

The

You might know Richard Vetere through his poetry, plays, films or novels, but no matter the venue, he's a true storyteller, who

takes you into a world that's familiar but always shows you that world in unfamiliar ways. His latest effort is a novel that wrestles life out of death to tell a story that's one of his best.

"The Writers' Afterlife" tells the tale of Tom Chillo, a novelist, screenwriter, playwright and poet who dies before he can achieve the fame of which he has always dreamed. Chillo forsakes most of what we mortals chase on our ways to the end of the road; he steadfastly dedicates his

time and energy to his writing, avoiding all that might take his eye off the written page. Along the way, he achieves success, but not enough to earn a place in the same afterlife as the greats he studied and emulated throughout his life.

Dying at the age of 44 from a stroke, Chillo is carried dreamlike into a great beyond reserved only for artists. Guided by Joe, a minor artist from history, Chillo is taken first on a tour of the writers' hereafter, where he rubs shoulders with Eternals such as Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, Franz Kafka, Eugene O'Neill, Charles Bukowski and John Fante.

Those who don't make it to the place reserved for the Eternals are relegated either

to the realm of the famous but now forgotten, or The Valley of Those on the Verge, which is where Chillo finds himself. Joe explains that Tom will live without pain except for, "An acute sense of anxiety [for] never being famous." But there's hope even here. Tom has earned one chance to alter his state

Richard Vetere

> "The Writers' Afterlife" by Richard Vetere Pages: 214 (paperback) Cost: \$12.88 ISBN-13: 978-0988400887 Visit: www.amazon.com

by Fred L. Gardaphe

—: "One opportunity to go back to life and do all you can to change the fate of your fame" — and this becomes the driving force of the novel's plot.

The dead writers are able to fashion their afterlives out of the same raw material that made them artists, choosing to relive the favorite time of their lives, and even live with their characters if they so choose.

Vetere uses the early part of the novel to comment on the state of literature in the mind of a writer, reminding us that literature is made out of other literature, and that every writer, in many ways, is in competition with all other writers who ever existed. He does all this in prose that's lean and direct, and he keeps the wheels of the plot turning to a surprising finale.

Chillo meets other promising writers in the Valley of Those on The Verge, and shares stories, and sometimes even bodies, with those in whom he confides. He feels real love for the first time in this afterlife, and because of it, he gets caught up in a glitch that could ruin his one final chance at joining the Eternals. What happens when he comes back to Earth comes to us in a film-like tragi-comedy that is part Dickens, part Poe and part Mel Brooks, but still all Vetere. This is what the good writers do: They learn from their predecessors, and then as they work on their craft, they move from imitation to innovation as they develop their skills.

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SPORTS Return to the ice

2014 is shaping up to be a remarkable year for Linda Fratianne, a U.S. figure skater who won the Olympic silver medal in 1980.

In early February, Fratianne, 53, took to the ice for the first time in 10 years at P&G & Walmart's "Tribute To American Legends of the Ice" show held at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J.

In June, she'll start teaching figure skating at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo, Calif., alongside her old coach, Frank Carroll.

"I am just absolutely thrilled about it. It's really a dream come true standing, coaching besides Frank," she says. "I kind of adopted him as my mom and my dad [after my parents' death]. He's been through everything with me."

Skating at the Izod Center was equally thrilling, says Fratianne, who skated a program with Rosalynn Sumners, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist, and was joined at the end by Brian Boitano, the 1988 Olympic gold medalist.

But the decision to do it wasn't an easy one, Fratianne admits.

"At first, I told the producer, 'Absolutely not,'" she says. Then Sumners stepped in and asked her to skate with her, so Fratianne called coach Carroll for advice.

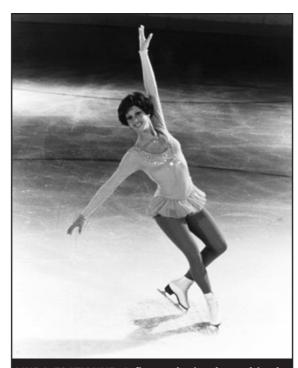
"He said it would be fun. I wasn't expecting him to say that!" she says. "So I spent about three months training. Oh gosh, it was almost like training for the Olympics: I was using muscles that haven't been used

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in 10 years."

Fratianne has quite the claim to fame, having been the first female skater to land two triple jumps, the toe loop and the salchow, in 1976.

"I was 15 years old; I just loved to skate. Doing those triple jumps put me on the Olympic team, which I was not expecting," she says. "I just wanted to skate."



LINDA FRATIANNE: A figure skating legend in the '70s and '80s, she's back where she belongs as both a performer and a coach.

by Elena Ferrarin

She went on to win four consecutive U.S. Championships from 1977 to 1980, and two world championships in 1977 and 1979.

She retired from professional competition in 1980 and spent 10 years skating for Disney on Ice. Later, she taught figure skating in Sun Valley, where she lived for more than two decades. She moved back to her native California about a year ago.

"I find with coaching I have to put a different glove on for each child. I think that's so important," she says. "As long as they're trying and they're focused and they have a good attitude, I'm great with it. But if I see they're not trying, I get a little impatient with that."

Figure skating's judging system has changed greatly, Fratianne says.

Judges now spend a lot of time examining slow-motion playbacks of skaters' programs based on a complex points system. That can lead to greater objectivity in judging, but also more confusion for the audience, she says.

"I don't like it at all because it's hard for the public to understand," she says. "It's almost anticlimactic when the announcer says who's first, second or third."

Many claimed Fratianne was robbed of the 1980 Olympic gold medal, which went to Anett Potzsch of then-East Germany. For a long time, Fratianne says, it was difficult to even talk about it.

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RECIPES An old-school Easter feast

It's not often these days that I hear people sing, "In your Easter bonnet, with all the frills upon it." There was a time when this was truly a relevant lyric. Every mother and daughter considered it imperative to have a new hat for Easter morning, along with a new dress, handbag, shoes, and little white gloves. There was more to these customs than making "la bella figura" in the Easter parade. It was just one of the outward signals that this is a day of renewal and rebirth. The celebration of the Resurrection and the arrival of spring are intertwined in our religious and secular traditions. It's not surprising that symbols of new beginnings overflow to the dinner table, where eggs, lamb and early spring vegetables are the focus of our Easter meal. Passatelli in Brodo is typically eaten as a first course on Easter in Emilia Romagna. Other recipes this month represent the Easter customs of my family and friends. Buona Pasqua a tutti.

PASSATELLI IN BRODO

(Egg and Cheese Drop Soup)

1-1/2 quarts chicken broth, preferably homemade
3 eggs plus 1 egg yolk
3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
3/4 cup unseasoned bread crumbs
2 tablespoons butter, softened
1/4 teaspoon grated or ground nutmeg
Zest of 1 lemon (optional)
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

Mix the eggs and extra egg yolk with the cheese, crumbs, softened butter and seasonings. Combine thoroughly into a paste. Bring the broth to a boil. Put the paste into a potato ricer with large holes, hold it over the bubbling broth and push the paste through so that it falls in the broth in the form of 2-inch long pieces. Reduce the heat until the broth is only simmering and cook for 6 minutes. Serve immediately with a generous amount of



additional grated Parmesan to sprinkle on the soup.

— adapted from Francesco Ghedini

INSALATA DI CICORIA (Dandelion Salad)

pound young dandelion greens
 clove garlic, crushed
 cup olive oil
 tablespoons lemon juice
 Italian black olives
 Salt and pepper to taste

Remove the tough stems and wash the greens very thoroughly in cold water. Drain very well, pat dry, and break into pieces. Rub a salad bowl with the crushed garlic and discard the garlic. Place the greens in the bowl and add the remaining ingredients. Toss well and serve. You may substitute wine vinegar for the lemon juice, if desired.

Variation: To add a bit of sweetness, substitute balsamic vinegar for the lemon juice and a handful of dried cranberries for the olives. — *Dolores Sennebogen* by Dolores Sennebogen

AGNELLO AL FORNO (Roasted Leg of Lamb)

1 (4- to 5-pound) leg of lamb
2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley
2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
1 to 2 teaspoons minced mint leaves
1 teaspoon dried oregano
2 teaspoons grated lemon rind
2 cloves garlic, minced
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
Olive oil

Rinse the lamb and pat it dry. Make slits over the surface of the roast with a paring knife or the point of a meat thermometer. Mix the herbs and lemon rind with the minced garlic. Make a paste by moistening the mixture with a small amount of olive oil. Insert the herb mixture into the slits on the roast. Rub the roast with olive oil and rub any leftover herb mixture over it. Season the roast with salt and pepper. Roast in a preheated

400-degree oven for 15 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 325 degrees and roast for 20 minutes per pound, or until a meat thermometer reaches the degree of doneness you prefer. Recommended internal temperatures are 140 degrees for rare, 150 degrees for medium and 160 degrees for well done. Set the roast aside to rest, covered with foil. If desired, make pan gravy using 2 tablespoons drippings, 2 tablespoons cornstarch (dissolved in a small amount of water), and 2 cups of water. You may substitute a little white wine for some of the water.

— Dolores Sennebogen

PATATE AL FORNO Con Rosmarino

(Oven-Roasted Potatoes with Rosemary)

5-6 medium red potatoes
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons white wine
2 cloves garlic, halved (See Recipes on Page 29)



28 THERE 70 MAR 2014

LOU&A

(Continued from Page 23)

arena, Guarini distinguished himself as an Ivy League graduate (Dartmouth College), an international student (The Hague Academy of International Law), and a decorated World War II veteran who served as a navigator aboard the U.S.S. Mount McKinley, the flagship of Pacific Amphibious Fleet. (He earned a Naval Commendation Medal and three Battle Stars).

Coming home to New Jersey, a young Frank Guarini set down a path of political reform, helping to break the machine that had ruled Jersey City politics for decades and voting for the greater good, even when it wasn't popular. A memorable moment of truth came during the first Gulf War, when Guarini met with President George H.W. Bush. He asked the president to explain his game plan for combat, and his exit plan. Not satisfied with what he heard, Guarini went back to the House and voted against authorizing that war.

Although he retired from Congress in 1993, Guarini continued to serve, appointed by President Bill Clinton the following year to represent the United States in the United Nations General Assembly. He is a past chairman of the National Italian American Foundation and a current chairman of John Cabot University in Rome, where an entire campus is named after him. Is there anything this man hasn't done? Well, yes: puff himself up in public, and definitely not in this interview.

When they named the Jersey City Post Office after Guarini in 2008, he turned the spotlight away from himself and talked about his paternal grandmother, a woman who spent much of her life delivering children — and delivering mail, so to speak. Guarini described her as a caring, concerned woman who strove to help the Italian immigrants around her keep in touch with loved ones back home. Well educated for her time, she wrote many of those letters herself and thus made constant runs to the post office with correspondence in hand.

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What you'll read here is vintage Guarini: honest and wise, hopeful and humble. It also reveals another facet of what makes the man so great, and such a vital role model for Italian Americans everywhere. For while Rep. Guarini earned the right to slow down and take it easy decades ago, he refuses to do so, because he's still dreaming big dreams for the people of the former 14th Congressional District. And he's still working hard to make them come to life.

Speaking from his office, Guarini took Fra Noi back into his family history, reflected on his time in Congress, and kicked things off by offering his frank views on the political climate in our nation today.

Fra Noi: Rep. Guarini, you served in the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1993. That's a long run, but you could've served even longer had you not chosen to retire. Maybe you couldn't speak as frankly then as now. Why did you leave?

Rep. Frank J. Guarini: I was there for seven terms, and one of the reasons I was glad to get out was the divisiveness. When I was in Washington, we would fight on the floor with the Republicans, but then we'd go out for dinner and drinks afterward as good social friends. We would talk out our problems. You'd get a call from President Reagan to vote for a bill, and it would be a friendly call. Now there's a steel wall. If you're seen talking to a person from the other party, you are a traitor and that's wrong. There's no give and take anymore. more people stood up for what they believed as opposed to blindly backing the party line.

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America is built on all the ethnicities working together, taking the best of what each ethnicity has, and we have the American experience of taking the best from them all — all the countries, all the cultures, all the traditions. It makes what we call the United States of America. But in just half a generation, it seems to be dissipating. We're not getting our best to run for public office because they get castigated and diminished. It's not seen as a thing of honor, and we're not a united people as we should be.

FN: You also say that traveling together helped the politicians of your day cement relationships across party lines. How did that work?

FJG: Elected officials used to travel together, and now they don't do that because it's a waste of money. But some of the best money ever spent was elected offi-- Democrats and Republicans cials traveling together for a week or 10 days on a trade mission or a tour to a different country, talking with those countries' leaders. They'd bring back new ideas to Washington, and with the integration of Democrats, Republicans and their families, they became a social unit. A friendship occurs on the road that has nothing to do with political parties — it's because you like each other, and that's a tremendous plus. From the socializing, you'd find solutions to the problems that our country was facing.

FN: You are a legend in the Democratic Party, yet you've been troubled by President Obama's performance. What's the core issue you see?

FJG: The president has failed in his leadership role. He should reach across the aisle and bring people together, and invite people down to the White House who can help him in his quest. There's no reaching across the aisle, and his attitude is that the other party is the enemy. It's an arrogance that stops us from having the leadership we need in Washington.

FN: Speaking of leadership, you say you owe much to your father, who was an elected official and the first lawyer in the family. Tell us about that.

FJG: My father, Frank J. Guarini Sr., was one of the first Italian Americans to be a lawyer in Hudson County, N.J. He was a legislator in New Jersey, and it was the greatest moment of his life to be sworn in. I felt the same way about it when it was my turn. He went to law school in New York, and his father put him out of the family because he wanted him to work in the family barbershop and be part of the barbershop business. Being in law school was of little value to him.

FN: Wow, that's hard to imagine. Who wouldn't want a lawyer in the family?

FJG: Well, my father had to live outside of the family home, and in those days it was pretty difficult. But he clung to his studies, and his father showed up at his graduation. Dad was a lieutenant in World War I and practiced law in his regular army officer's uniform for a few months because he didn't have any money.

My father was a true Abraham Lincoln enthusiast. He was a very honest, honest man, and I (he?) modeled his life after him: Lincoln was his hero. He told frequent stories when I was growing up about Lincoln, and if a new Lincoln book came out, he had estate, and bought trainloads of sugar from Canada, and made tremendous profit. He lived on the Canadian side and became a successful businessman.

When my father met my mother, Caroline L. Critelli, he brought her down from Niagara Falls to Jersey City. My father had his law practice, got into government, became part of the state assembly, and helped develop the highway system in New Jersey. My mother was going on 102 when she died, and when she turned 100, an Italian TV station did a feature on her. There was a piano in the corner of the room, and they asked her if she played. So she went over and played the entirety of "Lara's Theme" from "Dr. Zhivago" without making an error. The music department at New Jersey City University is named after her: the Caroline L. Guarini Department of Music, Dance and Theatre.

FN: When you look back at your life, what experiences stand out as shaping the man you are today?

FJG: My first year of college at Dartmouth was in 1942, and the war started in 1941. I went through, got my naval commission, and had to come back after the war to finish college. They sent me out to the Pacific when I was just a young fellow I went to midshipmen's school when I was 19, and two weeks after I turned 20, I was an ensign in the U.S. Navy and I had to get out to my ship in the South Pacific. They made me a navigator, and the ship had just come back from New Guinea: It was in a war zone that went down to the Philippines and up to Okinawa. I was on one of the first ships that went into Tokyo Bay, and I got an enthusiasm for seeing what the world was like. I only knew Jersey City, and it had a corrupt political machine at the time.

When I got out of college and went to law school, I found that there were a lot of other veterans who felt like I did: They didn't fight a war to come back to a corrupt political machine. So I became dedicated to changing a form of government that had no checks and balances — and changing the political environment that ruled the city. The young people rose up. Their spirit and energy changed the whole environment: It rooted out the evil and cleaned up the act.

FN: So leaving Jersey City for a short time changed everything?

FJG: I became very curious about other cultures, traditions and languages, and it had an effect on me in terms of how I conducted the rest of my life. I went to The Hague Academy of International Law in Holland, where I spent two semesters, and I became interested in world matters. I saw the world; I traveled extensively.

Right now I'm Chairman of the Board at John Cabot University in Rome. I've also set up study abroad programs at Dartmouth where people will spend a semester in Rome. People learn not just in the classroom but also from each other, because their backgrounds are so different. They come from Russia, China, America, everywhere — and after a semester, they learn how small the world has become. They become interested in the culture, traditions, languages and ways of other people.

FN: It sounds like this takes up a lot of your time today.

FJG: I'm passionate about the study abroad programs, and the future of education — not just for our young students but our working force, too, because science and technology have changed so much. It's essential to remaining the great nation we are.

FN: None of this is to say, of course, that you've forgotten your roots.

FJG: We're building the Jersey City Waterfront. It was left vacant by the departure of all the railroads that came into it years ago. Goods and people got to New York through it, and so rail development was huge: Warehouses were on the Jersey side. But after the war, the railroads apparently went bankrupt and the waterfront became empty. Now, we're only a short distance — the width of the Hudson River from the greatest city in the world. Jersey City is now like a Gold Coast, a Wall Street West: That's what they call it. New buildings are springing up everywhere. But 50 years ago, you'd see the New York skyline, with the Empire state building on the right side, and on the left side you'd see an empty plain.

New York City, and on the Jersey City side, you see new growth. Goldman Sachs built a 55-story office building. We have one of the best connecting subways to New York, the PATH train — and it's new cars and new technology. Everything on our side of the river is new, beautiful and up-to-date. It's become a bedroom community for New York with more space and less crime. I've gotten swept up in the excitement of rebuilding the city of my birth. We've got three apartment buildings and one hotel going up as we speak.

FN: You're in your office five days a week. You turn 90 this year. Don't you think you've earned a break?

FJG: I have the excitement of getting up in the morning with all these activities on my desk, and attending all the social activities I'm interested in, particularly with the National Italian American Foundation and the cultural connections we have with Italy.

It's more fun to grow things, create things. It's not about the money: I am the luckiest guy in the world, and the world owes me nothing. I owe the world everything. To have the gift of life and have the energy to do things that make a difference — what more can you ask for?

NEWSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 23)

tiful experience."

Not everything went smoothly on the Cuba trip, though. "When we first arrived, the heat and humidity were unbearable," says Zucchero. "I had my typical long hair. I desperately needed a trim. While at the barber's, I wasn't paying too much attention to the cut. I was reading some magazine. By the time he finished and I looked at the mirror, I gasped. He cut almost all of it off!"

That wasn't the only thing that didn't go Zucchero's way during his visit. "When I got there, I was promised some tobacco plant seeds," he says. "I was already thinking of growing them on my farm, but then they didn't give me any. I guess it's illegal," he chuckles. "But I did get to design a custom cigar. When I got there, a high-ranking official asked me to draw a cigar on a piece of paper. A few weeks later, I was given a lot of cigars in that shape."

Hair and tobacco snafus aside, Zucchero found himself immersed in a culture he had long wanted to explore, especially from a musical point of view. "I had wanted to do a show in Cuba for a long time. It has nothing to do with politics. I wanted to see and hear what Cuban friends of mine, like Buena Vista Social Club or Chucho Valdes, had grown up with."

The result is an album that has all the classic Zucchero ingredients, with a Cuban twist. "My music, as everybody knows, comes from blues, from soul, from gospel," says Zucchero. "This project is a trip from New Orleans to Cuba via Mexicali. Latin, Cuban, Tex-Mex sounds and rhythms melt together, dancing."

The New Orleans ingredient remains a staple of Zucchero's music. The city captivated the singer's imagination as he grew up listening to blues and soul — two genres that most Italians still considered exotic at the time. When he finally had a chance to visit, he was not disappointed. "We went there to record the album 'Spirito DiVino,'" Zucchero recalls. "It's a city I carry in my heart."

FN: What do you think happened between the 1980s and today?

FJG: Today, different kinds of people are attracted to office, and it's hard to elevate the best we have. It should be the best and the brightest if we are to have a great country. In past days, elected officials thought more of their country than of being re-elected or being part of a political team. Back then, FN: What's your Italian lineage?

FJG: My father's family was from Abruzzo on both sides. My grandmother was a midwife who delivered several thousand children in Jersey City. She was an educated woman, an outstanding woman. My grandfather was a barber, and in those days, the barbershop was the social center of the town. But my grandmother was a leader of the Italian immigrants. I can't tell you how many people have come up to me and said, "Your grandmother delivered me."

My mother's parents came from Calabria. My grandfather was attracted to Niagara Falls, because they were building powerhouses up there. He went up there and they built a hotel, and worked in real

Now, when you travel up the Hudson, you see the majesty of the new buildings in

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That New Orleans state of mind has never left Zucchero's music, which he will be showcasing all across North America this spring. Covering 11 cities in Canada and 22 in the Unites States, the month-and-a-halflong trip will see Zucchero perform in big cities such as New York and Los Angeles, as well as smaller towns such as Silver Spring, Md., and Clearwater, Fla. "It's another challenge," says Zucchero. "We'll be traveling in a tour bus, like in the old days, and playing in venues I've never seen before." No matter the size of the concert hall, though, Zucchero knows how to entertain a crowd. "The show is a best of, where we play some new songs, but also a lot of the older ones." The singer's Cuban experience promises

to make the live shows even more entertaining. "I found a great passion in the artists I played with in those weeks. Many professional musicians just come in the studio, record their parts and leave. But in Cuba, the musicians would come in and they didn't seem to want to leave. They would play, try new things and work very hard. It made quite an impression on me."

Recorded in the summer of 2012 and produced by longtime friend Don Was, "La sesión cubana" features collaborations with important international musicians, such as the Spanish singer Bebe on the song "Pana." Zucchero even tried his Portuguese singing skills alongside Brazil's Djavan in the song "Ave Maria no morro."

In all, "La sesión cubana" combines seven brand new songs with six newly arranged Zucchero hits ("Baila," "Un Kilo," "Così Celeste," "Cuba Libre," "Everybody's got to learn sometime" and "L'Urlo"). The new recordings consist of the first single "Guantanamera (Guajira)," adapted by Zucchero into Italian; original compositions "Love is all around" and "Sabor a ti"; and covers of "Never is a moment," "Pana" and "Ave Maria no morro." "Nena."

Taken together, the album is a testament to Zucchero's musical philosophy: "I think that in music you need to experiment. It's the only way you can pull out something different. I don't want to say you can create 'new things,' because 'new' is a pretty big word in music. But you can try different things, that's for sure.'

Among Italian artists, Zucchero is perhaps the best known abroad, with collaborations ranging from Luciano Pavarotti to the Beach Boys' Brian Wilson. One album - the 2004 hit "Zu & Co." — consisted of collabo-rations from start to finish with superstars such as Miles Davis, Paul Young, Sheryl Crow, B.B. King and Solomon Burke. Zucchero's penchant for working with international artists emerged early on in his career; his second album was titled "Zucchero and the Randy Jackson Band," due to his friendship with the famous American bassist.

Ultimately, what makes Zucchero's music as well as his live performances - so attractive is the spirit and passion he puts into them: the same elements Zucchero found in Cuba. "Well, that and those won-derful cars they have," he adds, referring to the classic 1950s and '60s automobiles that roam the streets of the Caribbean island. "As soon as I got back home I bought two. One is a pink Cadillac, just like the one Elvis Presley used to have." The two Cuban relics are now part of a personal collection that includes 22 vintage vehicles. "It's toys for adults, you know.

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We know, just like we know how happy thousands of fans in North America will be this time around to see their favorite Italian artist undertake an extensive tour.

For a full tour schedule, visit www.zucchero.it/eng.

MUSIC REVIEW (Continued from Page 23)

'free' music I ever played, together with Wayne Shorter, Tony Williams and Dave Holland. Then after six months, Jack records. In 1976, Corea won his first Grammy Award for his work with the band. Since then he has continued to blaze a

trail through both jazz and popular music. Often teamed up with Gary Burton, Corea has also performed classical music with the London Philharmonic, and in 2013 he played at The Lincoln Center with Wynton Marsalis. Corea capped 2013 with a return to his Italian roots, performing on Dec. 29 and 30 to rave reviews at the Umbria Jazz Festival with Italian pianist Stefano Bollani.

Chick Corea RETURN TO FOREVER (1972)

As the 1970s dawned, a new era of jazz arrived, bringing with it amplified bass, electric piano, Latin influences, and a free, improvisational spirit. The greatest continuous force in this movement has been Chick Corea, who in 1972 released the album, "Return to Forever" (not to be confused with the band of the same name, which he formed a short time later).

The mood begins with the cover, which features a seagull gliding over placid blue ocean water. The album's title track is a peaceful, 12-minute exercise; "Crystal Silence" features the cool jazz alto saxophone of Joe Farrell, adding Corea's mystical piano. "What Game Shall We Play Today" showcases the vocals of Flora Purim. Backed by a soft piano that ebbs and flows like gentle waves, and the light bouncing bass of Stanley Clarke, the song combines bossa nova, soft rock and jazz improvisation. Joe Farrell also shines on flute, which glides like the seagull on the cover.

This is new age music before new age, with more talented and driven performers at the helm. The final song, "Sometime Ago," is a 22-minute romp through jazz, Latin and fusion, driven by an upbeat spirit that influenced the work of other artists, such as Chuck Mangione's "Feel So Good." With its originality, musicianship and soaring spirit, this is a CD to listen to on the beach, or on a cold winter day when you're dreaming of the beach.

RECIPES (Continued from Page 27)

1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary Salt and pepper to taste Paprika (optional)

Peel the potatoes and cut them into sixths. Melt the butter in a roasting pan that will hold all of the potatoes. Add the remaining ingredients through the salt and pepper and toss, coating the potatoes well. Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven for about 45 to 60 minutes, until the potatoes are crisp and golden. Turn them with a spatula every 10 to 15 minutes and keep them spread in a single layer. When the cloves of garlic have turned golden, remove them before they burn. During the last 15 or 20 minutes, sprinkle the potatoes with paprika if desired to help them take on a pretty color.

- adapted from Ann Sorrentino

CAROTE E FUNGHI CON MARSALA

THERE 70 MAR ComUNICO HERE 2014

dinner. Melt the remaining butter in a skillet and add the carrots and mushrooms, stirring to coat them. Add the remaining ingredients and cook over medium heat until the carrots are tender yet crisp. Turn up the heat near the end to cook off some of the wine, if necessary. Taste for seasoning and serve.

— Dolores Sennebogen

PUPI CU L'UOVA

(Sicilian Easter Basket Cookies)

- 1/4 pound butter 1/2 pound lard or Crisco
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs 4-1/2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon anise oil (optional)
- 6 hard-cooked eggs

In a large bowl, beat together the butter and lard with an electric mixer. Cream in the sugar and then add the raw eggs, blending well. Combine the flour, baking powder and cornstarch. Add the vanilla to the milk. If using the anise oil, also add it to the milk. 2 cups plus 4 tablespoons milk 1 orange, sliced 1/2 lemon, sliced 1-1/2 cups sugar 3 eggs plus 2 egg yolks Grated rind of 1 orange Grated rind of 1 lemon 4 ounces Vin Santo or other sweet wine 4 tablespoons flour 2 teaspoons baking powder Oil for deep-frying Confectioners' sugar

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

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

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

— Giuliana Castellani Koch



Gradually add the milk alternately with the dry ingredients. Mix until the batter forms a workable dough. Add a little more flour, if necessary.

Use your hands to shape the dough into baskets by rolling it into 5 or 6 balls about 3-1/2 inches round. (Reserve some of the dough to make the handles). Flatten each ball to make a disc about 4 to 5 inches in diameter. Make an indentation in the middle of each "basket" and put a hard-cooked egg in it, pressing down slightly. Roll small strips of dough about 1-inch wide and place two pieces crisscrossed over each egg to form the handles. Place on cookie sheets, leaving a little room between them for the dough to spread. Bake them in a preheated 350-degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes or until lightly golden on the bottom. Ovens

When cool, frost the baskets with an icing made with confectioner's sugar, warm milk and butter. Before the icing hardens, decorate the baskets with jellybeans, plac-ing one in each quarter of the baskets. Also add colored sprinkles.

COOK'S TIP

The American Egg Board recommends this method to hard cook eggs. Place eggs in a pan large enough to hold them in one layer. Cover with cold water and set over high heat. When the water comes to a boil, remove the pot from the heat source. Cover and let the eggs sit in the hot water for 12 minutes for large eggs, but less for smaller eggs. Drain. Run them under cold water to stop the cooking. For easier peeling, use eggs that are 7 to 10 days old.



Dejonnette came on for the rest of the time.

Corea played on Davis' landmark albums of the period, including "Bitches Brew," "In a Silent Way," and "Live at the Fillmore East." These records revolutionized jazz by adding elements like distorted guitar, electronic bass, amplified trumpet, and what became Corea's claim to fame, the Fender Rhodes electric piano.

Though Davis was taking jazz in a decidedly more modern direction, the younger Corea wanted to go even further. Teaming up with Davis bandmate Airto Moreira, bassist Stanley Clarke and guitarist Al Di Meola, Corea helped form Return to Forever. The band reached a new generation of jazz fans, consistently charting in Billboard's Top 40 and churning out gold

Carrots and Mushrooms Marsala

8 spring carrots, scraped 1/2 pound cremini mushrooms 4 tablespoons butter, divided 2 tablespoons sweet Marsala 1 tablespoon minced fresh parsley Salt and pepper to taste

Slice the carrots diagonally into 1-inch chunks and cut the mushrooms in halves or quarters, depending on their size. Sauté the mushrooms in 2 tablespoons of the butter and set them aside. Drop the carrots into a pot of boiling salted water and precook them briefly, about 5 minutes. Drain well and rinse in cold water to stop them from "cooking" further. Set aside until just before

NOTES: You can color the hard-cooked eggs if you like for a pretty look, but the dye will bleed a little into the dough. You can also peel the hard-cooked eggs before adding them to the baskets, but the eggs will get hard when baked.

— Sandy LoDolce Gillie

FRITTELLE DI RISO (Sweet Rice Fritters)

2-1/2 cups rice 2 cups plus 4 tablespoons water

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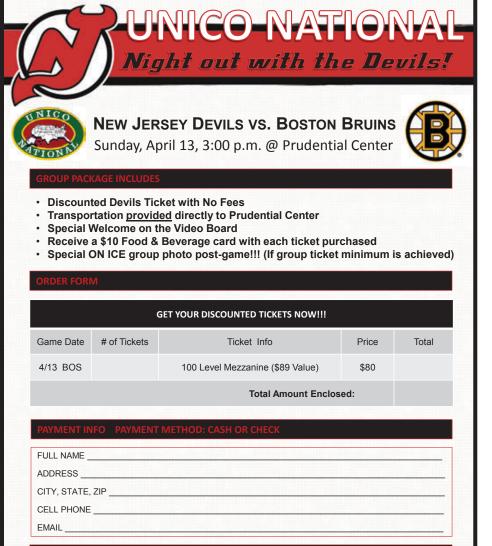
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All US gateways are available for an additional cost. Single occupancy supplement add \$640. Price includes government fees, taxes and fuel surcharges. Minimum of 15 passengers needed to operate the group.

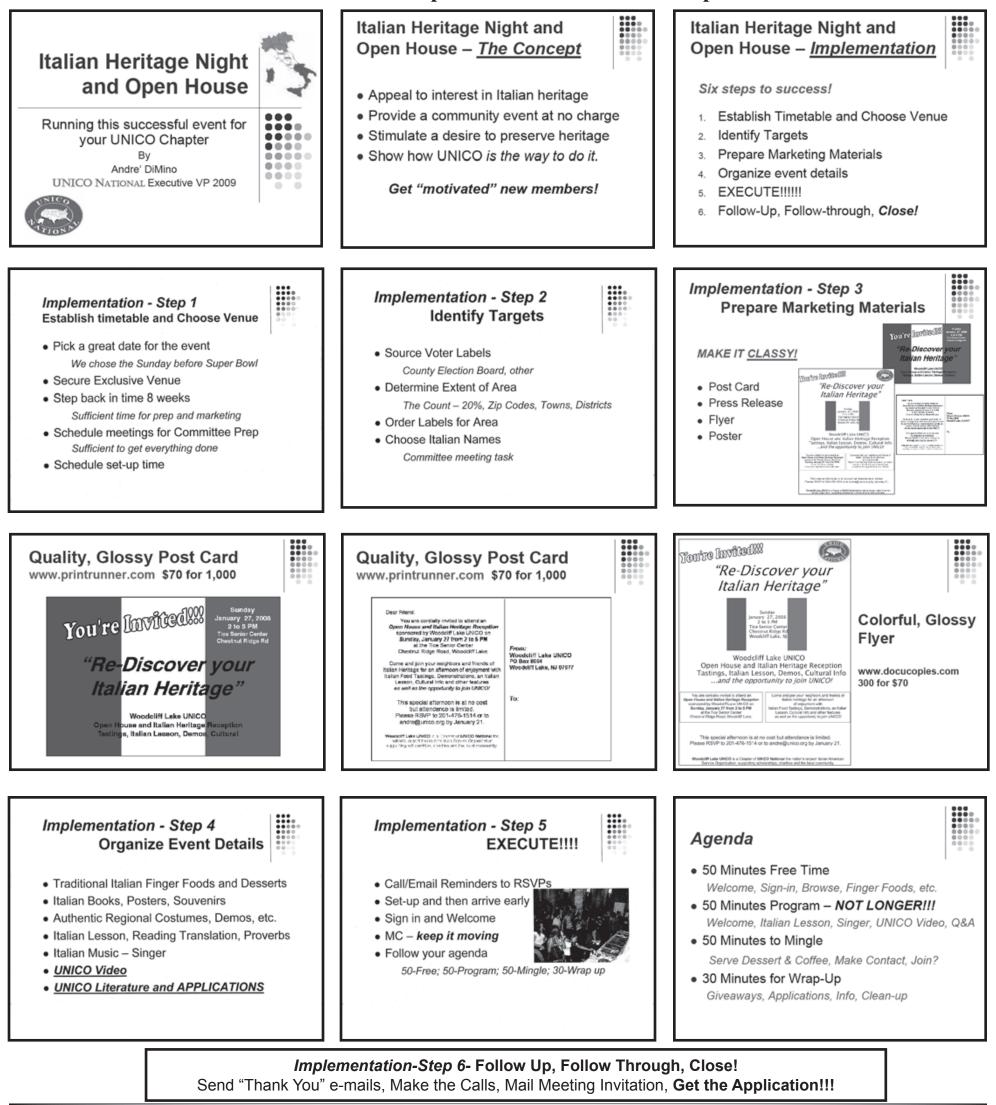
UNICO HAZLETON CHARITY BIKE RAFFLE



UNICO NATIONAL HERITAGE NIGHT

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PITTSFIELD, MA

Pittsfield Chapter Supports NAMI

On Thursday, February 6, the Pittsfield Chapter prepared and cooked a fund-raising dinner for the Berkshire County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) at the ITAM Lodge in Pittsfield. The menu consisted of both red and white pasta, baked chicken, meat balls, sausage and peppers, salad and bread. Approximately one hundred and fifty people were served. Proceeds from this event will be used for Crisis Intervention Training (used to educate law enforcement personnel), support groups, and Family-to-Family classes.

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



From left: NAMI Board Members and Officers: Bear McHugh, Marilyn Moran, Mary O'Connor, Ruth Healy, Brenda Carpenter, Rosemary and Wayne Ditore, Pittsfield Chapter President.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ



The Saddle Brook Chapter continues to grow. Four new members were sworn at recent meetings by Sal Mangano, Past National President. This brings our Chapter membership up to 57 members. More new members are coming soon. Stay tuned. From left: President Joe Nasello, New Member Antonietta Lombardi and Sal Mangano.



From left: President Joe Nasello, Gino Frangella, Ralph Lanzo, John Cappello, Regina Lanzo and Ed Ebel.



Saddle Brook Chapter recently hosted our UNICO National Second Vice President Dominic Nicastro and New Jersey District VII Governor Elyse Buonomo. The Chapter also installed two new members at the meeting. They are Donna Marie Fisher and Hugh Syme. Saddle Brook Chapter invites all Italian Americans in our local area to become members of this Great organization. Here we grow again! Front row from left: Dominick Nicastro, Elyse Buonomo and Joseph Nasello. Back row from left: John Cappello, Donna Fisher, Hugh Syme and Sue Syme.

CLARK, NJ



Clark Chapter President Ralph Bernardo presented checks at the recent Clark Township Counsel Meeting. Donations were given to various organizations, clubs and departments from the proceeds of the Italian Feast. Ralph presents a check to the Clark Volunteer Fire Department as Mayor Sal Bonaccorso looks on. Being a non-profit organization all of the money must be given out. Aside from Clark organizations, Departments and High school senior scholarships given out, Clark UNICO also donates to the Organizations National charities such as Coolies Anemia, Mental Health and Cancer Research. For information about the Clark Chapter contact Ralph Bernardo at 908-337-7773.

SCRANTON, PA

Scranton Chapter Honors Palma Yanni

Palma Yanni was named the Scranton Chapter "UNICAN of the Year." Active in the community with a number of charitable organizations, Ms. Yanni was the Chapter's first female President and held a number of officer positions in the UNICO Auxiliary.



From left: Pat Yanni, Palma Yanni and Patrick M. O'Malley.

WESTWOOD, NJ



At its regular meeting at Domani's Ristorante on February 12, 2014, the Westwood Chapter installed Ann Marie Marrone as a new member. Ann Marie is the daughter of Chapter President Marge Spataro and former President Ralph Spataro. She is a selfemployed interior decorator. From left: Michael Marrone, Ralph Spataro, Ann Marie Marrone, President Marge Spataro and John Ruocco.

IN MEMORIAM



Past National President Harold Ferrese

Harold J. Ferrese, 91, was born October 14, 1922 in Dunmore, Pennsylvania and joined the Angels in Heaven on February 18, 2014 to be with his beloved wife who preceded him in death. He worked at NASA for 62 years as the Facility Manager and served as UNICO National President 1980-1981. He is survived by his only daughter, Barbara and her husband Charles; granddaughter, Corinn and her husband Sam; grandson Brandon and his wife Edna along with 3 great-grandchildren, Briana, Skye and Celia. In Lieu of Flowers, please make donations in Harold's name UNICO National earmarked for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

March 2014



UNICO National 271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F-103 Fairfield, NJ 07004-2458 Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 E-mail—uniconational@unico.org	COMPLETED FORM SHOULD BE MAILED OR SENT BY FAX OR EMAIL TO: 271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F 271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458 Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0034 Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-004 Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-004 2014 UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION
nights prior to or the three nights following the Convention, based on availability, of course. <u>Next</u> —fill out your Convention Registration Form and mail it along with your payment to:	Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL Convention 2014 or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards: (cree ore below) MasterCard Visa Card numberExp. Date(3 or 4 digits on back) Discover(3 or 4 digits on back) Amer. Express Signature
<u>All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Record your confirmation number or ask to have it sent to you by providing your E-mail address.</u> <u>If you wish to extend your stay, you can take advantage of the same great UNICO Group rate up to three nights prior to or the three nights following the Convention, based on availability, of course.</u>	Registration (UNICO Members only) \$125.00 N/A Total with registration:
UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE IS ONLY \$175.00 PER NIGHT (Subject to state & local tax)	Friday Barbeque Luncheon Inaugural Ball GOLF REGISTRATION (WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 6, 2014, 7:30 AM) \$90.00
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TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION AT THE BREAKERS YOU CAN CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY BETWEEN 9AM AND 6PM (East) BY CALLING	City, State, Zip Phone #() Children Attending—name(s) and age(s)
"THE BREAKERS" Palm Beach One South County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480 561-655-6611	, if attending (if spouse is a member,
92nd ANNUAL CONVENTION — 2014 The dates for the Convention are: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 thru Saturday, August 9, 2014	The BREAKERS One South County Road Palm Beach, Florida 33480 August 6—August 9, 2014
UNICO NATIONAL	UNICO NATIONAL 92nd ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

OUR STORY

KOREA: THE FORGOTTEN WAR

Respectfully submitted by Hon. John R. Caruso (Ret.)

I am a founding member and Past President of the Farmington, Connecticut Chapter of UNICO. I am also a Korean War Veteran having served in the United States Marine Corps. As a former Marine I am well aware of the heroic services of Sergeant John Basilone of New Jersey, an Italian American who received the Medal of Honor for his bravery at Guadalcanal during WWII and who was later killed in action on Iwo Jima. Sergeant Basilone also had a highway named after him at the huge Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton, California. This is the story of another Italian American who heroically saved the life of a Catholic Chaplain and died in the process. He was my brother, Sergeant Matthew Caruso, then a teenager, who swore to serve and protect Chaplain Cornelius Griffin as his assistant and bodyguard. Our Father was born in Benevento, Italy of Italian parents and came to the United States when he was five.

Matt and Father Griffin landed with the First Marine Division at Inchon, South Korea, in September of 1950. After recapturing Seoul, the Capitol of South Korea, the Marines together with other United States and United Nations forces drove the North Koreans out of the South. They then attacked the North in North Korea and succeeded in pushing all the way to the Chinese border. In the brutally cold winter of 1950 the Chinese came into the war and attacked the United Nations forces with over 200,000 soldiers and the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir followed, an epic battle wherein the allies destroyed several Chinese divisions at a loss of 41,000 killed and 130,000 wounded in action. As the Marines, Army and British Commandoes were withdrawing from the Reservoir Father Griffin and Matt worked tirelessly to give aid and comfort to the wounded and give last rites to the dead.

On the night of December 6, 1950 Father Griffin was called to an ambulance. Matt started to accompany him but Father Griffin, aware that Matt's wife was about to deliver their first child in another week, insisted that Matt remain where he was somewhat more protected in the column. Matt said it was his job to protect Father Griffin and insisted on accompanying him. Father Griffin relented and they both went to the ambulance. A Chinese machine gunner opened fire on the ambulance and Matt pushed Father Griffin to the floor and covered him with his own body. Matt was hit a number of times in the back and died shortly thereafter. Father Griffin took a bullet in the jaw and shoulder but survived his wounds. Matt was buried at Koto-Ri, North Korea together with approximately 60 others killed in action.

In late spring of 1951 Matt's son Daniel, then 6 months old, received the Silver Star posthumously for his father. The ceremony occurred at the Navy Submarine Base in Connecticut attended by Matt's widow Betty, my father (my mother having passed away in 1947) and all of my brothers and sisters. At approximately the same time period the Caruso Memorial Chapel was dedicated at the 2nd Infantry Training Regiment (now the School of Infantry) at Camp Pendleton.

In the late spring of 1955 I was still in the Marines stationed at Camp Pendleton and received special orders to accompany my brother's remains which had been disinterred in North Korea and positively identified. I traveled as a burial escort across the country by train to Hartford, Connecticut, where, following a Mass at St. Augustine's Church, celebrated in part by Father Griffin, Matt was buried in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery with full military honors where other members of our family were buried.

In conversation with the present Chaplains of the Caruso Memorial Chapel more than 1,000 trainees, staff and civilians worship at the chapel (which is non-denominational) every week and it has become a focal point for many activities on the base.

I and my editor and co-author Aaron Elson are in the process of writing a book about Matt and his family which will be called Semper Fi Padre and will be published next Memorial Day.

Of the eight Caruso boys, seven were in the military as well as four nephews. Matt's son Daniel became a Marine helicopter search and rescue pilot and served eleven years in the Corps.



The Caruso Memorial Chapel at Camp Pendleton has become a focal point for many activities on the base.

HAPPY VALLEY, PA

The Happy Valley Chapter held a luncheon on February 9th at the VFW. The purpose of this luncheon was to bring local State College residents and Penn State students together to celebrate their Italian American Heritage. We raised \$50 for Saint Jude's Children's Hospital. Delicious homemade pasta was served along with live entertainment provided by Penn State student Greg Noll. Two new members were installed at this meeting, Sam Scavo and Joseph Incelli. We had the privilege of our District Governor Leo Sperazza and Wilkes-Barre Chapter President risking the snow to attend our meeting.

ITALIAN AMERICAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION



From left: Dave Fusco, James Sagona, Joseph Incelli, District Governor Leo Sperazza, Chapter President Mike Bouselli, Greg Sheplock, Sam Scavo, and Julie Maroni.



From left: Joeseph Incelli, James Sagona, District Governor Leo Sperazza, Chapter President Mike Bouselli, Sam Scavo, and Julie Maroni.



Chapter members chat with invited guests.



From left: John Lombardo, Fred Lokuta, Joseph Incelli, James Sagona, Greg Noll, Chapter President Mike Bouselli, Julie Maroni, Ryan Scavo and Sam Scavo.



Attendees enjoy the homemade pasta!

GOT FACEBOOK?

If you have any questions about social media or want your event posted on Facebook, please contact the UNICO National Office at uniconational@unico.org. The staff will be more than happy to help you get your information out there!

92nd UNICONATIONAL CONVENTION 2014 The BREAKERS Paim Beach, FL 33480 SOUVENIER JOURNAL FORM PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING SPACE (Check One)	FULL COLOR INSIDE OR OUTSIDE COVER \$1,000.00 FULL COLOR CORPORATE SPONSOR PAGE 750.00* GOLD PAGE 750.00* WHITE PAGE 500.00 WHITE PAGE 275.00 Corporate Sponsor packages are also available. 175.00 Note: Discount of \$25.00 applies if received prior to June 1, 2014. 17.001	* Corporate Sponsors ads will be produced in color—Please have submissions "camera ready" for printing. ME ME DRESS V, STATE, ZIP V, STATE, ZIP ONE NUMBER MII MAIL THORIZED SIGNATURE	Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL Convention 2014 or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards: Conservence Exp. Date Security Code Otsa Card number Security Code (3 or 4 digits on back) Discover Name: Express (3 or 4 digits on back) Discover Name (3 or 4 digits on back) Anter: Express Signature (3 or 4 digits on back) Discover Name (3 or 4 digits on back) Anter: Express Signature (3 or 4 digits on back) Discover Name (3 or 4 digits on back) Anter: Express Signature (3 or 4 digits on back) Discover Name (3 or 4 digits on back) Amer: Express Name (3 or 4 digits on back) Completed form should be mailed, e-mailed or sent by fax to: (1 or 4 digits on back) Attn: Frank Cannata (3 or 4 digits on back) (3 or 4 digits on back) To NICO National Convention 2014 Attn: Frank Cannata (3 or 4 digits on back) Fairfield, New Jersey 07004 (3 or 4 digits on back) (3 or 4 digits on back) For more information or additional details, contact Frank Cannata, Ad Journal Char (3 or 4 digits on back)<	2014 CONVENTION AD JOURNAL
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NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter selected the winners of its annual raffle at its February 7 meeting. Winners were Pasquale Ferrara, First Prize (\$9,000), Bob Charles, Second Prize (\$3,000), Antonette Valvano, Third Prize (\$2,500) and Mike Mascara, Fourth Prize (\$1,750). This was one of the few times in Chapter history that all the winners were members. We were pleased to have National President Michael Veselka on hand to assist in selecting the winning tickets. Mike stressed the importance of family as a primary focus of the UNICO message.

The Chapter Selection Committee is reviewing applications for the Nutley UNICAN of the Year and an Italian American for an outstanding achievement. Anyone is eligible for the latter award with the exception of sitting elected officials.

Scholarship Committee Chair Alan Genitempo is preparing his committee for the review and selection of the many Nutley graduates who are applying for Chapter scholarships. This year we will give out over \$30,000 in scholarships. Recent/Upcoming Activities:

- Nutley St. Patrick Day Parade, March 1.
- Monthly dinner meeting, March 6
- Monthly dinner and Scholarship meeting, April 3
- "Magic, Mayhem and Music" Spring Fund-raiser
- Community Service Day, April 27
- Monthly dinner and Scholarship meeting, May 1
- Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast, May 18
- Monthly dinner and Scholarship meeting, June 5.

Among local donations is the sponsorship of two little league teams, assisting the local Rotary Club with a library project, Special Young Adults, Breast Cancer Awareness and Prostate Cancer.



National President Michael Veselka (left) assisted with the selection of the raffle winners at the February Chapter meeting. Joining him from left: Pasquale Ferrara, winner of the grand prize, Sal Ferrara, Chapter President Phyllis Coldebella and Tom Sposato.



MARCONI UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP



Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi

Marconi University Scholarships for UNICO Members Online

Guglielmo Marconi University is providing four Online scholarships to qualified UNICANS and/or their family members, one for each of the following programs: Master's Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Certificate, and a Single Course. Subjects eligible for study are Computer Engineering, Political Science, Cinematic Arts, Film and Television Production and Italian Language and Culture.

Founded in 2004, Marconi University offers over 50 programs at the graduate and postgraduate level that include business, media and cinema studies, science and engineering, as well as traditional areas of Italian excellence like fashion, design and art. The university also has research capabilities and a cutting-edge television, film, and digital media production studio where students gain practical experience.

Based in Rome, Italy, the university is a recognized international leader in distance education and its innovative online platform allows students from all over the world to enroll in its programs. The university has approximately 16,000 students and is accredited by the Italian Ministry of Education and the European Union equivalent and is currently pursuing accreditation in the United States. www.GMUonline.org

The university is open; there are no GPA or achievement test (SAT/ACT) requirements. Admissions are rolling; not restricted to traditional semesters. Courses are offered in Italian and English.

Eligibility: Application is open to UNICANS, in good standing, and their family members.

UNICO membership, for a minimum of one full year, is required.

To Apply, Contact UNICO Headquarters

www.unico.org (973) 808-0035 E-mail: uniconational@unico.org

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY ENDOWED CHAIR



Fornelli Backs Campaign for Endowed Chair in Chicago

The campaign to create an endowed professorship of Italian American studies at Loyola University Chicago is off to a flying start. Only a year after its launch, the campaign has already raised \$350,000 toward a fund-raising target of \$500,000. The campaign is being spearheaded by Past National President Anthony Fornelli.

Loyola President and CEO Father Michael Garanzini has offered an incentive match if the community can raise \$500,000. This will create a \$1 million endowment, ensuring that there will always be a professor at Loyola dedicated to teaching, researching, publishing and conducting community outreach focused on the culture of Italians in America.

An anonymous couple donated \$100,000 last year, and signed a pledge for an equal donation in 2014. Another anonymous donor has pledged \$10,000. The Columbian Club of Chicago has committed to \$50,000, Fornelli has pledged \$25,000 and the Marchegiana Society and Amaseno Society of Chicago Heights have pledged \$5,000 each. Hundreds of smaller donations make up the remainder of the \$350,000.

To contribute, mail a check made out to Loyola University Chicago, Memo: Italian American Studies, to Stephanie Tomakowski, Annual Giving, Loyola University Chicago, 820 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1612, Chicago, Illinois 60611, or call 312-915-7361.



From left: Father Garanzini and Tony Fornelli.

UNICO FOUNDATION RAFFLE

TICKETS: \$20 EACH OR BOOK OF 6 FOR \$100

PURCHASE THROUGH THE NATIONAL OFFICE OF FROM FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

ComUNICO





share your enthusiasm! Join us Today!

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

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

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

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

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

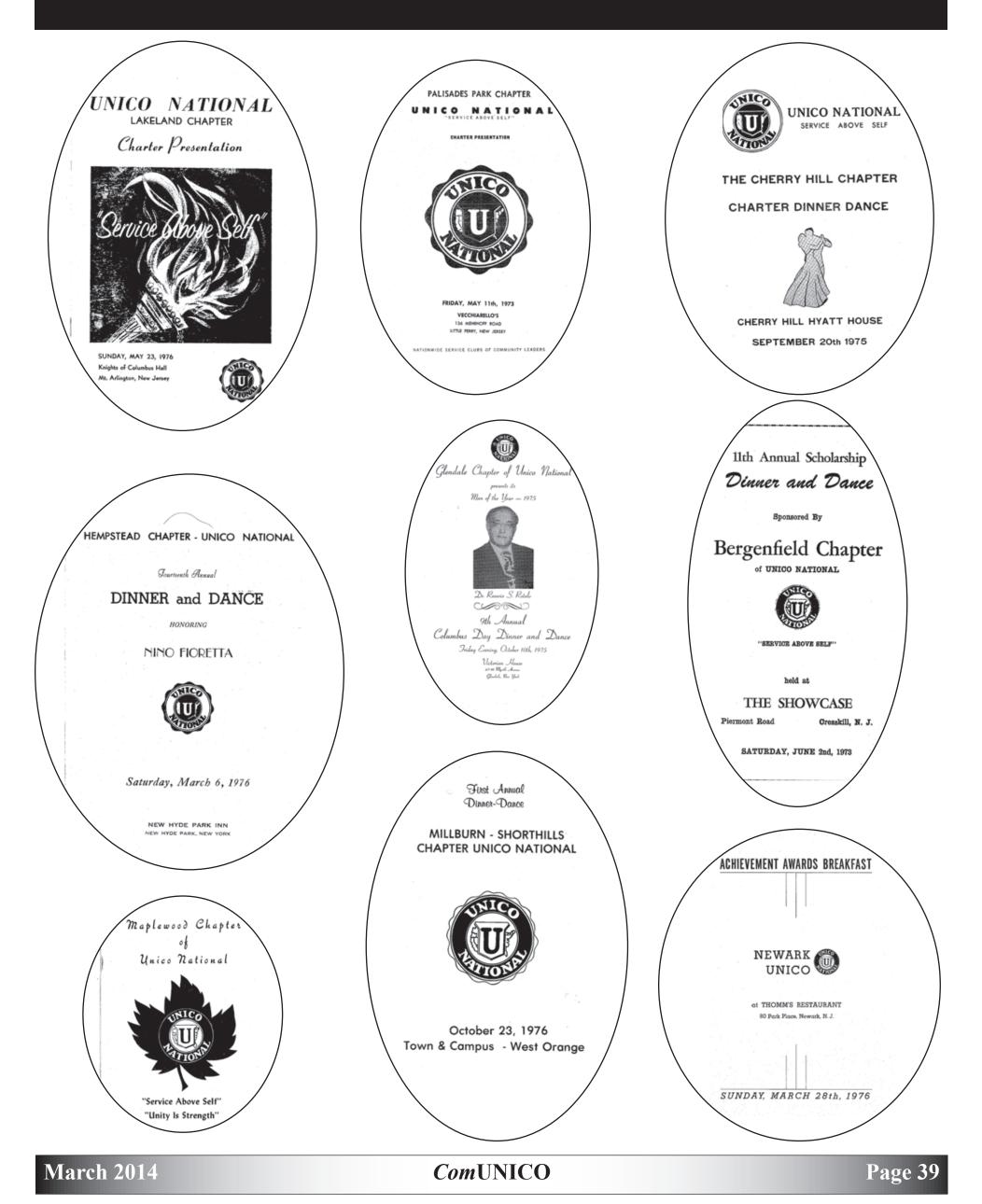
If you are looking to celebrate your heritage, serve your community and build lifelong friendships, UNICO National is the organization for you!

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





COMUNICO LOOKS BACK ON OUR HISTORY



UNICO NATIONAL 92ND CONVENTION



92ND ANNUAL CONVENTION AUGUST 5 - 10, 2014

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Fellow UNICANS, celebrate with us in 2014 and join us for fun in the sun at one of North America's most legendary resort destinations – The Breakers Palm Beach. This modern-classic paradise, situated on 140 acres of breathtaking oceanfront property in the heart of Palm Beach, Florida, features a host of enticing amenities and services:

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Save the Date

We're going "Back to The Breakers" Tuesday – Sunday | August 5 –10, 2014

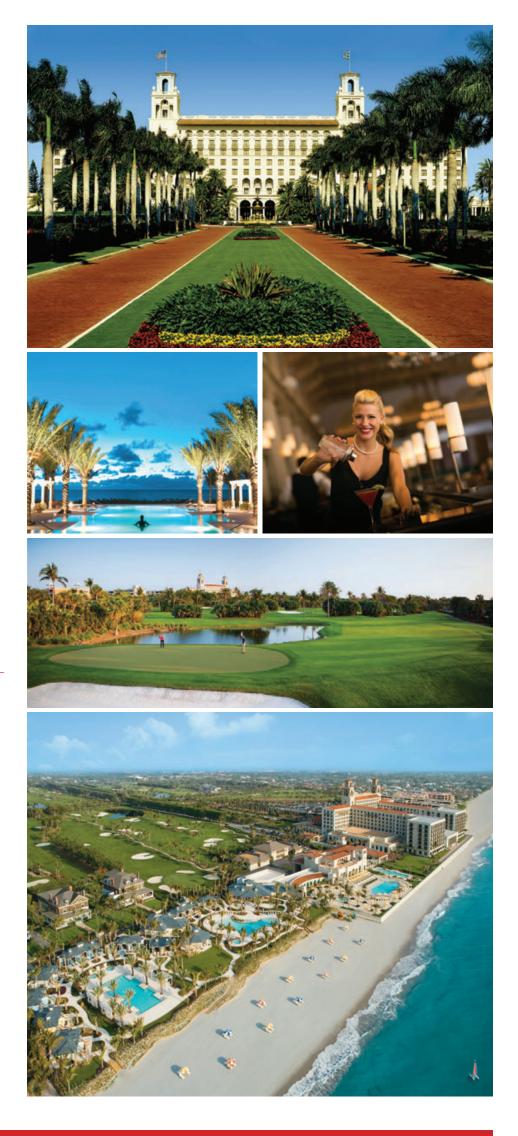
PREVIEW OF EVENTS

Wednesday, August 6 | Ice Breaker "Havana Nights" Friday, August 8 | Barbeque Luncheon Saturday, August 9 | Gala Dinner

Registration: \$125 for members Group Hotel Room Rate: \$175 plus tax, per night Meal Package: \$275 per person

For more information, please call the UNICO National Office at 1-973-808-0035





THE BREAKERS, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA-AUGUST 5-10, 2014