

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

MAY 2010 • VOLUME 65 • ISSUE 04



*Our Shared Heritage*  
*Our Shared Pride!!!*



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



**"Service  
above *Self*"**



**BELLA ITALIA IN  
SILICON VALLEY**  
*Page 43*

**ALL ROADS LEAD  
TO HERSHEY, PA**  
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**TONY LAZZERI,  
AMERICAN LEGEND**  
*Page 5*



**MIDWEST  
REGIONAL RECAP**  
*Pages 28-29*



# 2010 CALENDAR

<b>2010 Convention</b>	<b>July 28 - August 1, 2010</b>	<b>Hershey Lodge- Hershey PA</b>
<b>Eastern Regional Meeting</b>	<b>November 2010</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Western Regional Meeting</b>	<b>January 2011</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Midwest Regional Meeting</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Mid Year Board Meeting</b>	<b>March 2011</b>	<b>TBD</b>

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ANDRÉ DIMINO



### We are UNICO!!!

Since last August, I have had the privilege to be able to travel throughout the country as UNICO National

President and witness, first-hand, why UNICO is such an outstanding organization. It is our family of members! UNICANs are dedicated, selfless people who are proud of their Italian heritage and culture while they enjoy providing service to the community. Of course, we are all members of separate and distinct Chapters, each with its own makeup and character. But we are united nationally in our commitment to Service Above Self - as we celebrate Our Shared Heritage, Our Shared Pride!

Time and again, I have been amazed at the multitude of things that UNICANs accomplish across the country. Each year hundreds of young people receive our scholarships; many people in need receive the benefit of our generosity; scores of charities receive, not only our financial support, but also our time; other volunteer organizations, like ambulance, fire and community groups benefit from our support; and, the list goes on and on. At the same time, through the financial support of our Chapters, our UNICO National Foundation presents undergraduate and graduate scholarships and funds charitable initiatives, such as mental health, cancer research and Cooley's anemia. In addition, we recognize deserving individuals with our many UNICO National Awards while we are at the forefront of defending our heritage and culture through our Anti-Bias activities. Yes, we are UNICO and UNICO is special because of all of you!

One of the best ways to experience, for yourself, what a great organization you are part of, is to participate in National and Regional meetings. A case in point is our most recent National Board of Director's and Midwest Regional Meetings held in Nashville, TN in March. My thanks go to Co-chairs Paul Alongi,

(See President's Message on Page 12)

## YOUR UNICO NATIONAL OFFICE TEAM

The staff of the national office is dedicated to serving our UNICO membership and our chapters!

**Sal Benvenuti is our  
Executive Administrator**

**Pat Pelonero is our  
Office Manager**

**Clelia Alfano serves as a full time  
Administrative Assistant**

**Patrizia Trento serves as a part time  
Administrative Assistant**

**Joyce O'Hara serves as our  
Bookkeeper**

**The UNICO  
National Office  
973-808-0035  
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www.unico.org**

## The deadline for the July Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, June 7th, 2010

Send chapter news to Matteo Risi at:

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## EDITOR'S DESK MATTEO RISI



### A THOUSAND WORDS!

Digital Photography has revolutionized picture taking! Digital photos are the best way to insure that your chapter pictures will appear in ComUNICO. UNICANs still mail in traditional prints and we can scan these but it is better for all concerned if every chapter has a photographer with a digital camera.

Here are some tips that help us get your pictures into ComUNICO:

- Use a decent digital camera. We cannot make grainy or fuzzy photos look any better.
- Take close ups of people. Focus in on small groups instead of distant crowd shots.
- Take photos of different people. Often I get several pictures from a chapter that are all the same people.
- Name your digital photo starting with the chapter name. For example: Agawam1.jpg.
- Clearly identify your caption with your photo. Often it is best to e-mail one photo at a time with the caption text in the e-mail body.
- Choose the three best photos from each event to e-mail into ComUNICO,



At ComUNICO we love digital photos! Above, Former First Lady Linda Spano takes a snapshot at the Mid Year Board Meeting in Nashville.



André DiMino.....President  
Christopher DiMattio.....Executive Vice President  
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David Donnini.....2nd Vice President  
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## ComUNICO

Matteo Risi.....Editor

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### COVER PHOTOS

UNICO NATIONAL MARCONI SCIENCE AWARD AND MEDAL: Joseph A. Mulé receives the 2010 UNICO National Marconi Science Award from UNICO National President André DiMino at the Marconi Award Ceremony in Nashville, TN, at the conclusion of the UNICO National Board and Midwestern Regional Meetings. (L to R) Vita Mulé (wife of Joseph Mulé), Marconi Science Award 2010 Recipient Joseph Mulé, UNICO National President André DiMino and UNICO First Lady Jenny DiMino. (See pages 34 & 56)

WILKES BARRE ANNUAL PIG ROAST: Over 400 enjoyed the annual Pig Roast in Wilkes Barre, PA. (L to R) National Secretary Mike Pisano, PNP Al Dante, Exec. VP Chris DiMattio, Pig Roast Chair Dominic Otrolani, Wilkes Barre Chapter President Jarred Ferentino, National President André DiMino, Joe Donnini, Joe Peiangeli, ERDG Chair Bernie Brutto and National Counsel Frank Blasi. (See page 30)



## THE FIRST LADY OF UNICO JENNY DIMINO



### I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW THIS YEAR IS FLYING BY!

They say time flies when you are having fun! Boy, is that ever true! This journey with André has been so much fun that it seems that just yesterday it started. Here's some more of how it has been going.

Since the last edition of ComUNICO André and I started off with a terrific event at Scranton, PA on February 6. It was their Gala Charity Ball, this year honoring Angelo Genell - a well-deserved honor for a very generous and hospitable person. It was a classy and very well attended event and Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio did a great job. What beautiful flowers they presented to me. André and I always enjoy our time with all of the great UNICO members of Scranton. Thanks!

Later that month we were off to Little Italy in NYC for the Coalition of Italian American Associations where André was asked to be the guest speaker and discuss his work on defending our heritage against MTV's *Jersey Shore* and other negative programs. CIAA President Joe Scelsa was a great host and made us feel so welcome. I also enjoyed meeting the other guest speaker, NY Post Columnist Linda Stasi, who also spoke about her views on *Jersey Shore*.

On February 24 I had the pleasure of representing UNICO at a special event because André was away on business. It was a reception for the Italian National Committee for the Olympics held in Brooklyn, NY. I met a number of Italian dignitaries and I was able to present each of them with a copy of our UNICO Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar. They all were very appreciative and complimentary about this great publication.

We started off March with a bang! I joined André as he participated in the chartering of a new chapter - Northern Chesapeake, Maryland. Not only was it great to welcome a new chapter into our UNICO family, but it was extra special because the charter President is Don Piccolo, the brother of Brian Piccolo who we honor each year. The Charter members of this chapter were so warm and welcoming I know they will be a great addition to our UNICO family. They presented me with beautiful flowers and they gave André a fantastic engraved Silver Platter. My special and warm thanks goes to the members of this new Chapter.

The next morning we enjoyed a gourmet brunch at the beautiful home of the Miraglias outside of Baltimore, Maryland. What a perfect ending to a great UNICO weekend!

(First Lady Jenny continued on page 24)

## IL POSTINO



### FIGHTING STEREOTYPES BY EXAMPLE

My name is Vincent Coppola and I'm a former Newsweek reporter. I grew up in Brooklyn but have lived for the past 30 years in Atlanta (long, long story). I couldn't help but notice President André's comments on the latest attempt to portray Italian-Americans as a bunch of morons on MTV's *Jersey Shore*. I couldn't agree with André more.

In my small way, I have hopefully done something to counter the negativity against Italian Americans. I've written a book, *The Sicilian Judge*, that portrays Anthony Alaimo as an American Hero.

This is the true story of an 89-year-old Sicilian who still sits on the federal bench in Georgia. He is the son of illiterate immigrants, who shined shoes to get an education and was a Golden Gloves champion. In WWII he flew a bomber and was the sole survivor of a crash into the North Sea. He took part in the Luft Stalag III break out made famous in the film *The Great Escape*. He attempted to escape three more times from German POW camps and finally made it across the Alps and into Italy. Alaimo never told any one about his escapades for 50 years.

He came home, went to law school in Atlanta, graduated at the top of his class was denied employment by every law firm in the city because he was Italian! He persevered and made his way to the federal bench. As a judge he helped to clean up the prisons and enforce civil rights laws. He took on the entire Georgia legislature (The papers called him "Ayatollah Alaimo") and put drug-dealing sheriffs in jail alongside corporate CEOs who polluted the environment.

I have no financial interest in book sales. I was honored to write the book at the request of former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell, who had the insight to put two Italians together in Georgia. Judge Alaimo's story is far and away the biggest, most important story of my career, and I've covered a lot of big stories.

I think that all Americans should know about this honorable, proud and important man. Men of such character are the antidote to all the *Jersey Shore*, nonsense. If you visit his home on Sea Island, his house is the only one with the Italian flag alongside the American flag. He never forgot his roots or an immigrant son's obligation to live up to the freedoms he was given in a great country.

If somehow your organization can recognize this man, I would feel all my years in journalism will have meant something. I've found a story, a cause, a man, so much bigger than myself.

Here are links to the book on amazon.com.

• <http://www.amazon.com/Sicilian-Judge>.

Vince Coppola

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



When was the last time God got your attention? Think back to the last time you found yourself almost speechless because you had come face-to-face with some manifestation of his

love, power or majesty? Did a passage from the Bible leap out at you and pierce your heart? Was it through the beauty of a spectacular sunrise or sunset? Was it in the birth of a baby? God speaks to us in so many different ways, but one thing is always the same: he wants to reveal himself to us. It can happen anywhere, at any time, to anyone.

For example, Isaiah encountered the holiness of God while he was participating in a liturgical celebration in the Temple. He saw a vision of God surrounded by the heavenly court. Such majesty caused Isaiah to tremble because he was deeply conscious of his own sinfulness. However, when his sins were purged, he was ready to be sent out as one of God's messengers. He desired to serve God because he experienced his love.

Peter and his friends encountered Jesus after a difficult night of fishing. They realized there was something extraordinary about Jesus. They did not understand why such a gifted person, a holy person, wanted to be with them. They did not understand exactly what their relationship with Jesus would be, but they knew they wanted to follow Jesus and be with him. For whatever reason, they knew he believed in them, and they began to have faith in him and his choices.

St. Paul had a dramatic encounter with Jesus as he was heading to Damascus. Paul was very aware of his own failings, but he did not allow them to deter him because he was convinced that Jesus wanted him to be his apostle to the Gentiles. There was a huge chance that no Christian would accept Paul because he had persecuted the Church, but he was willing to take that chance.

At times, we all experience fears, doubts and hesitations, but these are part of building up human trust. Taking risks is a crucial element in learning to grow. Each of the above individuals learned first-hand that God's call to follow him is always accompanied by his transforming grace. We are not always sure what he has planned for us. Some of the tasks may seem very challenging and difficult. We might feel there are people better able to accomplish a particular task, but we should not allow any of this to stop us. Every day, Jesus renews his invitation to us to be one of his disciples. All we have to do is say "yes." If we do, he will provide for us.

God Bless,  
Fr. Bob Wolf, National Chaplain



## ITALIAN HERITAGE TONY LAZZERI



*Adapted from  
various Internet  
sources  
By Salvatore J.  
Mangano, PNP  
National Italian  
Heritage & Culture  
Chair 2009-2010*

Anthony Michael “Tony” Lazzeri was born on December 6, 1903. He was an Italian American Major League Baseball player during the 1920s and 1930s. He played predominantly with the New York Yankees. The native of San Francisco, California, was a member of the original American League All-Star team in 1933.

Lazzeri, a second baseman, first gained notice in the Pacific Coast League as a member of the Salt Lake City Bees, where he slugged 60 home runs and knocked in 222 RBIs in 1925. He entered the major leagues in 1926 as a member of the New York Yankees. In his rookie season he belted 18 homers and drove home 114 RBIs, impressive numbers which would become his annual trend. He was an important member of *Murderers Row* the tough Yankee Line up of the late 1920s. He was seen as a hero by his Italian-American fans in the Bronx, who nicknamed him “Poosh ‘Em Up” because of his powerful clutch hitting.

As a member of the Yankees until 1937, he averaged 79 runs, 14 home runs, 96 RBIs and 12 stolen bases including seven seasons with over 100 RBIs and five seasons batting .300 or higher (including a high of .354 in 1929). During this time the Yankees won six American League pennants (1926, 1927, 1928, 1932, 1936 and 1937) and five World Series championships (1927, 1928, 1932, 1936 and 1937).

After the Yankees released Lazzeri following the 1937 season, Lazzeri signed with the Chicago Cubs in 1938 but saw minimal playing time. The Cubs won the National League championship and Lazzeri got to face his old team in the World Series. Any hopes of sweet payback, however, were squashed as the Yankees swept the series.

After brief stints with the Brooklyn Dodgers and New York Giants in 1939, Lazzeri retired. He finished his career with a .292 batting average, 986 runs, 178 home runs, 1191 RBIs and 148 stolen bases. Despite his hitting 60 home runs in an extended PCL season in 1925, Lazzeri never hit more than 18 home runs in a major league season (which he did 4 times).

Lazzeri holds the American League record for most RBIs in a game with 11, set May 24, 1936. That same day he became the first major league player to hit two grand slams in one game. He holds the major league record of 15 runs-bat-



ted-in in consecutive games (one more than Rudy York in 1946 and Sammy Sosa in 2002). He also set major league records of six home runs in three consecutive games, and seven in four consecutive games. Both consecutive-game home run records still have a share of the American League record - but the three-game record was topped by Shawn Green of the Dodgers (seven in 2002) and the four-game mark was broken by Ralph Kiner of the Pittsburgh Pirates (eight in 1947). Lazzeri is also the only player in major league baseball to hit a natural cycle with the final home run being a grand slam on June 3, 1932.

In a 1976 Esquire magazine article, sportswriter Harry Stein published an “All Time All-Star Argument Starter”, consisting of five ethnic baseball teams. Lazzeri was the second baseman on Stein’s Italian team.

Lazzeri died on August 6, 1946, at age 42 from a fall caused, according to the coroner, by a heart attack in his Millbrae, California, home. He was elected to the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in 1976. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1991.

Although his offensive production was overshadowed by the historic accomplishments of teammates such as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio, Lazzeri is still considered one of the best hitting second basemen of his era. He was truly one of the great Yankee Legends.

## 2010 UNICO FOUNDATION RAFFLE

The 2010 UNICO Foundation Raffle is Underway!!!

Last year we raised about \$18,000 for UNICO Foundation Charities! Lets work together to raise even more this year!

The Montville Chapter was the Grand Prize Winner last year winning \$4500!

Contact your Chapter President for a chance to win or for raffle tickets you can sell to your friends and family. You can also contact National Office for raffle tickets – 973-808-0035.

## NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE MD

### NEW CHAPTER IS FIRST IN MARYLAND



*The Charter members of the Northern Chesapeake MD Chapter with their new banner. The banner was presented by UNICO National President André DiMino and First Lady Jenny.*



*National Expansion Director Gerry Heytink and National President André present the Charter to Northern Chesapeake Chapter President Don Piccolo.*



*Eastern Regional District Governor Chair Bernie Brutto installs the officers of new chapter.*



*National President André installed Don Piccolo as Charter President of the new Northern Chesapeake MD Chapter. Don is the brother of Brian Piccolo.*



## SCRANTON PA

### CHARITY BALL

On Saturday, February 6th, 2010 the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National held their 51st Charity Ball. The chapter honored Angelo Genell as UNICAN of the Year. The event was attended by more than 400 people and is one of the city of Scranton's largest fundraisers.



(L-R) Executive Vice President of UNICO National Chris DiMattio, Scranton Chapter President Sam Prudente, Scranton Chapter 2009 UNICAN of the Year Angelo Genell and UNICO Scranton Foundation Chairman Frank Castellano.



Front Row- 2009 UNICAN of the year Angelo Genell, and his wife Tracy Genell.  
Second Row The Honoree's Children (L-R) Angelo Jr., Ashley and Austin.



First Row (L-R) Rosalie Prizzi, Mary Mack, Rose Blasi, Palma Yanni, Maggie Prudente, Charity Ball Co-chair person, Dave Bieri, Charity Ball Co-chair person, Lisa Bieri, Diane Alberigi, Al Dante, PNP.  
Second Row (L-R) Executive Vice President of UNICO National Chris DiMattio, Franks Blasi Sr., Jack Brunetti, Jim Mack, Linda Malinowski, Bill Buckley, Pat Yanni, Mary Marrara, Blaise Dente, Scranton Chapter President Sam Prudente, UNICO National General Counsel Frank Blasi, Allen Layne and Peter Noto.

## MERRIMACK VALLEY MA

### 20th ANNIVERSARY



Merrimack Valley Chapter President Chris Perry and his wife Darlene (L) and other Merrimack Valley members welcome UNICO National President André and First Lady Jenny to the Chapter's 20th Anniversary Celebration.



National President André installed new members into Merrimack Valley Chapter on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner Celebration.



PNP Frank Cannata (L) and National President André receive signed books from author Stephen Puleo as a gift from the Merrimack Valley Chapter.



The First Ladies (L-R) UNICO National First Lady Jenny, Merrimack Valley Chapter First Lady Darlene Perry and Former National First Lady Carol Cannata enjoying the Merrimack Valley 20th Anniversary Dinner.

## UNICO YOUTH

### THE REAL JERSEY SHORE



Many people are aware of the controversy that surrounds MTV's latest reality TV show, *Jersey Shore*. I would like to dedicate this column to the Real Jersey Shore. When speaking with my fellow UNICANs there was a concern that people who had never visited New Jersey would think

the TV show is an accurate portrayal of the state and the people who live here. I can tell you this is not the case. There is much more to the Garden State than what people see on popular TV shows.

I am a lifelong resident of New Jersey and there are many reasons I am proud of my home state. I am very proud of New Jersey's rich Italian history and heritage. Like many other New Jersey natives, my ancestors came to this country and settled in various parts of the state. Their priceless contributions to the area include building cities and towns, manufacturing goods, teaching in schools and colleges, advancing the fields of science and medicine, and serving their communities through police and fire departments and other areas of civil service. My Italian ancestors helped make this state what it is today, a great place to live and raise a family.

I am proud of New Jersey's current population of Italian-Americans. Through organizations such as UNICO we work together to help others. It is our dedication to service and charity that deserves the spotlight but very rarely gets acknowledged. UNICANs in New Jersey and all over the country are a selfless

(UNICO Youth continued on page 24)

#### Information about the ACES Youth Program

(973) 808-0035  
(973) 808-0043 FAX  
uniconational@unico.org

ACES stands for Athletic, Cultural, Educational, Social/Service.

ACES is a fun and exciting opportunity for young men and women, ages 12-17, to become more tuned in to their Italian American heritage. Members will experience the rich and varied history of their shared ancestry through social events, field trips and civic activities, while fostering friendships and giving back to the community. .



## POINT PLEASANT NJ

### “TAKING A STAND” AGAINST MTV’S “JERSEY SHORE”

BOROUGH OF POINT PLEASANT---UNICO National President Andre’ DiMino today thanked and congratulated Borough of Point Pleasant elected officials for “taking a stand” against the ethnic-bashing MTV show, “Jersey Shore” and approving a resolution condemning both Viacom and MTV for their intentional misrepresentations of the Jersey Shore and the Italian American community.

The resolution, passed at last night’s meeting, “urges these corporate citizens to cease and desist from utilizing ethnic stereotypes to achieve monetary gains.”

“On behalf of UNICO members across the country, as well as the many, many Italian Americans, non-Italian Americans and citizens of New Jersey who support our opposition to MTV’s disgraceful series Jersey Shore and all that it portrays and represents, I express to you and the other council members our thanks and congratulations for this Resolution,” DiMino wrote in a statement to Point Pleasant Borough. “It is very gratifying to see that there are progressive and forthright elected officials, such as yourselves, who will stand up for what is right and will respond to the concerns of your constituents and neighbors.”

“As National President of UNICO, I will be pleased to advise everyone that you were the first government entity to respond to our Call to Action to take a stand against bias in all forms,” DiMino said. “I applaud your leadership and concern.”

In particular, DiMino thanked Borough Council President Susan Rogers and Councilwoman Toni DePaola, both members of UNICO, who helped champion the measure and also participated in UNICO’s anti-bias summit focusing on Jersey Shore earlier this month at Seaside Heights.

DiMino has made more than 39 major media appearances in leading UNICO National’s crusade against “Jersey Shore.” The campaign has thus far resulted in Domino’s Pizza, T-Mobile, Dell, Palm and Zappos withdrawing their advertisements from the show.

UNICO’s Call to Action, assembled by its Anti-Bias Committee embodies the following measures:

First, any effective effort at fighting bias requires unity. Becoming part of an anti-bias coalition such as the The Italian American One Voice Coalition ([www.iaonevoicecoalition.org](http://www.iaonevoicecoalition.org)) is a must. Each of us needs to be involved in calls for action, whether it’s through emails, letters in the papers, blogging, phone calls, and if need be, demonstrations.

Second, be vigilant. Read the papers, surf the net, watch television and be aware of bias issues as they arise. Bring them to our attention via the One Voice coalition.

Third, take the time to talk to someone dear to you, or better, a young person, about what it all means for them and their future in this country.

And last, petition, call, and write your Mayor or local leader and oppose giving film permits to race-baiting, ethnic-bashing, stereotyping programs like MTV’s “Jersey Shore.”

## CONVENTION 2010: ALL ROADS LEAD TO HERSHEY

Pack up the family in the minivan and head for Interstate 81 in Pennsylvania, open the windows and when you see the cornstalks and smell the sweet chocolate you know you’re near HERSHEY, PA – the site of this year UNICO National Convention to be held at the beautifully remodeled Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

The year was 1980 when President-Elect Renato Biribin, Esq. from New Jersey was handed the gavel by President Al Dante from Pennsylvania’s Scranton Chapter. Talk about circumstance! Now, thirty years later, another Scranton Chapter member, Chris DiMattio, will be handed the gavel from another Jersey President, André DiMino! Past National President’s Al and Renato have remained active on both a local and national scale all these years so it is fitting that Chris DiMattio has appointed both men as “Honorary Chairs” for this year’s convention. However both are far from accepting “honorary” status and have contributing valuable ideas and direction to the success of this year’s event just as they did thirty years ago.

The Convention has appropriately selected the theme “La Famiglia dell’ UNICO” and the committee has made every possible arrangement to attract UNICO families from across the country. As you will see, the event will be one of the most economically friendly in recent UNICO history and it couldn’t come at a better time. The registration fee is only \$50 per member and the meal package is only \$175 per person while children 14 and under eat FREE! So make this your family vacation and let UNICO act as your concierge.

Although many details are still being ironed out, the following we know. It won’t be 110 degrees in Hershey! So the first day, Wednesday July 28th, starts with a golf outing at the famous Hershey Country Club’s East Course – the one that has been rich in tradition since 1930, hosting such tournaments as the Hershey Open, the PGA Championship, LPGA Lady Keystone and most recently the Reese’s Cup Classic. Our morning event is a must for those who want the challenge of a distinctive course or just “hack” around with friends. Wednesday’s Ice Breaker meal will fill even the heartiest of appetites and the exciting entertainment and surprises for all ages will keep you up all night. Your entire family will feast on Italian delicacies and a Roasted Loin of Bone-in Pork fit for a king (or queen). Then join in the singing with our “Strolling Italian Musicians”, and dance the “Tarantella” with dancers from Italy. The headliner group will be “The DUPREES”! They put on a show you will not want to miss!

After the opening ceremonies of the National meeting, Thursday will allow you to pamper yourself at the world renowned and luxurious Spa at the nearby Hotel Hershey or join the ladies for Afternoon Tea at the historic hotel after you tour the magnificent Hershey Gardens. Plenty of local tours await the family

and a special tour of Gettysburg National Park and Battlefield will also be available. This will be the only night you’ll dine “on your own” but our hospitality committee will make sure it’s a memorable one to fit any budget! Back at the Lodge, a special surprise entertainment package is being planned.

Friday’s events feature an “All-Star” Awards and Sports Luncheon and then at 5pm the Scranton Chapter invites all convention attendees and their families to an “All-American Picnic” at a private, climate friendly, covered area in Hershey Park. You’ll be able to be entertained while you feast and then enjoy the Park – compliments of the Scranton Chapter!

Saturday morning is when Chris DiMattio gets sworn in as National President and the meeting is open to all. Saturday afternoon will feature a Vigil Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino, Bishop of Madison, WI and a native of Dunmore, PA. The evening will feature two gala events – the Inaugural Grand Ball featuring another Hershey prepared meal featuring the finest of filets and dancing to the POETS, one of PA’s most entertaining show bands. For the youngsters, a “Gala” Pizza Party right down the hall, under professional supervision is planned with lots of surprises.

We can’t say enough about the food. From breakfast to dinner the food is terrific. Don’t forget you’ll be in the agricultural capital of America and the freshness of each item will be in season and hand-picked daily! So don’t delay, rooms are almost filled! The committee is led by Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio, Chairwoman, Karen Clifford, Co-Chairman Frank Tidona and Journal Chairman, Joe Agresti. Just follow the instructions found in this ComUNICO or visit our website, [www.unico2010.org](http://www.unico2010.org). A brochure will also be mailed to all members soon. See you in HERSHEY... the SWEETEST PLACE ON EARTH!



*The Duprees will entertain us at the Wednesday Night Ice Breaker!*





**88<sup>th</sup> UNICO National Convention 2010**  
**HERSHEY LODGE**  
**HERSHEY, PA**  
**Souvenir Journal Form for Personal or Business Greetings**

**PLEASE RESERVE THE FOLLOWING SPACE**

*(Check One)*

- ☐ **FOUR-COLOR INSIDE OR OUTSIDE COVERS** ----- \$ 1,000.00
- ☐ **CORPORATE SPONSOR PAGE** ----- \$ 750.00\*
- ☐ **GOLD PAGE** ----- \$ 500.00
- ☐ **WHITE PAGE** ----- \$ 275.00
- ☐ **HALF PAGE** ----- \$ 175.00

*Corporate Sponsor packages are also available.*

**Submission deadline—June 30, 2010**

**NOTE: A \$25.00 discount applies if received prior to June 1, 2010**

\* Corporate Sponsor pages will be produced in color - please have submissions "camera ready" for printing  
 \* Please submit personal greetings or well-wishes should be prepared on an attached page or "camera ready"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL 2010 Convention" or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards:

*(circle one below)*

MasterCard

Visa

Discover

Amer. Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

(3 or 4 digit on back)

**Completed form should be mailed or sent by facsimile to:**

**UNICO National Convention 2010**

Attn.: Joseph Agresti, PNP

271 US Highway 46 W, Suite A-108

Fairfield, NJ 07004

*For more information or additional details, contact Joseph Agresti, Chairman  
 Phone (973) 473-3873, Fax (973) 808-0043 or Email at [agresti1@aol.com](mailto:agresti1@aol.com)*



*Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio never misses an opportunity to promote the National Convention at the Hershey Lodge. At the Mid Year Board Meeting in Nashville, Chris hands Eastern Regional District Governor Bernie Brutto a Hershey Bar!*

The Hotel Hershey, built in the 1930s, is a historical landmark, four-star hotel located on a hilltop overlooking Hershey, Pennsylvania. It has 232 guest rooms and 23,500 square feet of event space. During the Great Depression, Milton S. Hershey, founder of The Hershey Chocolate Company, faced with the challenge of employing his town's construction workers and providing for their welfare, decided to build the hotel.

**IF YOU WANT TO  
GO TO THE NATIONAL  
CONVENTION**

• **Call the Hershey Lodge and reserve a room with a credit card immediately as rooms are going fast.**

**Call (800) HERSHEY (437-7439)**

**Make certain that the reservation agent understands that you are with UNICO! You may also fill in the Hotel Registration Form for the Hershey Lodge and fax or mail it in.**

• **Fill in the UNICO convention registration form and fax or mail it to the UNICO National office.**

• **Support our convention and take pride in your chapter and district. Make certain that they are represented with an ad in the Convention Advertising Journal! Businesses and even individuals and families participate with messages of support.**

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE  
2010 CONVENTION AD  
JOURNAL**

Every national convention publishes an Ad Journal to raise money to subsidize convention expenses. The revenue raised by this convention book allows the convention committee to underwrite such important areas as entertainment and meals for convention attendees.


**Every Chapter and District in UNICO is asked to buy a full page advertisement for \$175 at the very least!**

UNICO members are asked to seek out corporate sponsors that would benefit by advertising their name and products to UNICO and its membership. Please help! At your next chapter or district meeting make the motion under new business to buy a page in the 2010 Convention Ad Journal!

Your Ad Journal page can contain photos and write ups on your chapter.




# CONVENTION AND MEAL PLAN REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE HERSHEY LODGE



## 2010 UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION

### Registration Form

Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA  
July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010



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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Children Attending - Name and Ages \_\_\_\_\_

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

**FEES AND CHARGES**

	UNICO MEMBERS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN (14 and under FREE)
<b>MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT</b>			
Icebreaker featuring <i>The DUPREES</i>	\$ 175	\$ 175	\$ 100 (ages 15-20)
Continental Breakfasts; Awards Luncheon;			<i>We'll be in contact to ask how many will attend the Pizza Party-Saturday Night or Inaugural Grand Ball featuring <b>The POETS</b></i>
<i>*If NOT staying at the Lodge the fee is \$ 350</i>			<i>would prefer a child's meal at the Gala.</i>
<b>Registration</b> (UNICO Members only)	\$ 50	n/c	No charge for non member
<b>Golf</b> starting at 8:00 am Wednesday	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80
Ladies High Tea at the <b>Hotel Hershey</b> (Thursday)	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 10 (ages 15-20)

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

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

Will this be your first UNICO CONVENTION? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**\*NOTE:** Convention attendees NOT staying at the Hershey Lodge will be assessed a surcharge as the amount of room nights are considered in the charges for convention activities.

Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL 2010 Convention" or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards:  
(circle one below)

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

Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Amer. Express \_\_\_\_\_


Completed form should be mailed or sent by facsimile to:

**UNICO NATIONAL**  
271 US Highway 46 West, Suite A-108  
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458  
Tel: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 or email to: [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)

**Scranton Chapter Hospitality Fun Night at Hershey Park!**  
FRIDAY NIGHT from 5 PM 'till 11 PM  
All Registered Members will be shuttled to a private area within Hershey Park on Friday for a COMPLIMENTARY  
Catered Classic Pennsylvania Hershey Park Picnic including tickets to HERSHEY PARK!

# HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE HERSHEY LODGE



## 2010 UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION

### RESERVATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Hershey Lodge**  
325 University Drive, Hershey, PA 17033

*The official dates of the UNICO National Convention are:*  
**Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**

Reservations must be made no later than **June 26<sup>th</sup> 2010** (cut-off date)

**Rates are just \$199.00 per night (UNICO discount)**

**FIRST** - to reserve your room at the Hershey Lodge, simply call

- 1-800-HERSHEY (437-7439) - Select *Option 1*
- Identify yourself as part of the UNICO Convention
- Give the representative the dates you plan to stay overnight


*It's that simple!*

No deposit will be required, however they will ask for your credit card number to reserve.  
Write down your confirmation number or provide your email address and they'll send it to you.

If you wish to extend your stay, you and your family can take advantage of this special UNICO National discounted rate up to three nights prior to or three nights after the convention, based on availability, of course. Just ask the Hershey agent!

**NEXT** - complete the Registration Form and mail along with  
payment to UNICO National\*

Once we know your reservation has been made, our committee will contact you with additional UNICO 2010 and HERSHEY information and activities, or you may check their web-site  
[www.hershey lodge.com](http://www.hershey lodge.com)



**\*NOTE** - If you are not staying from Wednesday to Saturday, we have specific prices for the meals. So if you would like specific information regarding this or for questions regarding the Convention, please contact the UNICO National Office at 973-808-0035  
[www.unico2010.org](http://www.unico2010.org)



## ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

### BASILONE NIGHT PROGRAM

UNICO PNP Frank Cannata now serves as the very first UNICO National Armed Services Chair. Frank was instrumental in creating this position and is passionate about its success.

Frank has produced a travelling documentary on the life of Italian American WWII hero Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone. Basilone earned the Medal of Honor on Guadalcanal. Frank has not only conducted his own research but is impressive on the podium particularly during Q & A sessions.

The Basilone Night Program starts with a discussion on the strategic situation in the Pacific that led to the American invasion of the obscure island of Guadalcanal. The second half is a film documentary on the life of John Basilone.

The presentation has been well received in such venues as Seton Hall University. Frank will be flying to San Diego to present the program on Saturday, May 1st in San Diego's Little Italy neighborhood. The venue will be an open air street theater at Piazza Basilone.



*UNICO National Armed Services Chair, Frank Cannata, presented a program on the battle of Guadalcanal and a documentary on the life of John Basilone at Seton Hall University on February 8th, 2010.*



*Gabriella Romani is the Director of the Alberto Italian-American Institute at Seton Hall*



*Bill Connell is the LaMotta Chair in Italian Studies at Seton Hall University.*



*The audience for the Basilone Program at Seton Hall was impressive. There were a wide range of people interested in the subject. World War II veterans and Army ROTC Cadets in the audience were asked to stand and be recognized.*

## SCRANTON PA

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Scranton Chapter of UNICO National kicked off 2010 Community Service Day with its annual blood drive coordinated by chair, Jack DeLeo. The drive took place on Saturday, March 27th.

Many UNICO members and community friends donated blood through the Scranton Chapter of the American Red Cross during the drive.



*Kneeling are Blood Drive Chairman Jack DeLeo, and Co-chair of the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National Community Service Day Jim Brogna, (L-R Standing) Bob Montalbano, Steve Andrichak, Mark McDade, Alan Mazzei, UNICO National Executive President Chris DiMattio and Jay Sochoka.*

## PORTLAND OR

### CONCERT PERFORMANCE



On February 26th, UNICO-Portland Members, Beth Donnelly and Douglas Feller gave a wonderful performance in a Concert entitled, "Romancing . . . Broadway, Opera & Jazz . . ."

The performance was held at The Old Church in Downtown Portland. The Old Church is a unique gathering place in Portland. Built in 1883, The Old Church is one of the oldest and most beautiful buildings in the Pacific Northwest. No longer a home to any one congregation, The Old Church is now a nonprofit historic site available for a wide variety of community functions such as concerts, plays and lectures.

This particular Concert was a special performance given in honor of UNICO-Portland. Beth and Doug graciously donated one-half of the proceeds to the Portland Chapter. President Gallo and the Members of UNICO-Portland are very appreciative and grateful for their generous donation.

Following the performance, members and guests enjoyed refreshments donated by two other UNICO-Portland Members. Dessert was provided by Member, Pat Di Prima, owner of Di Prima Dolci Bakery, and coffee was provided by Andrea Spella, owner of Spella Caffe.

Beth Donnelly and Douglas Feller are seasoned artists with local, national and international credits. They have traveled to and performed in Italy on several occasions. They have been quoted as . . . "Two singers who reach deep into your soul to make music that will forever live in your heart" . . .

Beth and Doug are available for national performances as well. Their premier CD/DVD "That's Amore" is available for purchase. To contact Beth and Doug or for more information, please visit their Web site at [www.jeremiahproductions.com](http://www.jeremiahproductions.com).

#### Italian Proverb:

Chi dorme non piglia pesci.  
He who sleeps does not catch fish.  
The early bird catches the worm.



## UNICO NATIONAL SCRAPBOOK & DVD AWARD REPORT

### GET YOUR CHAPTER'S ENTRY READY FOR THE NATIONAL CONVENTION!

Howdeeeeee!! to all UNICANS who were not fortunate enough to attend the Board of Directors and Mid-Western Regional meeting at The Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, TN. The resort was like having a complete city within a city and was breathtakingly beautiful. The lush atriums with ponds, waterfalls, indoor river and an island along with its fabulous restaurants and interesting shops were simply sensational. And then there was Nashville and the "Grand Ole Opry." More importantly, the opportunity to meet with our fellow UNICANS, both for the work sessions and later to socialize, was the icing on the cake. From beginning to end, the mid-year was "UNFORGETTABLE!" Congratulations to President André and First Lady Jenny for selecting such a wonderful site!!

That being said, the scrapbook committee went right to work. Committee members Tanya Brutto, Gerri Camurati, Jean DeSio, Barbara Laborim, Mark McDade, Celeste Pandolfi, Sharon Thompson and those that could not attend, Patricia Calabro, Marianne Nolan and Kathy Suppa offered helpful suggestions to clarify the scrapbook and DVD guidelines. Member at large Steve Pelonero also offered some significant suggestions.

We agreed that some of the wording in the current guidelines was redundant so we eliminated the unnecessary language. To clarify what the scrapbooks and DVD's should include, we started with the July 1st to the June 30th insertions of appropriate material. One of the helpful hints was to include a Table of Contents and the numbering of pages to aid in the scoring of each entry. The labeling of fundraisers and events plus the inclusion of newspaper articles highlighting its UNICO chapter activities and pertinent thank you notes should be included in each entry. Scrapbooks and DVD's are to be turned in to the chair by NOON on Thursday of the National Convention – no exceptions. For convenience, the UNICO registration desk will accept all entries.

Concerning the judging, committee members are paired off in two's and review scrapbooks and DVD's that are NOT competing in their own chapter size. If a tie occurs, the deciding factor will be based on the overall artistic presentation. All entries will receive a certificate of merit for their participation and efforts. Winning entries will also receive the appropriate banner patch. The chair will act solely as the facilitator to answer questions and provide guidelines. No voting privilege will be given to the chair.

We had a serious discussion about making the playing field fair to all participants. For both the scrapbook and DVD entries, it was recommended that we keep the small size chapters at 40 or less; medium size at 41 to 80 members and large to increase it from 81 to 200 members. An extra large chapter size for chapters that consist of 201 or more members was created.

Guidelines for the DVD entries were spelled out and scoring sheets for both the scrapbooks and DVD's were revised to make them more user friendly for the judges. It was suggested



*UNICO National Scrapbook and DVD Judging Committee : (L-R) Celeste Pandolfi, Gerri Camurati, Committee Chairperson Michele McDade, Barbara Laborim, Mark McDade, Jean DeSio, and Tanya Brutto. The photographer was Steve Pelonero.*

and approved that the winning DVD's would be continually viewed at our Saturday breakfast when possible. They would act as a great visual to see what is being done at these chapters and would hopefully encourage other chapters to participate. The scrapbooks will continue to be displayed on Friday morning.

Finally, these guidelines for the scrapbook and DVD competition should be made available to the UNICO membership through the National Website, ComUNICO and in a mailing to chapter presidents.

The membership approved all of the suggestions and we, the committee, are most grateful!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele McDade  
Scrapbook / DVD Chairperson

#### **SCRAPBOOK AND DVD AWARD GUIDELINES, REVISED AND APPROVED AT MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING 3-20-10**

##### **PURPOSE**

To work and assist in keeping a record of significant events in UNICO National, through the collection of pictures and news articles, and to foster and supervise the establishment of a Scrapbook and DVD Committee in each chapter, as a source of historical reference to the activities of that chapter.

##### **SCRAPBOOK GUIDELINES**

1. To be eligible, Scrapbooks should only contain information covering the most recently completed fiscal year, that is, from July 1st thru June 30th.

2. Scrapbooks must be submitted to the chair by Thursday Noon of the National Convention, no exceptions.

3. A chapter's scrapbook should signify the chapter's accomplishments. Material should include the following: publicity from newspapers and magazine articles; programs from chapter events; and thank you notes. Having the pages numbered and a table of contents is strongly recommended.

4. The material will be judged for artistic work and presentation of items and pictures submitted in book form. Socials, fundraisers and community participation should be clearly labeled as such.

5. The judges use a point system in grading the scrapbooks. Committee members are paired off in twos and review the entries that are not competing in their own chapter size. This allows for fairness and diligence in the scoring of each entry. In the event of a tie, the deciding factor will be based on the overall artistic presentation, as judged by ALL qualifying committee members..

6. The scrapbook from the chapter receiving the highest number of points from the above criteria will be the winner in their chapter size category as follows:

a) small sized chapters are 40 members or less;

b) medium sized chapters are 41 to 80 members;

c) large sized chapters are 81 to 200 members;

d) extra large chapters are 201 or more members;

The chair will act solely as the facilitator, providing the guidelines and answering questions. The chair will have no voting privilege.

All entries will receive a certificate of merit for their participation and efforts in submitting a scrapbook. The winners will also receive a Scrapbook Banner Patch.

##### **DVD GUIDELINES**

The DVD should only contain information covering the most recently completed year, that is, from July 1st thru June 30th. The DVD must be submitted to the chair by Thursday Noon of the National Convention, no exceptions. The DVD length should be labeled and should not exceed 30 minutes.

Each of the following four categories could receive up to 10 points for a possible total of 40 points.

1. The DVD should depict as many chapter functions and events as possible from the most recently completed fiscal year only.

2. The events must be presented chronologically and must be properly identified.

3. The importance of the events will be considered.

4. The DVD most professionally presented, but not necessarily professionally done, will be given serious consideration.

Judges for the DVD category can include any number of committee members, but not less than two. They cannot be a member of a competing chapter in the same chapter size category. The chapter size categories will be the same as given for the scrapbook competition. The committee chair will have no voting privilege and will act solely as the facilitator, providing the guidelines and answering questions. In the event of a tie, the deciding factor will be the overall artistic presentation.

All entries will receive a certificate of merit for their participation and efforts in submitting a DVD. The winners will also receive a DVD Banner Patch.

These guidelines for the Scrapbook and DVD competition should be made available annually to the UNICO membership through the National Website, ComUNICO and a mailing to the Chapter Presidents.



# PRESIDENT ANDRÉ

## (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

PNP and John Alati, PNP for organizing such a great UNICO weekend and for every UNICAN who attended and made it great! Regional District Governor, Nina Held of St. Louis, did an outstanding job in conducting the Midwest Regional during which we heard from the DGs and Presidents about the many activities and accomplishments of UNICO in the Midwest. At the National Board Meeting we conducted our important UNICO business and had reports from over 15 National Committees which included the selection of many National Award winners as well as other committees diligently conducting their responsibilities. And, the highlight of the Board Meeting each year is our prestigious UNICO National Marconi Science Award Ceremony at the gala Saturday night dinner. As you may know, this award is very special to me as my father was the first recipient in 1995. This year I was so pleased to be able to present the award to Joseph Mule' who was involved with the Apollo 11 lunar landing and was nominated by the Rehoboth, DE UNICO Chapter. As you can tell, it was a busy weekend but, in addition to our UNICO business, we had the opportunity to enjoy fun times with UNICANs from across the country. That is why, if you have not done so in the past, I urge you to experience this special part of being a UNICAN by participating in National and Regional events.

As you may know, I have dedicated my year as National President to celebrating our great Italian heritage and culture. I have been so pleased at the excellent and strong response I have received from so many UNICO members across the country who are appreciative of this effort. Many have told me that they feel a renewed commitment to our organization because of this stronger emphasis on our Italian heritage and culture. I sincerely hope that you feel the same way because it is my desire to make UNICO the standard-bearer of what it is to be Italian American while we continue our tradition of service to the community and the nation.

One of the foundations to appreciating our heritage and culture is the Italian language. Unfortunately, there are only a small number of schools that have an Italian language program. Due to current economic conditions, there are many instances where long-standing Italian programs are being considered for elimination from school budgets. We can not allow this erosion of our heritage to occur! That is why I have personally appeared before several school boards to fight the elimination of these programs. I am pleased to tell you that in one case in Dumont, NJ High Schools, where Italian has been taught for over 30 years, the program has been saved. Many of you joined with me in an email and phone campaign to save the Dumont Italian Program. On March 25, I attended the Dumont Board of Education meeting where they announced the program would be continued. On behalf of UNICO, I publicly thanked the Board for preserving the Italian program and I announced that UNICO would donate our Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar to the students - which got

a rousing applause from the over 300 parents in attendance. I was also pleased to have our Anti-Bias Chair, Manny Alfano with me as well as members of the Sons of Italy who joined with us in this effort. Unfortunately, we have learned of many more districts where the Italian program is in jeopardy, so we must continue our efforts to preserve these programs.

Since the last issue of ComUNICO our UNICO family has grown through the chartering of two new Chapters - The Northern Chesapeake Chapter in Maryland and The Villages Chapter in Florida. I was so pleased to participate in these charter nights and I congratulate and welcome all of the new members into our UNICO family. As you may have heard, Don Piccolo, the brother of Brian Piccolo, is the Chapter President of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter and he has a great group of charter members in that Chapter. And, the great charter members of The Villages Chapter are poised to quickly do some great things in their beautiful community - they held their first fundraiser for the homeless within 3 days of the chartering night. Bravo! I want to sincerely thank Expansion Director Gerry Heytink for his incredibly dedicated service in bringing us these Chapters and for the many more he is working on. Thanks, Gerry!!!

Over the upcoming last few months of my term as National President I look forward to visiting many more UNICANS in Chapters and Districts across the country. I am positive that at every visit I will witness further evidence of why UNICO is such a great organization because of its great members. I am honored to be a UNICAN and to serve as your President!

Yours in UNICO!

André DiMino  
National President

*PLEASE - follow me on twitter at [www.twitter.com/andreUNICOpres](http://www.twitter.com/andreUNICOpres) and "friend me" on Facebook. Or, just email me at [andre@unico.org](mailto:andre@unico.org)*



*Always connected! President André fields a phone call at the Mid Year Board Meeting in Nashville. Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio (L) and General Counsel Frank Blasi (R) strain at the leash to get their face time with the president!*

### Italian Proverb:

*Chi trova un amico trova un tesoro.  
He who finds a friend, finds a treasure.*

## UNICO NATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT

On March 19, 2010, The Board of Trustees met in Nashville, Tn. The Treasurer, Michael Spano, reviewed the Treasurer's report. He compared the Financial Statements for the quarters ending, 9.30.09 and 12.31.09.

The Board approved the following Grants:

### 1. Cooley's Anemia

\$10,000 Grant to the University of Alabama for Cooley's Anemia Research.

### 2. Mental Health

A. \$5,000 Grant to THE GARDEN ACADEMY IN Maplewood, NJ for a reading program for the Special Needs (Autistic) Children.

B. \$3600 Grant to 55 KIP CENTER, Rutherford, NJ for Caregivers of Alzheimer's patients.

The Italian Studies Committee reviewed 5 request totaling \$51,500. The Committee felt that all the requests were viable projects; however, since there is only \$3,000 available, they recommend that the Trustees decline all of the requests for lack of funds.

All the CHAPTERS and DISTRICT GOVERNORS have received raffle tickets. Each Trustee will attempt to sell a minimum of 5 books. Several Chapters are selling individual tickets and they are using the extra ticket for their Chapter. This is the only fundraiser for the FOUNDATION. The drawing will be held this year at the Convention in Hershey, Pa. on Saturday, July 31, 2010. We are looking forward for everyone to purchase tickets for the fundraiser.

The ELLA T. GRASSO Literary Award has been funded by our Scholarship Fund. Joan Tidona, Scholarship Chairperson, requested a special fund be set up for this award and funded separately. The Board approved her request and PNP, Anthony Fornelli, agreed to fund the program for next year. In the future, we will seek donations to fund this award.

President DiMino, informed the Trustees that throughout his visits to various Chapters, he discovered that many Chapters formed their own Foundation using the Unico name. Most of the Chapters do not contribute to our National Foundation. A Task Force has been set up headed by LEGAL COUNSEL, Carmine Campanile, to investigate the situation.

The UNICO Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) corporation. It is the charitable arm of our organization and allows us to obtain tax deductible donations and grants.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the Unico Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in UNICO,  
John J. DiNapoli  
President, Unico Foundation



## NUTLEY NJ

### GOOD START TO 2010

The Nutley, NJ Chapter of Unico National has moved through the 2010 year with a variety of outstanding programs and speakers during the months of January, February and March.

The January speaker was author Joseph Cervasio whose new book, *The Secrets of Arancathea*, follows his initial literary work, *Bad News on the Doorstep*. Joe's latest effort was dedicated to a former Nutley UNICAN, the late Mike Geltrude. The book focused on how we can deal with difficult times and decisions. Several books were signed for chapter members. At this meeting, member Dan Maurici continued his running commentary on the foods of the different regions of Italy. This presentation dealt with Rome, "The Eternal City." Dan explained what crops were harvested in Rome, how they were cooked and even had a dish prepared for those who attended the January meeting. Among the interesting facts concerning food prepared "a la Romana" was the Roman's liberal use of anchovies, the preparation of Spaghetti Carbonara and the classic Fettucini Alfredo, which was initially prepared by a Roman chef to settle his wife's stomach.

February was highlighted by the drawing of the \$100 raffle at the February 2nd meeting. All tickets were sold and the four winners were, Mike Thompson (\$9,000), Russ Catanzarite (\$2,500), Tom San Giacomo (\$2,000) and Rich Trivolo (\$1,500). The esteemed speaker at this meeting was Mike Dionno, a writer for the Newark, NJ Star Ledger, the leading newspaper in the state. Mike started out as a sports writer for the NY Post before moving on to the Star Ledger. He is a third generation Italian American who believes strongly in patriotism being the way out of the current political and economic doldrums. He felt that the affluent become Americanized and don't always appreciate the evolution of their ethnic groups.

March saw the chapter marching in the Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade and preparing for its scholarship selections. The Nutley chapter gives out over \$30,000 in scholarships sponsored by a combination of chapter fund raising and members who contribute in memory of a family member or specific cause. The speaker in March was Frank Vuono, one of the most influential executives in the sports marketing profession. Frank is the founder and a partner in 16W Corp. Div. which boasts such clients as the NY Football Giants, Cal Ripken Baseball Turf, the United Football League, and who at one time represented all but two of the NFL quarterbacks playing at the time. Frank was a Princeton Univ. grad who still lives in his hometown of Lyndhurst, NJ.

After one month's absence for personal reasons our resident culinary expert, Dan Maurici, returned, this time to talk to us about Pizza. This form of "flat bread" originated

thousands of year ago in the Neolithic Age. The modern version of Pizza surfaced in the early 1500's when tomatoes found their way to Italy from the New World. Pizza began in Naples as "a food of the poor," but was quickly discovered by the more affluent. Eventually the Neapolitans developed the "Queen Marguerita" a pizza with tomatoes, mozzarella and basil. Pizza reached the American shores with our immigrant ancestors and became very commercialized. However, you can still find the two most popular pies, the Neapolitan Marinara and Marguerita pies at your favorite neighborhood pizzeria. Americans eat 100 acres of pizza a day!

The selections for the Nutley Chapter UNICAN of the Year and Outstanding Achievement Awards were Mel Priolo and Carmen Orechio who is a charter member of Nutley UNICO. These awards and chapter scholarships were distributed at the April 1st, May 6th and June 3 meetings and at the May Brian Piccolo scholarship breakfast. The guest speaker at the Piccolo breakfast will be his brother Don Piccolo.



"Jr." Mascola, is the Nutley UNICO Sergeant-At Arms. Here he plays Santa and brings gifts to the chapter's Christmas party.



Nutley UNICO members participating in the Nutley St. Patrick's Day Parade. (L-R): Anthony Malfitano, 1st VP; Pat Ritacco, Dr. Joseph Di Pierro, Paulo Benvenuto, Judy Geltrude, Phyllis Coldebella, Mel Priolo, Mario Di Maggio and Frank Cocchiola, Jr.



Nutley, NJ Chapter President Marie Solino with the March 4 guest speaker, Frank Vuono, a nationally recognized sports agent and manager.



Mario De Maggio (l) and 1st VP Anthony Malfitano (r) of the Nutley, NJ Chapter of UNICO, present a plaque to the February meeting speaker, Newark, NJ Star Ledger writer Mark Dionno.

## MONTVILLE NJ

### RECOGNITION FOR CHARITABLE WORK



Kathy Suppa and the Turkey's 4U students were recognized by the Morris County Freeholders on March 10th for their charitable work. Congratulations!



These hardworking students proudly display their 4U Turkey baskets. At an early age, these young people have experienced the joy of helping the less fortunate in their community.



## SAYRE PA

### ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER

More than 600 people enjoyed an old fashion Italian meal of spaghetti and meatballs at the annual Sayre Chapter of UNICO National Old Fashioned Spaghetti Dinner.

The event was held Sunday March 7th, at Yanuzzi's Restaurant in South Waverly, Pa. Both the eat-in and take-out business was a rousing success.

Members were up early to help prepare and get ready for the incoming customers. A long day was made easier with the chapter's members and friends coming out in full force to serve.

The proceeds of the day's events goes to the chapter's initiatives with the physically and mentally challenged youth of Sayre, Waverly, and Athens.



Sayre UNICO members Jack Fontana and Jean DeSio share a hug.



Customer enjoying the Sayre UNICO Old Fashioned spaghetti and meatball dinner.



Ang Sisito, Katie Yanuzzi and Tom Witmer keep the kitchen running like a finely tuned Ferrari.



Sayre UNICO members Dr. Pat Musto, Tom Salpino, and Ralph Yanuzzi great customers at the door.



Sayre UNICO President Nick Grego, and Sayre UNICO members Gene Ferro and Dr. Lou Angelo make sure the meatballs are cooked to perfection.



Mrs Mary Shaw, and Sayre UNICO members Dr. Pat Musto, Mary and Gene Cerutti and Dr. Felix DeSio enjoy serving and busing tables.

## AGAWAM MA



(L-R back) Treasurer Ron Lalancette, John O Dierna, ERDG Bernie Brutto and President Joe Conte, Jr. (L-R front): Sal Morassi, Sr. and Bob Rossi.

## COOLEY'S ANEMIA



The mid-year meeting in Nashville was very productive for those attending. Committees met and reviewed resumes for various awards and grant requests and decisions were made. The Cooley's Anemia Committee met and discussed the award of grant money for the request submitted by the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

After thoughtful consideration the Cooley's Anemia Committee proposed to the UNICO National Foundation the grant request for \$10,000 to the University of Alabama at Birmingham for research toward the cure of Cooley's anemia. Currently their research is geared toward the transformation of human blood cells in mice. These mice represent the "State of the Art" animal models for Cooley's anemia. Dr. Ryan states that his laboratory is testing genetic and cellular therapies that are structured to cure anemia in the models.

The Grant will be presented to the staff at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital by UNICO National Foundation members Michael Spano and me this spring. Dr. Tom Ryan was elated with the decision.

Research for the cure of Cooley's anemia requires funding. We feel we are close to finding this cure. I encourage you to continue to help us make a difference by setting aside money within your chapter for this cause.

Sharon Signaigo Thompson  
UNICO National Cooley's Anemia Chair  
sthompson@psiweb.biz

## PITTSFIELD MA

### NEW MEMBERS

Six new members were inducted into Pittsfield UNICO at the March chapter meeting. The new members were sworn in and welcomed by chapter president Tom Blair.



New chapter members (L-R) Andy Perenick, Karen Labanaro, Jamie Pollard, Richard Palma, John Tansey and Tony Simonelli.



# CHICAGO IL

## MAKING SAUSAGE IS PURE ARTISTRY



For Italians, cooking is an element of life and the manner of going about the business of cooking should be nothing short of a Baroque symphony, a Rodin sculpture, a Michelangelo fresco, or a bowl of pasta with fava beans, asparagus and homemade sausage.

Sausage making began years ago and one can only imagine the very first time. But Italians prepare sausage the way they like it. No argument there. Regionally what was stuffed into a casing was special to each family and to taste another's sausage always brought to mind a comparison. "But ours is better!"

A gathering of sausage makers brought

Rodin eat your heart out, our sausage with the wonderful taste of fennel, Pecorino-Romano cheese, salt, red pepper (for the hot) and moistened it with a Italian white wine. Now, as with Haydn the great composer, there were Variations on a Theme of Sausage played by our culinary musicians. Ground fennel instead of regular fennel, black pepper instead of red, some family recipes called for tomatoes, or



orange rinds, and what's with the Pecorino cheese and wine? But, we stayed with what we knew and Mary's family recipe.

Stop for a moment. Close your eyes. Imagine the sweet aroma of wine and cheese emanating from the sausage as it cooks on the grill!

Our symphony hall was in the basement kitchen well equipped with counter space, refrigerators and stoves, a bread maker and a wine cellar. The orchestra at ready, our Maestro tapped the boning knife to sharpener, a Sonata was performed: Introduction (Richard Caifano and Sam Tornatore, on knives); Tonal (John Locallo and Frank Locallo on grinder); Exposition (Anthony Farace and Franco Coladipietro on seasoning); Recapitulation (Leonard Amari, and Joe Locallo, Jr. on the stuffer); Coda, Mr. Locallo Sr.'s declaration that the sausage was perfect! Our symphony from the Baroque was complete!

Throughout the day we drank Franco's homemade wine, listened to Verdi Opera and thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of close friendships. Franco baked homemade bread and set out loaves of baguettes for us to soon devour. Having no discipline we ate as we worked and he had to bake some more. But, after the work was done, the dishes washed, the sausage packed in two pound bags it was time to set the table. Our fresco!

Mr. Locallo cooked pasta with fava beans and asparagus and while Franco grilled sausage on the outside patio and the artists drank

more wine and enjoyed the summer breeze. You could close your eyes and imagine that you were in another place, a small town in a province far way but close to your heart. The table was set and *abbiamo mangiato come un re* (we ate like kings!)

Alas, we departed with pounds of sausage in our coolers to be taken back to be shared with our families and friends. The winter months are over. Our supplies are low. *Papà abbiamo bisogno di più salsiccia* (Pa, we need more sausage)!

Joseph F. Locallo (Bidlo), Jr.

PS: Our scale was handed down from generations of the Bidlo family who also used it to measure the butts of another kind. Babies had to be weighed to see if they were getting enough milk and growing strong. It was hard to imagine either me or my brother John on that scale so many years ago. Maybe I can write another story for another time about Grandma Bidlo's Bohemian style cooking?

## CHICAGO UNICAN TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE ITALIAN AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

UNICO Member Joe C. Fiorentino, Deputy Sheriff, Cook County Sheriff's Office, Chicago, and martial arts champion will be among the Italian Americans who will be inducted in The Italian American National Hall of Fame. The 35th Annual Induction and Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 1st at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, New Jersey. In addition to Fiorentino, the following individuals will be inducted into the Italian American National Hall of Fame:

Roberta A. Facchina who is the President and CEO of several different businesses in Flemington, NJ

Pasquale F. Nestico who is a Cardiologist and Internist in Philadelphia.

Rosemary C. Frascella who is a Medical Doctor with LifeCare Physicians of Bordentown, NJ.

Manuek "Manny" Rivera was a firefighter, with the Trenton NJ Fire Department and will be presented with the Medal of Valor Posthumously.

Founded in 1975, the Italian-American National Hall of Fame is dedicated to recognizing and perpetuating the memory of the consistently outstanding contributions by Italian Americans to their communities, the country and the world. The founders, all Italian American civic leaders in the New Jersey area believed then as they do now that positive identification and exposure of the contributions and accomplishments of Italians and Italian-Americans in the community life of the United States is their continuing responsibility.



generations of artistry to the home of Franco and Amy Coladipietro. Our Maestro, Joseph Locallo Sr., provided us with the knives, cutting boards, seasoning, grinder, stuffer, scale, years of experience and, of course, 120 pounds of pork butt. The meat was purchased from our dear friends at Robert's Packing, 1114 W. Randolph, Chicago, Illinois. Mike Monahan (Salvatore) always makes sure we have the very best meat. The casings were from Fred Battaglia of Battaglia Imports, 2545 S. Ashland, Chicago, Illinois. The Battaglias are great sausage makers in their own right and purveyors of spaghetti, wine, cheese and other Italian delicacies to Chicagoland restaurants. As an aside, if you need anything really good, go see Mike or Fred.

We used a recipe from Mary Smythe (Bucaro) which called for a special tool to grind the sausage, just once. Measuring the meat in ten pound batches, we sculptured, yes



## BOOK REVIEW



*Book Review by  
Marianne Lalli Regan,  
UNICO San Diego*

*Book by Stephen P.  
Pepe  
Carneros Press 2009  
ISBN: 097010305-0*

### Clos-Pepe-A Vigneron's Quest for Great Dirt

At the beginning of his book, author Stephen Pepe sells his readers short by mentioning Robert Parker: "And if you don't know who Robert Parker is, please put this book down and step away from your reading chair." Well, I did not know Robert Parker from Fess Parker, but thoroughly enjoyed Pepe's memoir just the same.

Pepe is a second generation Italian American. His grandparents, Phillip and Christine Pepe arrived from a small village damaged by the 1926 Mt. Vesuvius eruption, and settled in the great state of New Jersey. The elder Pepe and his fellow immigrants purchased their grapes at the Patterson, NJ train station to make wine for their families. Zip ahead to 1991 and Stephen Pepe is keeping his grandfather's tradition alive. Even if the author did not initially know how to make wine, he was genetically programmed for the desire to do so.

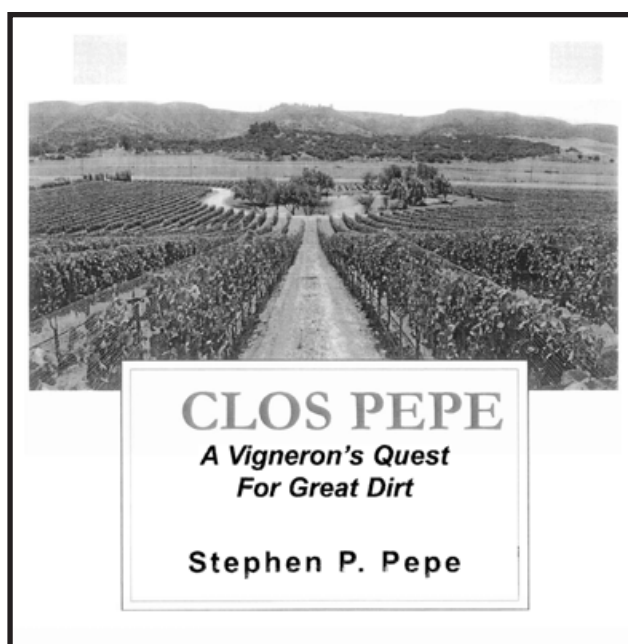
If you have ever had a daydream of fleeing the rat race and following your desires, this narrative describes the ups and downs, joys and tears, triumphs and adversities of a start up business. Most of us are happy to just drink our three-buck Chuck and go no further. Pepe's dream was to create the best Pinot Noir west of Highway 101.

His memoir began as a series of newsletters to friends and family, of the daily trials and tribulations of his journey towards the longed for vineyard. Starting in the backyard of his Long Beach, California cottage in 1990, Pepe planted 24 Sauvignon Blanc vines and 30 Pinot Noir vines. While the harvest that year was understandably meager, in 1991, Pepe's efforts won him the bronze medal in the Los Angeles County Fair. In 1992, Pepe partnered with Frank Guadagnini and, to supplement the paltry output at the Long Beach garden, they began buying grapes from other vineyards. In 1992, another bronze medal was awarded and in 1993, a silver. Finally, in 1994, their Clos Pepe and Chateau Guadagnini vintage netted them the coveted gold medal at the Los Angeles County Fair. And this was just four years into the effort! Clearly Pepe was on to something.

When Pepe and his wife made the decision to "go for it," they purchased 40 acres in the Santa Rita Hills of Santa Barbara County. This former horse ranch is now home to 29 acres of planted vines, a pack of dogs, a flock of sheep, a grove of olive trees, 400 rose bushes,

a basketball court, a bocce court, children and several grandchildren. Today, visitors can tour the estate, learn about winemaking and taste and purchase Clos Pepe wines. The website offers a virtual tour of winemaking from vine to vat to bottle. The vineyard produces 800 cases of Estate Pinot Noir and 100 cases of Chablis-style Chardonnay, yearly. And they make their own olive oil, too. Check the website for prices and ordering on-line. (See [www.clospepe.com](http://www.clospepe.com)).

Robert Parker has been called "the most influential wine writer in the world today." He founded his bi-monthly newsletter, The Wine Advocate, in 1978. To be reviewed by Parker and written up in his newsletter, is an honor. Fess Parker (yes, that's Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone to those who remember), established his winery in 1989, but that's another story!)



## PLAINFIELDS NJ

### ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

PLAINFIELDS' UNICO and Knights of Columbus (of Sacred Heart) sponsors St. Joseph's table at Sacred Heart Church in South Plainfield on March 21st.



*At the annual St Joseph's Dessert Table (L-R) Bill Butrico of the Knights of Columbus and UNICO NJ District X First Deputy Governor Bob Bengivenga, St. Joseph's Table Committee Co-Chair Bob Longo, UNICO President Plainfields' Chapter Anthony Bengivenga, Plainfields' UNICO member and St. Joseph's Table Committee member John DeAndrea, chapter Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Colucci and UNICO PNP and St. Joseph's Table Committee Co-Chair Renato Biribin.*

## DENVILLE NJ

### CHARITY NEWS



*Denville Chapter of UNICO National dinner meeting (L-R) DG NJ XI Nicki Carpinelli and Denville members President Jay Clauss, Vice Presidents Joe Cardinale and Lou Mattaliano, Sue Carol Scannelli, Jim Scannelli and Denise Sabeh. The Denville chapter runs three fund-raisers each year to raise money for local charities. These are the Annual Golf Outing, the Casino Bus Trip and the Beef Steak Dinner.*



*Children and Grand Children of the Denville Chapter of UNICO putting together the more than 50 baskets of food donated to the local food banks around the holidays. This year again they were able to support our local charities in providing food baskets for the less fortunate in the community. (L-R) Nicholas Robinson, Christopher Robinson, Leanna Lolacono, Matteo Cardinale, Francis Lolacono and Alex Clauss.*

## UNICO NATIONAL CALENDARS

Many UNICANS have not seen our 2010 Heritage Calendar. We have a few cases left.

Chapters can order them by the case (100) for only \$100 plus shipping.

Contact the UNICO National office for shipping cost or you can go directly to the office to pick up.

Every member and their family members deserves one.

Special thanks to Manny Alfano and his Anti-Bias Committee for creating such a positive and beautiful calendar that we can all be proud of.



## EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR SAL BENVENUTTI

I have been in this position for roughly a year and half, and each day I get calls about our tax status and filing requirements. I have addressed these issues at many of the Regional and Board meetings, District Governor's meetings, and at local district and chapter meetings.

Below is a brief explanation of how UNICO National is organized and the relationship of each local chapter to the national organization. This article also covers each chapters filing requirements in order to maintain their tax exempt status. Please read the information and keep it for future reference.

If any chapter has any question or needs some help in filing their tax return, please contact me and I will be glad to assist you. Office (973) 808-0035 Cell (973) 985-6772.

### Tax Status and Compliance Requirements for Chapters of UNICO National

UNICO National is organized as a nonprofit entity and tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)4. UNICO National has a group exemption for all its subordinate members (Chapters & Districts). The group exemption number is 1829. Since UNICO National is a central organization with many subordinate members (chapters), all members must be on the same year-end, which is June 30.

**Nonprofit/Tax Exempt:** These terms are used interchangeably and have the same meaning. When referring to UNICO National we are both nonprofit and tax exempt. An entity cannot be tax exempt unless it is first nonprofit. An organization that is considered tax exempt is only tax exempt from Federal Income Taxes. Generally, states follow the Federal status, however, you must follow your state rules for filing information returns with the appropriate state tax division. Also, Federal exemption under 501(c)4 does not relieve a chapter of state and local sales taxes.

Donations to UNICO National or any of its subordinate chapters are not tax deductible. Only donations to a 501(c)3 organization are tax deductible.

UNICO Foundation is organized as a nonprofit entity and tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3. Donations to UNICO Foundation are tax deductible. An organization described in Section 501(c)3 is commonly referred to as a charitable organization.

**Employer Identification Numbers (EIN):** Each chapter is required to have their own EIN. An EIN may be obtained online, by telephone, by fax, or by mail depending on how soon you need the EIN. Form SS-4 is used for this purpose and contains instructions for each method. Anyone needing assistance securing an EIN should contact the National Office.

**Filing Requirements:** Generally tax-exempt organizations must file an annual infor-

mation return. The type of return will depend on the amount of gross receipts.

Gross Receipts not normally in excess of \$25,000: Must file an annual electronic notice (e-postcard) Form 990-N. This can only be done electronically and there is no paper return available for this category.

Gross Receipts between \$25,000 and \$100,000: Must file an annual information return, Form 990-EZ.

Gross Receipts in excess of \$100,00 : Must file Form 990.

Returns are due on the 15th day of the fifth month (4 1/2 months) after the close of the year-end.

## COALITION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS GALA DINNER



*UNICO National was well represented at the Coalition of Italian American Associations 2010 Annual Dinner Gala.*

## SOLANO CA

### CRAB LEGS FOR CHARITY

On February 27, 2010, the Solano Chapter had its first fund raiser of the new year at the McBride Senior Center.

Two hundred and forty guests were treated to a dinner of Alaskan King Crab legs, the Chapter's famous salad bar, pasta, clam chowder and dessert, all prepared by members, family and friends. The raffle and auction were a big hit and added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening.

Again this year merchants stepped up to support us, and were a big part of our success as always. To the guests who attended without your support we could not meet our goals of helping those in need in our community. Local charities will benefit from this event as well as the Chapter's scholarship program, a chapter favorite.

Members continue to live up to the UNICO motto of "Service Above Self."

We thank all who supported this event.

## MONTVILLE NJ

### CASINO NIGHT



Casino night at The Hanover Manor on March 6th, was a huge hit. We had 109 people attend the event. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all who attended!

We appreciate the efforts of Chairman Dr Panitch, co-chair Gene Maddalena and all of the committee members for a fantastic job and for all their hard work. Great gifts were donated that night by many members and supporters and this helped make the event a success.





## IN MEMORIAM

Raymond Albert Oneglia, 86, passed away on November 2, 2009. He was a member of the Torrington, CT chapter of UNICO for over 60 years.

After returning home from service in WW II, Raymond and one of his brothers, Francis, joined UNICO where they became members of that new group of UNICANs called the "Young Turks."

'Ray Senior' also devoted his professional life, totaling 71 years, to the development of O&G Industries, the company his parents, Andrew and Virginia, had founded.

A true Renaissance man, he held a private instrument twin engine pilot's license for many years and loved aviation.



He was generous in his life, and people were blessed by his labors. He was an advocate and ardent financial supporter of many organizations, programs, and events of all sizes, on the national, state, and local levels.

Raymond was proud of his Italian heritage and his family's involvement and success in the construction industry. He created the Raymond and Gloria Oneglia Scholarship, which awards \$5,000 to a 3rd or 4th year student in the Engineering field. Raymond and his family wanted this scholarship to come from the Torrington Chapter of UNICO. The applications are reviewed, and the recipient is chosen by Raymond's sons Raymond R. and David. The family presents the scholarship at the Torrington Chapter's annual Awards night and is one of the larger scholarships awarded by the Torrington Chapter.

Raymond is survived by his wife Gloria (to whom Raymond is quoted as saying "Remember this Gloria – anything that might be special in me ... is you.").

Raymond was generous and was a tireless organizer, taking on numerous fund raisers that brought recognition to, and laid a new foundation for, the Torrington chapter. He will always be remembered as a man who personified our motto, 'Service Above Self'. May he rest in the peace of our Lord and Savior.

## POINT PLEASANT NJ

### MEMBERSHIP CLIMBING AT POINT PLEASANT UNICO

With barely 32 members in 2005, Point Pleasant Beach membership totals over 100 regular members and a fast growing YOUTH contingent and ACES Chapter.

How did this happen? Many new or struggling chapters usually ask this question. All it takes is a long range plan, energetic officers and involving each and every member in being an active part of UNICO National. At the time President Grace Gynn presented a membership initiative which included a media blitz with stories and photos in all local newspapers as well as membership booths at every community function. Adding on a group of teenagers in their Junior Chapter (ACES) not only involved youngsters in service but drew much publicity for this relatively new organization. The annual Italian Heritage Dinner also attracts those new to the community. As prospective members were invited to meetings each was made to feel welcome and eager to join. This year President Tony Scardaville and the Chapter Membership Committee are already busy handing out applications and following up leads. Come and visit one of our dinner meetings (the last Tuesday of each month) and see for yourself.



*Junior Chapter ACES Leader Susan Muench (L) and Youth Chairperson Marissa Gynn working the membership booth in Point Pleasant Beach. The booth has been very effective in attracting many new members and young people to UNICO.*

**UNICO National**  
The Largest Italian American Service Organization in the USA

**ELMWOOD PARK UNICO**

***Dinner Dance***  
***To Benefit Autism***

at **"The Venetian"**  
546 River Dr. Garfield, NJ

**Sunday May 16th 2010**  
**12pm to 4pm**

**Ticket Price \$65**

**A Portion of the Proceeds To Benefit:**  
**The ECLC School of Chatham**

For Tickets contact any Elmwood Park UNICO member  
Or you can call Scott at 973-546-0240  
Music provided by: Scott's "Star Tonight" DJ/Karaoke

## ELIZABETH NJ

### ANNUAL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY



Once again, the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO reached out to touch the hearts of children during the past Christmas Season. What better way is there to show Unity, Neighborliness and Charity than at a school that has autistic children? To see their wide smiles and hear the sounds of their laughter is truly something special. The Elizabeth Chapter is proud to be able to donate toys and food to Elizabeth's George Washington School #1. The teachers received our members with open arms, especially Ms. Sabrina Burnet-Williams, Preschool Disabilities Teacher for Children with Autism. A special thanks also goes to the district's Supervisor of Special Services, Dr. Lucy Hernandez, who made it all possible.

The boys received a toy truck and ate pizza. The UNICO members who were able to donate their time to this worthy cause included Pat Arena, Tony Zengaro, Joe Abitante Jr. and Joe Chiari. The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO donates each Holiday season to deserving children of the Elizabeth School District. Our efforts are greatly appreciated and make a difference within our local community.



## Advertise in ComUNICO !!

**To Advertise in ComUNICO:**

**Contact our ComUNICO  
Business Manager  
Frank Greco**

**973-684-3803  
fgrecojr@optonline.net**



## PLAINFIELDS NJ

### ANNUAL PIG ROAST AT SCOTCH PLAINS ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB



(L-R) Plainfields UNICO Sgt. At Arms Mike Colucci, Plainfields UNICO Treasurer Rae Calvo, and Marie Potts enjoy dinner at the long table during the Plainfields UNICO pig roast in Scotch Plains.



Plainfields UNICO member Rick McNally and Tom LaMarca reunite at the Plainfields UNICO pig roast in Scotch Plains.



Dr. Ann Walko, a member of Plainfields UNICO Board of Directors, prepares food for her table's feast at the Plainfields' UNICO pig roast in Scotch Plains.



(L-R) Plainfields UNICO member and Past National President Renato Birbin, Plainfields UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga, and UNICO District X Governor Bill Hearon begin the raffle and 50-50 at the Plainfields UNICO pig roast in Scotch Plains.

## CALL FOR COMMITTEES 2010-2011

The new UNICO year is fast approaching and Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio and the administrative offices of UNICO National are in the process of establishing membership and leadership teams for the many various National committees. The volunteers will be asked to serve from July 1, 2010 to June 30th 2011. All members of UNICO National are encouraged to be active in their chapter and are most welcome to serve on a national level as well. An integral part of UNICO National's success is to ask for valuable input from members from throughout the country as their participation is equally important to the ongoing success of so many UNICO National committees. So if you have been a member of your local Mental Health Committee, Jimmy "V", Membership & Retention or Expansion Team, Brian Piccolo, Heritage and Culture, Anti-Bias, Website, Finance, Youth, and so many more, please consider volunteering some of your time by sharing your ideas with others and join a committee. Your contributions will continue UNICO National's presence as the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. Interested on how to become more involved? Search for your committee of choice by logging on to the website ([www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)) or look at the back pages of the national directory or in recent editions of ComUNICO. Interested members will be asked to attend the appropriate committee meetings at the Annual Convention to be held this July in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Committees are being formed now so even if you currently serve on one, you are asked to contact Chris DiMattio with your request by email at [chrisd@unico.org](mailto:chrisd@unico.org) or phone toll-free at 1-888-845-3622 or contact the National Office. Get involved! Please contact Chris by May 31st.

## EASTON PA

### CARNIVALE



Pres of Easton Chapter Angelo LaDuca. The (Hap) Piagesi Achievement to Thomas Marchetti and next to him is our man of the year Leonard Buscemi.

## ELIZABETH NJ

### MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE



The Elizabeth Chapter has seen a tremendous growth over the past two years with a 30% growth rate since 2008. Last year was especially active with seven new members joining the Chapter in 2009 and so far this year, we have four new members to date. New members recently inducted in 2010 include Ralph Abbate, Henry Marcantonio, Andrew Marcantonio and Onofrio Vitullo (see photo above).

In 2009, new members included Vince Badali, Andrew Bani, Lou Bani, Joe Chiari, Tom Fowler, TJ Fowler and Lino Siconolfi.

UNICO Elizabeth Chapter President Joe Maretta has been instrumental in getting the word out to existing members, stressing the importance of spreading the word and getting "new blood" into the Chapter. With the Executive Board members constantly promoting UNICO, its values and our own local Italian heritage, it's no wonder that local membership in Elizabeth continues growing.

## PHILADELPHIA PA

### NEW OFFICERS

New Officers were elected and sworn in by the Philadelphia Chapter. The new officers are excited and honored to continue the great tradition of both UNICO National and the Philadelphia Chapter.



(L-R) Vice President John Ferrara, Chapter President Ben Ferrara, Sergeant-At-Arms Giuseppe Cifoni and Treasurer John Busillo. Seated is Secretary Assunta Mannello.



## EXPANSION



I would like to thank Rick D'Arminio, our Membership and Retention Director, for all of his help with Expansion. By the time that you read this article, we will have chartered another chapter in the east. This was another

case of Rick always talking about UNICO to everyone he meets. The name of the new chapter will be the Northern Chesapeake, MD chapter of UNICO NATIONAL. This chapter is due to the work of three individuals: Don Piccolo, Mike Gallo, and Faust Miraglia. Don is Brian Piccolo's brother and will be the Charter President. Mike Gallo is a friend of Don's and the First Vice President, and Faust Miraglia is a Past Chapter President of the Westwood, NJ, and will be the second Vice President of the Chapter. The charter date for this new chapter is Saturday March 6, 2010. This will be our first new chapter in Maryland and our first new state this year. Thanks to Don Piccolo, we also have a lead for Bradenton, Florida. Her name is Monica Aversa-Vizzi. We are also working with Roger Fucilli, Father Anthony Pileggi and Bobby Hammond on an Ocean City, MD chapter that we expect to charter before June.

By the time, you read this ComUNICO we will have had our *first night* in Cranston, RI. This is thanks to the efforts of Kim and Cosmo Laurelli. I want to thank them for taking the time out of their busy lives to set this night up. Kim and Cosmo are hosting it at their home.

We are going to run a Heritage and Culture night on Friday March 12, 2010 at the Piedmont Club in Darien, CT. We will have members of the Piedmont Club who are thinking of joining the Darien Chapter. We will also invite other Italian Americans from the Darien area to see if they are interested in joining the chapter. I want to thank Nicholas DeMaio, a member of the Piedmont Club, as well as Past District Governor's, Bob Donatelli and Guiseppe Pampena for all of their help with setting up this night. I also want to thank our National President for finding the time to be there.

I want to thank Chris DiMattio, our Executive Vice President, for going down to the Villages in Florida to run a *first night* with Lou Dibilio on January 29th. They had over 30 people in attendance. Among those present were some members of the Pittsfield, MA chapter who have moved to the Villages. They all took applications when they left and said they wanted to join.

It looks like we will have a Binghamton, NY chapter in the near future thanks to Peter Noto and Chris DiMattio. Peter has held many meetings with interested individuals. Don Giovanni has been a pivotal part of starting the Binghamton chapter. Felix DeSio, District Governor of PA II, hosted fourteen individuals who are interested in forming the Binghamton chapter at his District Meeting, which was held

in Binghamton, NY.

Jim and Carla Lucente, our leads in Pittsburgh, PA are planning a meeting in the next couple of weeks. They told me that they plan to get enough applications to form the chapter.

This week I met with Paul and Michelle Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti's son and daughter-in-law, at our National Office. They live in Tampa, FL. They asked what they needed to do to start a chapter. After answering all their questions, it looks as if we will have a chapter in Tampa in the near future.

Just before Christmas, I received a call from Jad Donato, one of our National Scholarship winners. The Westwood, NJ chapter to which I belong sponsored him. Jad is attending Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. He asked me about starting a chapter. I told him what was involved and answered all of his questions. I had a *first kit* sent to his home in River Vale, NJ. He is eager to get this chapter started.

In the Mid-West Richard Ciafano, District Governor of Illinois I, had another meeting in the South Chicago area. He presently has eleven applications and expects to have the remaining applications very soon. This will be the first new chapter in the Midwest in several years.

I must commend André DiMino, our National President, on his efforts to get MTV to stop showing the show, Jersey Shore. The National Office as well as Ricky and I have received many positive calls and e-mails about UNICO'S efforts to do just that. Some even express an interest in joining UNICO. If there is no chapter in their area, some are even excited about starting one. Such is the case of Nicholas Sinacori of Detroit, Michigan. I have just had the office send him a first kit.

Pat Pelonero, our Office Manager, forwarded an e-mail from Ross Scalise who lives in Glen, Mississippi. Ross and I talked the other day and he told me that he was interested in joining UNICO. I am sending him some brochures and ComUNICOs. He lives about two hours from Nashville, TN.

In the West, I have asked Past National President, Kathi Strozza, to be our Deputy Western Expansion Director and she has agreed. Our National President, André DiMino has also approved her appointment. Kathi is going to try to complete some chapters that we have worked on for the past two years such as San Pedro, CA and Seattle, WA. Speaking of Seattle, I received an e-mail from Nannette Howard, (whose parents are members of the Milwaukee, WI chapter), asking if there was a chapter in Seattle. I e-mailed her to ask if she was interested in helping us get this chapter going. We do have a number of interested Italian Americans including Michael Troiani.

Please remember what I say at the end of all my articles and make sure, if one of your members moves to another state or area that does not have a UNICO chapter that you suggest they become a National Member. Perhaps your chapter could help sponsor the new chapter in his or her area.

I am placing the chapter locations that we are working on at the bottom of this article. If you have any friends, family, business associates or

especially former Unicans who have moved to one of these areas, please ask them to call our National office or me. We will contact them to see if they have an interest in becoming a part of one of these new chapters.

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

### EAST

Darien, CT  
Bradenton FL  
Tampa, FL  
Ocean City MD  
Perry Hall, MD  
Weymouth, MA  
Morristown Area  
Old Tappan, NJ  
West Milford, NJ  
Loudonville, NY  
Staten Island, NY  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Cranston, RI  
Colombia, SC  
Greenville, SC  
Burlington, VT

### MIDWEST

Springfield, IL  
Tiffin, OH  
Nashville, TN  
Austin, TX  
Cleveland OH  
Houston TX  
Glen MI  
Detroit MI

### WEST

Bullhead City, AZ  
Phoenix, AZ  
Sacramento, CA  
San Pedro, CA  
Santa Clarita, CA  
Walnut Creek, CA  
Missoula, MT

## MILWAUKEE WI



Joseph and Josephine Ninfo celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on April 15th. They both are members of the Milwaukee Chapter UNICO. Josephine served as chapter Secretary for 16 years!

They are the founders of the St. Joseph Celebration feast held every year on March 19th since 1992 in Milwaukee. Josephine has been an active member in many civic organizations throughout her business career, along with being employed at the now defunct Allis-Chalmers for 25 years.

They met after Joe's stint in WW II, a 1st Lt. Navigator in the 15th Air Force (483rd Bomb Group) on a B-17, flying out of Italy and a proud recipient of 10 medals, including the silver star.

Joe retired from being employed at the Miller Brewing Company for 36 years.



## FAIRFIELD NJ

### CHARTER NIGHT DINNER DANCE

On February 27th, Fairfield UNICO held their Charter Night Dinner Dance. At the event, they also honored Man of the Year Joseph Catenaro. The affair was held at the Valley Regency of Clifton NJ. Entertainment was provided by Michael Chieffo of MCDJ Entertainment. We were also entertained by Gianni Russo who sang favorites of Frank Sinatra. The whole night was filled with Italian food, music and entertainment.



(L-R) Men of the Year for the past five years pose with their new inductee (L-R) Dr. L.M. Russo, Tony Pompei, Joseph Catenaro, Phillip Maestoso, Joseph Maurillo and Andrew Governale.



(L-R) President of Fairfield UNICO Fred Mongelli and his wife Michele Mongelli planners of the 2010 Man of the Year Gala.



(L-R): Man of the Year Joseph Catenaro enjoys a dance with his wife Patricia. The gala was held at the Valley Regency of Clifton, NJ.



(Joe Family Left to Right) Brian Slocum, Tricia Catenaro, Patricia Catenaro, Joseph Catenaro, Joseph Catenaro Jr., Kaity Catenaro.



(L-R) Fred Mongelli President of Fairfield UNICO, Joseph Catenaro Man of the Year 2010, Andre DiMino President of UNICO National.



(L-R) Fairfield Town Council member and Master of Ceremonies John LaForgia, Fairfield Mayor and Presenter of Proclamations Jim Gasparini, Man of the Year 2010 Fairfield UNICO Joe Catenaro, and President of Fairfield UNICO and Presenter of 2010 Man of the Year Plaque Fred Mongelli.

To me, there are three things we all should do every day. We should do this every day of our lives. Number one is laugh. You should laugh every day. Number two is think. You should spend some time in thought. And number three is, you should have your emotions moved to tears, could be happiness or joy. But think about it. If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, you're going to have something special.

-Jim Valvano

## GRANBY CT

### PASTA FAGIOLI NIGHT WINNER

Pasta fagioli or pasta e fagioli, meaning "pasta and beans", is a traditional meatless Italian dish. Trish Savino was awarded first place for her Pasta Fagioli in a competition hosted by the Granby and Avon Chapters in Canton and the Steps in Time Dance Studio on March 6th. Michael Guarco also took first place for his home-made red wine. Proceeds from the event went to the Jimmy "V" Foundation.



2009 Pasta Fagioli competition winner Anne Guarco congratulates this years winner Trish Savino.

## SADDLE BROOK

### NEW FOUNDATION PRESIDENT SWORN IN



Criss Mangano, President of the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National recently swore in Angela LaFace as the new Saddle Brook Foundation President. Angela is a manager of Boiling Springs Bank and she is the granddaughter of Rocco DiStefano, Charter member/Past President of the Saddle Brook Chapter, Past District Governor of New Jersey District VII and a Joseph Cianci Humanitarian Award winner. We hope that she follows in his footsteps.



## GREATER RAMSEY

### CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT



Jeffrey Muti of New York City shows his winning Royal Flush hand in a recent Greater Ramsey UNICO charity poker tournament. Mr. Muti, son of Ramsey's former mayor Richard Muti, went on to win the tournament and first prize of a vacation trip to Italy for two.



The food and friendly service at a recent Greater Ramsey UNICO charity poker tournament are clearly evident as a player finds it difficult in knowing where to start. Morano's Gourmet Italian Market in Ramsey caters the event, and players have rated the food the "best ever" at an affair like this.



Robert Varkonyi is shown contemplating his next bet in a recent Greater Ramsey charity poker tournament. Mr. Varkonyi is a world champion poker player, having won the 2002 World Series of Poker Main Event in Las Vegas.

## RIDGEFIELD NJ

### ALL YOU CAN EAT BEEFSTEAK, VALENTINE 50'S DANCE

On February 27th, the Ridgefield chapter held its 5th Annual All You Can Eat Beefsteak and Valentine 50's Dance. The chairperson was Vincent Tabbachino. There were 130 people at this event. Guests enjoyed raffles, music and plenty of Beefsteak. All enjoyed this event.



The Dance Committee. (L-R) Claire Sahagian, Michele Sherry, Secretary Grace Oriente, Maddy Massare, President Annette Tabbachino, Chairperson Vinnie Tabbachino, Treasurer Al Oriente, Donald Ferrante and Lucy Cintron.



Our Holiday Brunch at Villa Amalfi in Cliffside Park, NJ (Left Back) Danny and Estelle Buonsanto, Vinnie Tabbachino, Joan and Tony Zemanek, Al Oriente, Lee and Carlo Buonsanto. (Center Left) Maddy Massare, Marie, Mary and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Liberti. (Front) Annette Tabbachino President, Grace Oriente and Lucy Cintron.

## NORTH HALEDON

### NEW PRESIDENT



UNICO PNP Joseph Agresti swears in new chapter President John Harris. Past chapter President Eugene Catania holds the bible.



DG NJ IV Anthony Latella Participates in the swearing in ceremony of new officers.

## NJ DISTRICT X

### DISTRICT MEETING

Past UNICO National President Frank Tidona and UNICO's National Scholarship Chairwoman Joan Tidona were guest speakers at the UNICO NJ District X board meeting on March 16th at Pantagis Restaurant in Scotch Plains, NJ.



(L-R) Second Deputy DG Courtney Villani, NJ DG X Governor William Hearon, UNICO PNP Frank Tidona, National Scholarship Chair Joan Tidona, First Deputy DG Robert Bengivenga and Third Deputy DG Pat Harrington.



## ITALIAN HERITAGE THE HISTORY AND TRADITION OF EASTER IN ITALY



*Adapted from  
various Internet  
sources  
By Salvatore J.  
Mangano, PNP  
National Italian  
Heritage & culture  
Chair 2009-2010*

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 now 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 and Martedì 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 (Venerdì 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.

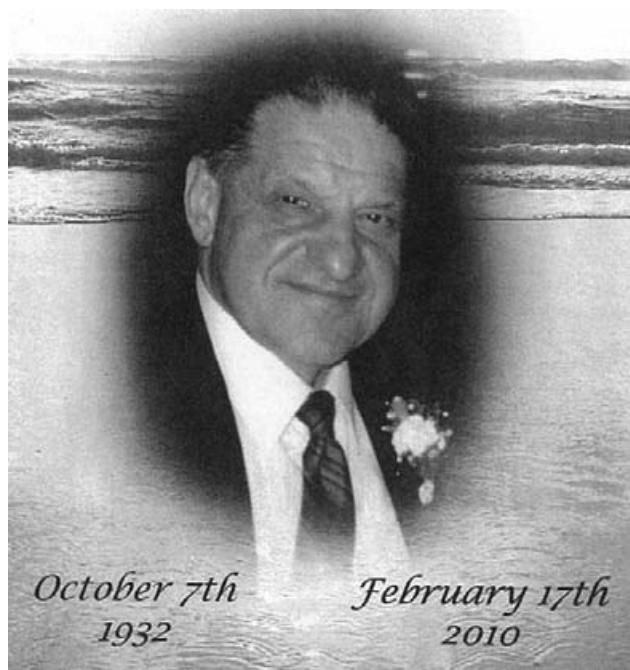
Traditional Easter meals vary from region to region, but eggs and roasted Lamb are common staples everywhere. Eggs represent life, fertility and renewal. These are all essential symbols of Easter. Dyed eggs grace many tables and they are found in soups and in the traditional Easter pie (Torta Pasqualina). Roasted lamb is the symbol of birth and the Shepard. 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 Eastern Dove (Colomba) that represents peace. Pizza Rusica, Pizza Gaina, Pastiera di Grana, Pastiera di Riso etc. are all Easter specialties from the Southern part of Italy.

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 Ndrizzata" takes place on the same day.

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

## IN MEMORIAM



On February 17, 2010, Julius John Caserza passed away following a long illness at home with his loving family at his side. He was 77. At the time of his death, he was the Solano Chapter's First Vice President. Jules, as he was known to everyone, was a charter member (1992), and served on the board of directors as well as many committees.

Along with his wife, Angela, who is also a member of Solano UNICO, Jules opened their home for the chapter's monthly meetings.

Jules will be missed by all who knew him, especially his chapter members.

## ANTI DEFAMATION

### UNICO PRESIDENT ANDRE DIMINO ASKS TONIGHT SHOW HOST JAY LENO TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST "JERSEY SHORE"

Letter sent to Leno, an Italian-American, questions him for featuring cast of "Jersey Shore" on his show

FAIRFIELD, NJ – UNICO National President Andre' DiMino today fired off a letter and email to returning "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno questioning his judgment for featuring the cast of the ethnic bashing, stereotyping show "Jersey Shore" on his show during his first week back.

"As President of the largest Italian American service organization in America and as a proud first-generation Italian American I am extremely disappointed and upset that upon your return to the venerable Tonight Show you have included the cast of MTV's Italian-bashing series, Jersey Shore, for your first week's lineup of guests," DiMino writes. "These miscreants and the disgraceful "reality" show they represent are a major insult to, not only Italian Americans, but any respectable individual."

DiMino concluded his letter by asking Leno "to not contribute to the continued negative stereotyping and denigration of Italian Americans in the media. You can be a hero to the millions of Italian Americans who have had enough of being portrayed as mobsters and mafiosi, on the one hand, and in the case of Jersey Shore, as illiterate, moronic and obnoxious bimbos and buffoons. Please, Mr. Leno, do the right thing!"

DiMino has made more than 40 major media appearances, and been interviewed for dozens of print stories in leading UNICO National's crusade against "Jersey Shore." The campaign has thus far resulted in T-Mobile, Dell, Domino's Pizza, Family Insurance, Zappos withdrawing their advertisements from the show,

#### FULL TEXT OF LETTER

Dear Mr. Leno:

As President of the largest Italian American service organization in America and as a proud first-generation Italian American I am extremely disappointed and upset that upon your return to the venerable Tonight Show you have included the cast of MTV's Italian-bashing series, Jersey Shore, for your first week's lineup of guests. These miscreants and the disgraceful "reality" show they represent are a major insult to, not only Italian Americans, but any respectable individual.

In addition to their blatant defamation and negative stereotyping of Italian Americans, this show promotes debauchery, drunkenness and violence, specifically towards women. You have been very supportive of your wife Mavis' efforts at supporting women's rights through a number of causes, so it is that much more surprising that you would welcome these people onto your show. With respect to your Italian heritage, your paternal grandparents came to this country from the Avellino region of Italy and your father, Angelo, was born here. So, can't you see that it is a slight to their memory to glorify these bimbos and buffoons who have made it their life's work to perpetuate negative stereotyping of Italian Americans?

Please, Mr. Leno, as one of the most prominent celebrities with a highly identifiable Italian surname, I ask you to not contribute to the continued negative stereotyping and denigration of Italian Americans in the media. You can be a hero to the millions of Italian Americans who have had enough of being portrayed as mobsters and mafiosi, on the one hand, and in the case of Jersey Shore, as illiterate, moronic and obnoxious bimbos and buffoons. Please, Mr. Leno, do the right thing!



## FIRST LADY JENNY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

A week later Carol and Frank Cannata, PNP escorted us to the Merrimac Valley, MA Chapter's 20th Anniversary Dinner. What a great night! We thoroughly enjoyed meeting the members of the Merrimac Valley Chapter as well as from surrounding chapters. Merrimac Valley Chapter President Chris Perry and his lovely wife Darlene were so gracious and warm. What impressed me most was how these UNICANs showed such respect for the National President of UNICO - that was truly amazing. Andre' was presented with a proclamation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the book, *The Boston Italians*, inscribed by the author, Stephen Puleo - and, I appreciate the nice gift from the Italian Boutique. We enjoyed a gourmet dinner with great UNICANs - what a terrific night!

In mid-March we attended the annual St. Joseph's Altar event put on by the Belleville Chapter and their ACES group. We have attended this event several times in the past and it is always special and meaningful. Manny Alfano and the rest of the Belleville members really outdo themselves each year with this important celebration that is so linked to our heritage. I want to sincerely thank them for the beautiful basket of spring flowers and an exquisite Lenox Vase that I will cherish forever. But, more importantly, thank you for your warm and loving hospitality!

Then we were off to Music City, USA - Nashville, TN for our UNICO National Board of Director's and Midwestern Regional Meetings. Hey Y'all - it was such a fun weekend!!! It was so great to be with so many UNICANs again from across the country and especially our friends from the Midwest. We all enjoyed the sights, sounds and fun of Nashville and the amazing Gaylord Opryland Hotel. The meetings were productive and the camaraderie was terrific. We ended this fun weekend with our prestigious Marconi Science Award dinner and ceremony. It was great to meet this year's winner Joseph Mule' and his wife Vita - what nice people and what a great recipient. Since he was involved with the Apollo Moon Landing you just know that I had to have an "Astronaut" theme for the decorations. Check out the photos to see the girls dancing with the Astronauts!

The next week we attended the NJ District VII meeting where I was so impressed at how well it was run by DG Dominic Nicastro and all of the officers that gave reports and participated. But, the highlight of the meeting was when Andre' had the pleasure of installing Gianfranco Gervasio as a member of the Garfield NJ Chapter. This brave young man is making a big comeback from a severe spinal injury he sustained last year. It was great to see him become a member of our UNICO.

The next week it was our own Woodcliff Lake Chapter's turn at holding its first St. Joseph's Altar with our ACES group. This was a very nice event and we enjoyed the traditional foods of the St. Joseph celebration like Andre's Pasta con Sarde' and Sfingi di San Giuseppe. But the real surprise was the special gift that was presented to us by Manny and Pat Alfano, Gene and Marie Antonio and the Belleville Chapter. It was an incredible large statue of St. Joseph for us to use each year! What a great and heartfelt gift!

Our entire Chapter and our ACES members will always remember our friends from the Belleville Chapter.

I guess you can tell that I am having the time of my life! And it is all because of you - our UNICO family across the country. Andre' always says that UNICO is the perfect name for our organization -and he is right. We are unique! We are UNICO! Although I have met lots of you in our travels, there are many more UNICANs who I have not met yet. I hope to be able to meet more of you in the remaining months of Andre's term. I am so honored to be the First Lady of UNICO but I am even more honored to be able to have so many friends across our UNICO world.

Yours in UNICO,

Jenny DiMino  
First Lady

## UNICO NATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT DAVID DONNINI

On Thursday, April 1st UNICO National Second Vice President David Donnini of the Los Angeles Chapter visited the UNICO National home office. David met with National Membership & Retention Director, Richard D'Arminio, as well as office manager Patricia Pelonero. David then treated Richard and Pat to lunch along with his sister, Deanna Donnini, who serves as the VP of the UNICO Los Angeles Chapter. The group went over to visit Madeline and Ralph Piccolo at Piccolo's Pizzeria & Restaurant in Paterson, NJ, located only 10 minutes from our National Office. Ralph and Madeline are the proud uncle and aunt of Brian and Don Piccolo.

Don Piccolo just became the Charter President of the Northern Chesapeake Chapter of UNICO in March. This is the first UNICO Chapter in the state of Maryland!

David and his sister also celebrated the Easter Holiday with their mother, Ann, who is from Wilkes Barre, PA.



*UNICO National Second Vice President David Donnini picks up the tab for lunch at Piccolo's Pizzeria in Patterson, NJ. (L-R Standing) David Donnini, David's mother Anne, Richard D'Arminio, Deanna Donnini and Ralph Piccolo. (L-R sitting) Pat Pelonaro and Madeline Piccolo.*

## UNICO YOUTH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

people. We look out for each other and do good deeds without wanting or needing to be recognized for it. New Jersey has over 50 local chapters of UNICO and each one of them helps to make New Jersey a small state with a big heart.

Most importantly I am proud of the young people of New Jersey. Yes there are some that gel their hair, go to clubs, and have silly nicknames, but a majority also dedicate their time and energy to bettering themselves and their community. The youth members of UNICO are a shining example of what young Italian-Americans in New Jersey are really like. Our youth members belong to UNICO because they want to perform community service, get into a good college, and learn more about their Italian heritage. The youth members of UNICO are following in the footsteps of their ancestors by continuing to make New Jersey a state filled with hardworking, selfless, and charitable individuals.

I invite you all to come to New Jersey and see for yourself what the Jersey Shore is really all about. However, to experience the goodhearted nature and giving spirit of New Jersey's Italian-Americans all you need to do visit your local UNICO chapter. I know you will find the same dedication to service and pride in Italian heritage there as you would here, minus the boardwalk!

marissagynn@hotmail.com



*The "Real Jersey Shore!" Young Italian Americans John Hoplock, Sara Muench, Chris Murphy and Dan Richiuso being honored by DG NJ I Grace Gynn for their years of service to UNICO and their commitment to volunteering in their Jersey Shore community. No Guidos and Guidettes here!*

## IN MEMORIAM

### Frank DiMare, Esq.

Frank DiMare, Esq. passed away on December 4th, 2009. He is survived by his wife Margaret and son, Joseph. Frank was one of the founding members of the Brooklyn II Chapter and has been an active member since its charter in 1959. He held many offices including Chapter President, District Governor and most recently served as the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Frank will be missed dearly.

Thank you for keeping the DiMare family in your thoughts & prayers.



## THE GOOD SHEPPARD LEAVES SETON HALL

By Frank G. Cannata  
Chairman Italian Studies  
UNICO National

On Friday, June 4th, Seton Hall will bid farewell to one of the best Presidents this University ever had. At the Alumni Dinner referred to as “Many Are One” Msgr. Robert Sheeran will receive the Most Distinguished Alumnus Award. This event will be a sell out and that in itself will be a fitting tribute to man who is a “Real Priest.”

He was the Good Sheppard who tended to his flock and protected them from negative outside influences. He was a builder and a dreamer. At his installation as President he set as his goals the growth of the scholarship endowment, the building of a better infrastructure and a University closer to the ideals philosophers such as Plato and Dante.

That he achieved all that and more is a fact. He was also a Good Sheppard in the building of an Italian Studies endowment that now approaches \$4 million with the LaMotta Chair, Alberto Italian-American Institute and Valente Book Collection.

For 15 years he has guided my Alma Mater through some very difficult times, none more so than a dormitory fire that took the lives of students and disfigured several of them. The day after the fire, Msgr. Sheeran moved into the dorm, to calm the fears of the students and parents who were justifiably concerned. The fire was started as a prank and those responsible, along with their families, have suffered the consequences.

I sat down with my good friend, mentor and teacher and asked him about this 15 year tenure at SHU. Before we started he insisted we walk the green, as his ritual, and take in the atmosphere of this 58 acre campus in South Orange New Jersey.

All around are the new buildings, the renovated Chapel and the Science Building. His one disappointment was that he was unable to provide the students with a new Student Union Center. His last capital campaign which closed out in 2009 did not yield sufficient funds to get the job done. There were so many other priorities that had to be addressed.

As always, sitting down with this man is always an education and on this day that was no exception. I started off by posing a philosophical question about what is right and what is wrong.

“What is right, what I think is right is to live ethically and that to be aware that the wrong decisions require that you pay consequences”, he said. “For Non-Catholics there is a natural law to be lived by and to be respected.”

To reinforce this understanding Sheeran fostered a core curriculum that explored the meaning of life. Students are required to study Plato, Dante as well as others. He made it clear Seton Hall is not a liberal arts school but rather a fully faceted University, with many islands. That term island intrigued me and I asked him to explain what that meant.

“Italian Studies is an island, the School of Diplomacy is an island and the Stillman School of Business is yet another island. They are centers of learning within their respective disciplines. They are an island because they rise above those around them and nurture the students who study in those areas.”

He made clear that the other schools such

as Sports Medicine, Law, Arts & Science, and Communication Arts are all fine schools, within the University, but the three he mentioned are widely recognized as outstanding centers of learning.

I probed further and asked about how the students respond to the intellectual stimulation. “For them it is a journey of transformation. The students on the campus today were born after 1991. And they have accrued the wisdom of 1,000 years of Christianity & Culture. They leave here with a good understanding of how to live and how to fit in and how to serve.”

My normal beat puts me in front of CEOs of some of the world’s largest businesses. For those that are stepping down I always ask, what are you most proud of? As expected we got a little bit different kind of response.

“I am proud of our new facilities, prouder still of our students reading Dante and the Gospel of Luke. I am also proud of the way they have responded to helping others. It tells me we have been successful and have truly prepared them for life.”

In 1993 representatives of UNICO sat down with Father Peterson who was then Chancellor of the University. Msgr. Sheeran was set to take over in 1995. I asked him about his feelings on the Italian Studies program that he helped forged.

“Italy gave us the greatest culture the world has ever seen. Students can learn about the Italian migration and Italian-American Culture --- you asked me before about what I was most proud of. I should have added that I am very proud of the people, from outside the university who have given us one of the most important Italian Studies Center in the country.”

I wanted to dig deeper into this discussion and asked if he thought what UNICO had done is rare or have other ethnicities stepped up to do something similar?

“No other ethnicities have embarked on a similar journey or effort. The Italian-American is very close to his heritage. I would hope that what UNICO has achieved here and at other universities would be the creation of a model --- something that says, Don’t Forget Your Heritage.”

He went on to say, “Many Italian-Americans do not speak the language because they have little opportunity to do so. That is part of the assimilation process in being an American, descended by at least two generations, from migrants. Building statues are nice and history is more than helpful but you need more than just studies. Part of it has to be in giving back or serving others.”

It was clear to me that he really wanted to talk about the “kids” which are so very close to him. “There is something fresh about the kids. I see their aspirations, enthusiasm and by and large the support they receive from their parents and their generosity.”

We moved away a little and asked about some of the moral decay we have seen in our political and business leadership. He referred to it as, “A collapse of a lot of things that hold America together. As I said before, what is right and what is wrong. You have to continually question yourself and make sure that you are on firm ground. It is the loss of a value system that says, be responsible for others as much as you are for yourself. It is the reason people will pay more for a Catholic Education. Everything today is more complicated, finance is much more complex. There are no easy answers but the fundamentals of an advanced society are one that cherishes and protects its citizens.”

We always like to ask about how a person

views the future. That tends to tell you a lot about the individual.

“I am really hopeful about the future. Our seminary is full, young men willing to serve and even among the students we have many volunteers. We had to purchase two vans so that SHU kids go can work at St. John’s soup kitchen a couple of times a week.”

A slight smile crossed his lips and he went on to say, “You can see them becoming servant leaders, good teachers with eyes out for other people. They are becoming leaders that want to give back and that is exactly what UNICO does. We want to develop leaders that emulate that spirit.

What about the future? That is something we all were asking and wanted to know.

“Going forward – 15 years is a good run. God is calling me. Zen teaches us that if you jump a net will appear. I am going to take a year’s sabbatical and begin a journey of transformation.” He wants no gifts, at least not for the office of the President it should be for the students. “I have a lot of books that I have purchased and put off to read later. Now I will have the time to enjoy them all.”

A man with his kind of experience and intelligence is the perfect one to ask about what we need to do better, as a people, to continue to enjoy the most enviable life style in the world.

“Americans are not great language learners. It is easy enough to get around unless you care or need to travel internationally. You have to understand another language, get to know other countries. We live in a global economy and a global community. It is not only about learning culture it is about learning about humanity.”

We thought it was time to sum it up as his lovely assistant Robyn gave me only so much time. I asked for some last thoughts about the students, Seton Hall and our society in general.

“We have in Stillman (Business School) our Martin Luther King Scholars. They are expected to do service and coming from an urban environment it is very tough – in fact all of education is tough. Yet somehow they do it and they do it well. There is a direct correlation between hard work and success. Seton Hall is a far better institution than it was 10 years ago with far superior facilities. We have a better faculty and better student.

I believe parents are not tough enough on their children as they are always giving. They need to expect more so that their children can reach their maximum potential.”

Msgr. Robert Sheeran has been a priest for 40 years he wanted to pass on his faith and demonstrate a work ethic. He has done that and more. He has been consistently optimistic and always believed that problems can be dealt with and you never give up on them. Perhaps his greatest gift will be the students who absorbed the liberal arts atmosphere he instilled at Seton Hall. He wanted the students who already knew the current technology to be able to read, write and think. His beliefs can be best summarized by quoting from his 2008 President’s Report when he said, “The character of a great society is shown when old men plant trees whose shade they will never sit under.”

He will be sorely missed at SHU and I for one will not be happy to see him leave. What I will carry with me always was the goodness of the man and how he inspired us all to be better servers and better human beings. Most of all I am so very grateful with how he embraced Italian Studies and made it one of the jewels of this university.



# KANSAS CITY

## HIGH HOPES FOR 2010

By Jim Murray

The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National experienced a banner year in 2009.

Since June when Frank Cherrito was sworn in as president, the chapter has welcomed 25 new members to its roster.

The influx of many new and younger members enables us to become more active pursuing potential events that will enhance our ability to generate additional revenue supporting charitable endeavors and funding our scholarship program.

Plans are currently in place as specialized committees are making preparations to stage Festa Italiana 2010 which will be held for the fourth consecutive year at Zona Rosa.

Zona Rosa is an up-scale shopping and living development that provides the ideal venue to experience authentic Italian foods and beverages, live music and culture in a family focused environment. The Festa has attracted more than 80,000 visitors each year.



Former Chapter President Phil Balano with his lovely wife Mary Louise.

Last year, despite the down turn in the economy we were able to donate over \$28,000 in scholarships to worthy, student recipients now attending college.

Through our expanding agenda of event promotions and the introduction of a new formula to entice additional scholarship income, our goal is to raise \$50,000 for 2010 scholarship awards.

The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO participated in the annual Kansas City Ethnic Festival held in Swope Park in early August.

Thanks to our member volunteers, the Italian food booth was a favorite destination for hungry patrons. UNICANs were instrumental, enabling our chapter to realize a profitable return.

On August 15th, UNICO's Microbrew Festival was held at Zona Rosa and despite rain it was profitable. It was such a fun and rewarding experience that we plan to make it another annual event.

Our next fund raiser was once again held at Zona Rosa where members staffed a food and drinks both on Thanksgiving night as a part of the center's annual \$25 gift card giveaway. Thousands of people attended and the presence of UNICO was again positively noted.



The Kansas City UNICO Christmas Party in 2009 (Back L-R) Mike Cucchiara, Chuck Romana, Joe Cygan, President Frank Cherrito, Michael Mange. (Front L-R) Andrew Romano and Tom Rago.

The weather was extremely cold and the hot chocolate and coffee we served were the most popular items.

Our Christmas Party held on December 5th provided a wonderful time for all attending. Many thanks to Carl DiCapo for arrangements. Carl was the recipient of the prestigious Cianci Award, presented by UNICO National in 2003.

Later in December the Kansas City Chapter collaborated with the America Sons of Columbus to donate \$750 each to four needy families. President Cherrito accompanied by chapter board members, visited the home of our chosen family, and were shocked by what was revealed.

This Italian American family with 10



Joe Nasasti and his father tend bar at the UNICO annual fish fry that benefits St. Andrew School.

children, a hard working father and loving mother. In spite of the obvious poverty and hardships the kids were all upbeat, positive and very thankful for the gifts they received from UNICO.

Upon leaving the home our board unanimously decided to make an appeal to individual chapter members for donations, and in the spirit of "Service Above Self" and an additional \$7,100 was raised.

Chuck Romano generously donated a TV set, and new member Joe Cherrito arranged for a kitchen floor to be installed.

More than \$6,000 in cash was given to the family to help defray costs of living, and once again dedicated UNICANs answered a most worthy charitable request.

Our next chapter event was the annual

March Fish Fry held prior to Lent in the cafeteria at St. Andrews grade school. In its ongoing commitment to promote Italian history, traditions, and values the chapter annually donates thousands of dollars to support and provide Italian language courses from grades one through eight at St. Andrews.

Chapter member Tony Severino, one of the most respected high school football coaches in America and winner of the 2003 UNICO National DM Nigro Award, was honored again



First Vice President Michael Mange (L) Chapter President Frank Cherrito.

nationally by being selected to coach for the West team in the U.S. Army High School All-America Bowl which was held in Washington D.C. Tony is also a former USA Today National Coach of the Year recipient.

The Chapter's last two Brian Piccolo Award winners played football for Tony at Rockhurst High School and were also awarded UNICO academic scholarships.

Ivan Charbonneau, the 2008 winner is attending Princeton University, while 2009 winner Chris Castelluccio is attending Washington University in St. Louis. Both are playing college football while working toward their degree.

Both student athletes are aided by four-year UNICO scholarships.

Since June, President Cherrito has received applications and dues from 25 new members with verbal commitments from several others.

New members include Carl J. Molle, Anthony V. Inzenga, John Kean, Joseph Mortallaro, Joseph Cherrito, Joe Mike Bonadonna, Tony George Pisciotta, Frank J. Pisciotta Jr., Chris Como, Frank Licausi, Joseph Gurera, Tony Torello, Vince Siraguso D.C., Ernie Toigo, Michael LaCapra, Joseph P. Armato, John Webb, Steve Leonard, Gino Corte, Nick Fazzino, Carl Ragusa, Tony Botticella, Phillip Balano, Joe Privitera and Carl Gennusa.

The chapter is bursting with new energy and enthusiasm anticipating an even greater year in 2010.

Frank Cherrito has encouraged all members to attend our monthly dinner meetings in compliance with his message:

**"A FAMILY THAT EATS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER."**



## MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION



As I near the end of my second year and term as National Membership & Retention Director the focus now has to be on RETENTION! We always talk about increasing our Membership and Expansion of new chapters in new States, but we need to also concentrate on reaching out to the existing chapters that are not too active as well as the

new chapters that our Expansion Committee has successfully Chartered under the very dedicated leadership of Gerry Heytink.

I made a promise at the Western Regional in Long Beach, CA and I kept it. I emailed a message on two occasions to all Chapter Presidents and District Governors as we all confirmed that both the National Office and Officers need to constantly communicate and reach out to both our leaders in all of our chapters, districts, and our members. Unfortunately, a couple of dozen emails came back to me the first time due to being incorrect but hopefully the second round was more successful when I asked the home office to re-send it. So please make sure that your emails are correct and in to the office so that we can all work together now and in the years ahead.

My emails reviewed the tools that we have to help in both increasing and retaining members. I have asked every Chapter to run the "Re-Discover Your Italian Heritage" new member drive. I have some money in my budget that can assist you, but your Chapter needs to follow the steps in the power point presentation and do it! Unfortunately, I have only heard from a few chapters this year who have run it, and I only received a few email responses back from the Chapter Presidents and District Governors with any feedback and sharing of ideas from my two emails.

I would encourage all the chapters to contact the Passaic Valley Chapter in NJ and ask them how their new member Culture Heritage day went. I know it was successful and if your chapter mirrors what they did I am sure that you will accomplish many goals in the one three to four hour afternoon that you choose. It is a great day for new members to learn about UNICO in your local community, and what we do together Nationally! It is a great day for existing members as they are there to celebrate their Italian Culture & Heritage!

I would encourage all of you to please visit the UNICO website: [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org) and really take a look at all of the captions listed. If you like what you see then please share it with all of your fellow members. If you do not like something or feel that you can contribute something to it, then please contact the home office and offer your suggestions. Joe Cerullo, DG PA I, is also there to lend a helping hand and his ears are always open for your feedback. Many of our membership tools such as the video, banners, etc. are there for you to view.

Congratulations again to the Agawam. MA

Chapter and Joe Conte, JR. for the effort in working with us to re-organize and re-energize with the assistance of our ERDG Bernie Brutto and UNICO Foundation Trustee and Longmeadow, MA member, John O' Dierna, J.D. who attended their recent Chapter dinner meeting and shared some ideas to assist in moving forward in a positive direction.

My continued thanks and congratulations to the Miami FL Chapter and Joe Martucci, Esq. for also getting back on track after staying in touch with me for the past 18 months. Our Executive Administrator, Sal Benvenuti, and PNP Joe Agresti visited the Chapter last year and we hope to do so again very soon. Joe will be attending our convention in Hershey, PA this year too so I know that he will be bringing back lots of ideas after meeting with many of the attendees from our various chapters.

Many thanks to PNP, Frank Cannata for visiting the Fort Lee NJ Chapter with me recently as we are working with them on a June dedication ceremony for John Basilone. It was great to meet and see some of the members who have been in the chapter for so many years.

On a personal note, I enjoyed meeting some of the officers and new members of the San Diego CA Chapter in January before the start of the Western Regional. We shared some ideas and I was able to assist them in securing Don Piccolo as their guest speaker for their upcoming June 12th Brian Piccolo awards dinner.

Speaking of Don Piccolo- What a great honor it was having met him two years ago and finally introducing him to UNICO. He spoke at my District IX NJ dinner last year and is scheduled to speak at the NJ District VII, and the Plainfield and Nutley Chapter Brian Piccolo Awards very soon. Don recently spoke at the Orange/West Orange Sport's Awards Breakfast that was attended by over 200 people.

I will do my best to get in touch with chapters like Ft. Myers, FL, Greater Old Bridge, Boston, Park Ridge NJ, and see if we can offer them some assistance in finding some new members and people who will take a leadership role. If anyone knows of a contact or two in these areas please contact me. We recently lost the San Fernando, CA Chapter but we are still hopeful that some of the members will either stay on as National members or transfer to a chapter in the area such as the LA Chapter.

In conclusion, I say once again that by working closely together we can and have already accomplished many things locally and nationally. We need to communicate more via email, telephone, texting, etc. We need to hear from you. We all need to be active in our chapter so that we all contribute and feel good about what we do. We hope that you will accept a leadership role in your chapter to keep it strong. In your local chapters please attend your board meetings and share ideas and new suggestions that should be brought up to the entire membership for comment, a vote, etc. E-mailing is a fast and good way to communicate, but please do so in a constructive manner. If you can attend a board or a chapter meeting to discuss matters, I find that this works better as there is nothing better than open and respectful communication.

In speaking about RETENTION- I would really suggest that your chapter have a speaker or show a film at many of your meetings on our great Italian Culture & Heritage. Perhaps on a different region of Italy at each meeting! Have Italian lessons for 15 minutes. Have your Culture/

Heritage Chair get in touch with our National Chairman, PNP Sal Mangano for some ideas too. Share the articles that Sal writes in ComUNICO.

I have been a UNICAN for 31 years! I am 52 years old and have met so many nice people from Texas, MA, FL, PA, NJ, NY, CA, MD, CT, IL, TN, and for the most part things have gone well. We do great things together. We help many people that are less fortunate than us. But, sometimes we disagree on things and that's okay as long as we have the respect to meet face to face and attempt to work things out. There are leaders in every chapter that have different styles. We all have different personalities. We are all here for one common purpose: To give our time, money, and energy to SERVE ABOVE SELF. If things do not always go right please don't quit. Rather, meet in person and discuss it nicely. If you are a Chapter Officer, DG, etc. please be equally fair to all members. Hear them out. If they have a suggestion, please bring it to the floor at a general meeting. I have challenges in my own chapter and I am sure you do too, but if we all are true to the oath that we took when we became a member, I know that we can work out any issue which will in turn not only increase membership, but RETAIN those that have left or prevent anyone from leaving.

As a candidate for Third National VP at our upcoming Convention, I hope to continue my service to you for years to come. I hope I have earned your support. I hope to see all of you on July 28th in Hershey, PA. For now, let's concentrate on assisting chapters that need our assistance, and continue to spread the good work that we do as UNICANS so that Membership and Retention will increase.

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## PHILADELPHIA PA

### NEW MEMBERS

The Philadelphia Chapter recently added five enthusiastic new members. The new members were sworn in by PNP, and Chapter Member, Nick Quercetti.



Back (L-R): Michael Iannuzzi, Donald Sabatini, Carmen D'Amato, Nick Quercetti – PNP. Front (L-R): Angelina Calvano, Loretta Mitsos-Panvini.



# MIDWEST REGIONAL AND MID YEAR BOARD MEETINGS NASHVILLE TN

## AROUND THE GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT



National President Cowboy André and Immediate Past National President Cowgirl Kathi Strozza.



The UNICO handicapped brigade - Executive Administrator Sal Benvenutti and First Lady Jenny move slowly about the Gaylord Opryland Resort!

## THE GRAND OLE OPRY

The Grand Ole Opry is a weekly country music stage concert in Nashville, Tennessee that has presented the biggest stars of the genre for nearly 85 years. Broadcast by WSM-AM, it is also the longest-running radio program in history since its beginnings in 1925 as a one-hour showcase for rural music. Dedicated to honoring country music and its history, the Opry showcases a mix of legends and contemporary chart-toppers performing country, bluegrass, folk, comedy, and gospel. Considered an American icon, it attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world and millions of radio and Internet listeners. The Opry is "the show that made country music famous."

-Wikipedia



Immediate Past National President Kathi Strozza and her mother Vera celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Nashville with André and Jenny DiMino.



All work and no play make Giacomo a dull boy. The UNICO brain trust on a break in Nashville.



Taking a stroll through the massive atrium at the Opryland Hotel (L-R) Fr Bob Wolfée, Celeste and Lou Pandolfi, Pat Pelonero, Debbie Benvenutti and National President André. The Gaylord Perry Opryland Resort & Convention Center is the largest non-casino hotel in the world and the largest hotel in the United States outside Las Vegas.

## THE GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE



(L-R) Former First Lady Arlene Agresti, First Lady Jenny, National Cowboy André and Barbara Pisano get ready to enjoy the show at the Grand Ole Opry House.



Patsy Monaco, First Lady Jenny and Barbara Pisano.



National President André and National Secretary Mike Pisano.



A contingent of UNICO Ladies with National President André at the Grand Ole Opry. Such legends as Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Roy Acuff, the Carter family, Bill Monroe, Ernest Tubb, Kitty Wells and Minnie Pearl became regulars on the Opry's stage. In recent decades, the Opry has hosted such contemporary country stars as Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks and Reba McEntire.

-Wikipedia



# NASHVILLE BUSINESS MEETINGS

- **Midwest Regional**
- **Foundation Board**
- **Executive Board**



UNICO Executive leadership in Nashville! (L-R) Third Vice President Michael Veselka, President André Di-Mino, Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio and Second Vice President David Donnini.



Ron Giometti of Memphis UNICO makes a point at the microphone.



Geraldine Lipari and UNICO National Mental Health Chair Barbara Laborim review printed materials at the Mid Year Board Meeting.

Nashville is the capital of the U.S. state of Tennessee and the county seat of Davidson County. It is located on the Cumberland River in Davidson County, in the north-central part of the state. The city is a major hub for the health care, music, publishing, banking and transportation industries, and is home to a large number of colleges and universities.



Guest Speaker Cos Ferrara announces publication of his new book on Italian Americans. An author of books on writing, Cos also conducts workshops in business writing. He also offers editorial services, Cos can help with fast and accurate editing, critiquing, or rewriting of your documents.



Sharon Thompson presents the Cool-eyes Anemia Committee Report.



An important part of our weekend in Nashville was the Midwest Regional Meeting. Chicago was well represented!



Where's our UNICO National Secretary Mike Pisano? (L-R) Frank Blasi, Mike Pisano's Laptop, Joan Tidona, Gerry Heytink and Rick D'Arminio. Michael is actually online looking up Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives locations in Nashville!



Midwestern Regional District Governor Chair, Nina Held, conducted an excellent Midwestern Regional Meeting.



Board Meeting Co-Chair John Alati PNP makes an important announcement.



NJ XI DG Nicki Carpinelli joins the discussion at the Mid year Board Meeting. Nicki is a member of the Verona NJ Chapter of UNICO.



UNICO National Foundation President John DiNapoli reports on the results of the Foundation meeting in Nashville. The next meeting of our UNICO National Foundation Board will be in Hershey PA.



## WILKES BARRE PA



(L-R) Wilkes Barre Chapter President Jarrett Ferentino, Catherine and UNICO National President André DiMino.



Wilkes Barre UNICANs and President André DiMino with the star of the show- the roasted pig!



UNICO National leaders brought an air of decorum and sophistication to the pig roast event.

## SECAUCUS NJ

### DONATION TO FOOD PANTRY



Secaucus Unico President Joe Morano presents a donation to The Secaucus Food Pantry. The donation is accepted by Chuck Gasser Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator.

## NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII

### PRESIDENT DIMINO INSTALLS NEW MEMBER

UNICO National President André DiMino swore in Gianfranco Gervasio as a member of the Garfield Chapter. Gianfranco's sponsors were his father, John, Salvatore Miletello, and NJ VII DG Dominick Nicastro. Gianfranco is now the newest and proudest member of the Garfield Chapter of UNICO National.

On July 4th, 2009, Gianfranco was seriously injured in a swimming pool accident which left him without movement in his lower extremities. After many months in the hospital and rehabilitation, Gianfranco is now back home. The family is now faced with many extraordinary expenses relating to caring for Gianfranco. Spearheading efforts to raise monies for the financially strapped family is the Garfield UNICO/Gianfranco Gervasio Fund co-chaired by Sal Miletello and Dominick Nicastro. New Jersey District VII also aided in the effort. Additionally, the Woodcliff Lake Chapter donated the receipts from it's Annual Beefsteak Dinner & Auction to the Gervasio family.



National President André DiMino pins Garfield's newest member, Gianfranco Gervasio, with his membership pin. Looking on are two of Gianfranco's sponsors – his father, John (L) and DG NJ VII Dominick Nicastro (R).



Also attending the March 23rd meeting of NJ District VII was First Lady Jenny DiMino (C). Presenting Jenny with flowers were NJ VII First Lady Alina Nicastro (L) and Nutley Chapter President Marie Solimo (R).



National President André DiMino (R) administers the membership oath to Gianfranco Gervasio (front left) at the March 23rd meeting of NJ District VII. Supporting Gianfranco are other members of the Garfield Chapter (L-R) Bill Yuppa, Joe Paci, Joe Kovacs, Joe Pitocco, Gianfranco's father John and NJ VII DG Dominick Nicastro.

## PLAINFIELDS NJ

### MIDWESTERN CONFERENCE

Members of Plainfields NJ UNICO attended the National Midwestern Regional and Mid Year Board Meeting in Nashville, TN.



(L-R) Mike Colucci Plainfields' (NJ) Delegate, National President André DiMino and Plainfields' (NJ) Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga at the morning registration for the start of the Midwestern Conference on March 19th at the Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, TN.



UNICO National President André DiMino and Anthony Bengivenga President of the Plainfields' (NJ) Chapter of UNICO enjoying a moment during the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN.



# PA DISTRICT II GREATER BINGHAMTON NY

## PA DISTRICT II CHAPTER IS EVOLVING

If you are of Italian heritage, the place you should have been on Thursday March 4th, was Brother 2 Restaurant in Endwell NY.

Brothers 2 hosted the Pa District II members of UNICO from the Carbondale PA, Sayre NY, and Scranton PA chapters.

In addition to the UNICO members present, 40 prospective new members for the Proposed Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO turned up.

Many UNICO celebrities attended: PNP Al Dante, Executive Vice President of UNICO National Chris DiMattio, PA II DG Felix DeSio, Carbondale UNICO President Steve Martino, Sayre UNICO President Nick Grego, Scranton UNICO President Sam Prudente and UNICO National Expansion Representative Pete Noto from Scranton.

The enthusiasm in the room was overwhelming as individuals spoke on what it meant to be a UNICAN. Conversation flowed freely, and many a new friend was found.

A small obstacle to the event was to find that there were not enough membership applications!! Not to worry, as more were copied and everyone who wanted one received one. Extras were taken to give to take home for friends, family, and co-workers. How exciting when two staff members of Brothers asked if they could join!! YIPPEE!!!!

Things are on track and by the time you read this The Greater Binghamton Chapter should be having their charter night.

The success also includes many people behind the scenes such as Pete Noto of Scranton and Don Giovanni of Binghamton.

Special thanks to Mark McDade for being behind the camera and to Brothers 2 for a wonderful meal and attending to all our needs.



(L-R) UNICO National Expansion Representative Pete Noto from Scranton, PNP Al Dante, Carbondale UNICO President Steve Martino, Scranton UNICO President Sam Prudente, PA II DG Felix DeSio, Sayre NY UNICO President Nick Grego, Temporary President of Greater Binghamton NY UNICO Don Giovanni, UNICO National Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio.



Prospective members learn about UNICO while enjoying a delicious Italian meal at Brothers 2.



After filling out applications for the proposed Greater Binghamton NY Chapter of UNICO National, the group gathers for a great photo opportunity.



Executive Vice President of UNICO National Chris DiMattio and PA II DG Felix DeSio welcome the enthusiastic crowd of UNICANs and prospective new members.



Everyone in the room was given the time to introduce themselves to the crowd.

# KEARNY NJ

## APPLEBEE'S DINING TO DONATE

On Wednesday, March 10th, 2010, the Kearny NJ Chapter participated in Applebee's Dining to Donate Program. Chapter members, along with their families and friends, enjoyed eating dinner at the Kearny NJ Applebee's while they raised funds for the chapter's charities. Members of the Lyndhurst and Rutherford Chapters also participated in the fund-raising dining event. Applebee's rebated ten percent of the dinner check amounts to the chapter. It was a fun and profitable night out for everyone.

One question remains? How was Applebee's espresso and svogliatelli?



A member of the Kearny Ladies of UNICO, Pearl Yaszczewski (second from right), treated her grandchildren and their parents to a family dinner at Applebee's.



Chapter members Nino Capitti, Walter and Paul Tomasheski enjoyed a delicious dinner at Kearny Applebee's while helping raise funds for the chapter.



Chapter member Jim Cifelli treated his wife Linda to a "night out" at Kearny Applebee's.

### Italian Proverb:

Chi vince ha sempre ragione.  
He who wins is always right. Might makes right.



# PASSAIC VALLEY NJ

## NEW MEMBERS

The Passaic Valley Chapter is still growing strong with 62 members after the installation of four more at their recent February 17th meeting. Having sworn in ten new members so far this year, the chapter would like to publicly welcome: Mary Benvenuti, Dominick Bucci, Jean Giancola, Sonia Giordano, Angie Honigfeld, Judith Orlando, Nancy Orlando, Darlene Post, Evelyn Tosi, and Helen Triolo.



Pictured here are five of the most recent members to be sworn into UNICO: (L-R) Passaic Valley Chapter Second Vice President Richard Raad, Judith Orlando, Nancy Orlando, Jean Giancola, Evelyn Tosi, Darlene Post and Passaic Valley Chapter President Carmen Criscione.

## LifeInItaly.COM FUN FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Italy has several volcanoes, and one that is still active even into our current century. Mount Vesuvius is one of three active volcanoes in continental Europe (the other two, Etna and Stromboli, are also in Italy); it is also considered one of the most famous volcanoes in the world. Its name is recognized in many places, even when volcanoes aren't even an after-thought. Pompeii, an Italian city, was destroyed by Vesuvius in AD 79; the city was buried under ash and thousands of people were swept up in the molten mess.

### Italian Proverb:

*È meglio un uovo oggi di una gallina domani.*  
An egg today is better than a chicken tomorrow.

# SAN DIEGO

## MARCH FAMILY SUNDAY BRUNCH



Special thanks to our March Sunday family brunch host Bob Gaglione! Members bring their favorite family dishes to share and there simply is not a better selection of home made Italian food anywhere else in San Diego County!



Marianne Lalli-Regan (R) with new member Anita Meley Laing. Our family brunches are the perfect venue for introducing fellow Italian Americans to UNICO in a relaxed social atmosphere.



The core of our Italian culture is family. (L-R) Sisters Elena Goodson, Isabella Goodson and Julia Goodson with their Nona Patricia Mical.



Valerie and John Orsini show up to the brunch with an Italian take on the eggroll! The father and daughter team work hard in the San Diego chapter and both serve on the Board of Directors.



Carl Caccamise supplied the brunch with a gallon of his own wine! The grapes are grown and the wine is made and bottled in San Diego County.



Our greatest hope is that the UNICO Sunday family brunches inspire our children to continue to celebrate their Italian Heritage. UNICO can help us pass our Italian heritage torch to the next generation. (L) Young Joseph Risi participates in a long drive contest. (R) Kirk Masci must be wondering what his Americani pals from school are eating on this Sunday afternoon!



## PITTSFIELD MA

### PUBLIC SERVICE AND POLENTA!

On Saturday, February 27th, several Pittsfield chapter members converged on the Berkshire Hills Country Club to prepare and cook a polenta, venison and chicken dinner to benefit the Berkshire Health Systems Endoscopy unit. The group, headed by master polenta chef Kevin Dondi, prepared 400 meals that also included salad and bread. The proceeds will be used to upgrade existing equipment and facilities to serve the people of Berkshire County. Every year over 6,000 endoscopic procedures are performed at the Berkshire Health System's facilities to view the esophagus, lungs, stomach, intestines, colon and other areas of the digestive tract.



Master polenta chef, Kevin Dondi, checks the polenta pot. This is one of five large pots of polenta that were served at the event. Remember to only stir to the right!



Pittsfield MA Chapter President Tom Blair takes his turn stirring a pot of polenta to ensure all the lumps are out. How do upscale Italian Restaurants charge \$12 for a tiny square of the stuff?

### IN MEMORIAM

Emilio Lavazza, age 78, just passed away, he used to sell coffee door to door in Turin where his family owned a grocery store since 1894, he grew the family owned business to a point where Lavazza "owns" 50 percent of Italy's coffee sales and is the sixth largest buyer of coffee in the world. Lavazza coffee is brewed in over 90 countries worldwide.

## PLAINFIELDS NJ

### NEW MEMBERS

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO swore in two new members at a recent monthly meeting at Giovanna's Ristorante in Plainfield, Susie Leonardis and Angela Baratta, both of South Plainfield.



(L-R) UNICO Past National President and Plainfields' UNICO founder Renato Biribin of South Plainfield, new members Susie Leonardis and Angela Baratta, both of South Plainfield, UNICO First Deputy District X Governor Robert Bengivenga of South Plainfield; Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Colucci of Piscataway, Plainfields' UNICO President Anthony Bengivenga of Green Brook, and UNICO Past National President Frank Licato of South Plainfield.

## PITTSFIELD MA

### LOCAL HALL OF FAMERS HONORED

Below is a photo of the new Pittsfield Berkshire County UNICO Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame members. Each new member received a Norman Rockwell print as their award at a banquet in their honor. Two hundred people attended the ninth annual event.

This is the first year that women were inducted into the UNICO of Pittsfield's Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame. Money raised from this event will be used for scholarships for deserving senior high school baseball and softball players.



(L-R) Event Chairman, Paul Procopio, with inductees Sally Gangell, Armand Walger, Katy Pierce and Al Belanger and Pittsfield UNICO President Thomas Blair.

## "CAPTAIN KIRK" SHATNER FIRES PHASERS AT ITALIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Shatner champions ethnic-bashing show "The Gavones" on YouTube

FAIRFIELD, NJ --- UNICO National President André DiMino has called upon William Shatner, the Canadian who rose to fame as Captain Kirk on Star Trek, to pull down an "incredibly offensive" animated cartoon Shatner has made that stereotypes Italian Americans, called "The Gavones."

A pilot for the cartoon, which is about mobsters in Hollywood, was made last year and appears on both Shatner's YouTube page and his personal webpage. On Shatner's YouTube page, the description for the show notes: "Make an offer you can't refuse? The Gavones will most likely make an offer you can't understand."

Shatner employs a mispronounced Italian word by naming his show, "The Gavones." The Italian term for "Gavones" is "Cafone" or plural, "Cafoni" which means "peasant" but has evolved into meaning a boorish, poorly behaved individual(s). It has found its way into American usage as the mispronounced and misspelled word, "Gavone."

"It appears that the damage stereotyping causes has been lost on Shatner, who for many years was stereotyped and typecast as Captain Kirk blocking him from many roles in Hollywood," DiMino said. "Instead, Captain Kirk has cowardly gone, where many have gone before him---launching a cheap broadside on the Italian American community via the stereotype of the mob. I wish I could flip open my own Communicator and have Scotty beam Kirk to an alternative universe where we wouldn't have to hear from this very tacky overexposed persona."

"The sad reality is that there are not many Italians in powerful positions in Hollywood, and the stereotypical ethnic-bashing cartoon that Shatner is championing underscores that," DiMino said. "Even for Shatner, who embarrasses himself routinely as a classless pitchman and an anything-for-a-buck shill, this is a new low."

In an interview last year with People.com, Shatner said that Robert DeNiro, Joe Pesci and Martin Scorsese are likely to appear in the cartoon. "We can get anybody we want with the flick [of a pen]," he arrogantly commented.

DiMino noted that while existence of the show came to UNICO only recently, as the show has only been internet-based, he believes Shatner continues to exercise poor judgment by leaving it online. "He should know better, pull it offline and apologize to the Italian American community," DiMino said.

DiMino has led the charge in recent anti-bias efforts with more than 40 major media appearances and dozens of print stories in leading UNICO National's crusade against MTV's "Jersey Shore." The campaign has thus far resulted in T-Mobile, Dell, Domino's Pizza, Family Insurance and Zappos withdrawing their advertisements from the show.



## REHOBOTH AREA

### ADVANCING ITALIAN CULTURE



In keeping with UNICO's mission to promote Italian heritage, the Rehoboth Area Chapter hosted Cristina Christy and her husband Bill at the March monthly dinner meeting.

Maestra Christy shared her family history, particularly her early years living in Bologna. This is where Christy learned to speak Italian and to deepen her appreciation of her heritage and the Italian culture. Christy's passion for the Italian language flows into her classrooms at Cape Henlopen High School where she introduced Italian as one of the students' language selections. The program is in its first year and thanks to the dedication of Mrs. Christy, the program will be expanded in the school year 2010-2011. In teaching Italian to her students, she has found they are sharing her passion for the language and culture.

Earlier this year, the Rehoboth Chapter donated Italian dictionaries to the school. Christy explained how these dictionaries have enabled the students to enhance their learning.

Anyone interested in learning the basics of the Italian language and culture can enroll in Wilmington College's Rehoboth Beach campus. Ciao!

## MONTVILLE NJ

### ATTEND OUR MAY 15th DINNER DANCE

The Montville Chapter of UNICO will be having their 21st Annual Dinner Dance at the Hanover Manor on May 15th. At the event, incoming President Mickey D'Addato and the chapter's new officers will be sworn in.

Our "Person of the Year" is Susan Speciale. Susan was the chapter's Recording Secretary. She chaired our annual golf outing, co-chaired bocce, sold 50/50 tickets and helped out with many other events. When you think of UNICO's motto "Service above Self"...It's no wonder that Susan Speciale was chosen "Person of the Year" Congratulations Sue!



## UNICO NATIONAL MARCONI SCIENCE AWARD MEDAL 2010

### UNICO HONORS JOSEPH A. MULE'

Each year, UNICO National honors an outstanding Italian American scientist with its prestigious Marconi Science Award and Medal. UNICO National launched the Marconi Science Award in 1995 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the world's first long distance wireless transmission by Marconi and to recognize his great scientific contributions. Then National President Frank Cannata appointed a committee, chaired by Dr. Joseph Tella and co-chaired by John Alati, that took on the responsibility. After many planning meetings and involved efforts, a very deserving recipient was chosen from the numerous applications received and the event was planned. On April 30th, 1995, at a gala dinner in Westchester, New York, attended by many UNICANs and guests, the father of current National President André DiMino, Dr. Alfonso DiMino of Woodcliff Lake, NJ, an accomplished inventor and scientist, was presented with what would become the first "UNICO National Marconi Science Award and Medal."

Shortly thereafter, the Marconi Committee, with the support of national officers, recommended the continuation of the award and in late 1995 it became a National Award to be presented annually.

UNICO National's Marconi Science award committee is charged with qualifying and selecting the recipient for this award. The process of selecting each year's Marconi Science Award winner is based on an anonymous, objective and subjective process that considers an applicant's education, area of expertise, patents, published works and other factors. The requirements for the award are that the applicant be a US citizen of Italian descent who has excelled in the physical sciences - such as physics, chemistry, mechanics, electronics, etc. The committee reviews many worthy applicants each year and selects only one scientist to receive the award - a difficult task considering the quality of each year's applicants! Through this rigorous and impartial process, UNICO National has created an outstanding way to honor Italian American scientists who contribute so much to our world.

The 2010 UNICO National Marconi Science Award and Medal was presented to Joseph A. Mule' who was nominated by the Rehoboth Beach, DE UNICO Chapter. Mule' is a multi-disciplinary aerospace engineer, who was involved in one of the largest and most complex scientific and engineering accomplishments by man - the Apollo 11 lunar landing.

Joseph A. Mule' has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York and a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn. He is the recipient of the Apollo Achievement Award which was presented by the Administrator of NASA in Washington,

DC on the occasion of "Apollo 11's successful achievement of man's First Landing on the Moon, July, 20, 1969." He also received the Lunar Module Program of Project Apollo Certificate of Participation from Grumman Aerospace presented by L. J. Evans, President of Grumman. He was the Manager of Reliability Engineering on the Lunar Program of Project Apollo overseeing the efforts of a team of over 120 people who were responsible for the Lunar Module of Apollo.

After the Apollo program Mr. Mule' transitioned to Quality Assurance Management and specialized in Statistical Process Control where he developed statistical sampling methods, tracking and trending failures on various aircraft designed and manufactured by Grumman.

In addition, he was an instructor of Statistical Process Control for the American Society of Quality (ASQ) and also served as a Manager of Motivational programs for two companies.

In July of 2007 Joseph received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Associate Administrator of the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate of NASA for his publication entitled "Lessons Learned" which was presented to the engineers and scientists responsible for the new Orion Project for Manned Lunar and Mars Exploration on the 38th Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing.

#### THE AWARD CEREMONY

At the UNICO National Board of Director's meeting on March 20, 2010, in Nashville, TN at a gala award ceremony and dinner attended by many UNICO National dignitaries and guests from around the country, Mule' was presented with the UNICO National Marconi Science Award and Medal by UNICO National President Andre' DiMino. In his acceptance speech, Mule' discussed how it felt to be the engineer in charge during such memorable times during his tenure in the Apollo program such as the seemingly endless period when Apollo 11 was on the far-side of the moon and they could not communicate with the astronauts or when there was only 11 seconds of fuel left in the lunar lander before Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin safely landed on the surface of the moon. He also spoke about his pride in his Italian heritage and his family life, "My Father was born in Ribera, in southern Sicily and my Mother was born in the US of Sicilian parents from Palermo." He also expressed his appreciation to UNICO and the Marconi Science Award Committee for selecting him for the award. "I am so grateful for this honor and I will cherish it always."

After the award ceremony, Mule' and his wife, Vita, spent time meeting with each of the UNICO guests and discussing his work and life. As is the tradition at the Marconi Award Ceremony, all of the UNICO ladies took their turn dancing with Mr. Mule' to congratulate him for his accomplishments. He is an excellent recipient of the UNICO National Marconi Science Award and Medal for 2010! It is with pride that UNICO recognizes the great contributions of Italian American scientists with this prestigious Science Award.

#### MARCONI AWARD PHOTOS ON BACK COVER



## BELLEVILLE NJ

### FOOD FOR THE NEEDY COLLECTED AT 22ND ANNUAL ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR

The Belleville UNICO ACES Youth Club and their sponsors, the Belleville Chapter of UNICO National, celebrated and presented their annual St. Joseph's Day Altar at St. Thomas School in Bloomfield, N.J.

The St. Joseph's Altar is a centuries old Sicilian tradition to honor the patron saint of workers, fathers and Sicily, to give thanks for good fortune, fulfill a promise or just to share with those who are less fortunate.

The ACES Club provided this feast at no cost to their guests. People come from all over the state to participate in the traditional dinner of pasta con Sardi, various pastas, different egg plant dishes, fruits, homemade bread, cookies and St. Joseph zeppoles. In return the guests donate money.

The event begins with Mass and is followed with the blessing of the food and altar by Father Philp Sanders and a procession of St. Joseph and the holy family. St. Joseph was played by John Cataldo, Debra Shaw followed by ACES members and future members; Kaitlyn Kerr, Amanda Masserker, Paige Masserker, Salvatore Palmisano, Ashely Alfano and Alyssa Alfano.

This year the ACES and Chapter proudly presented donations to the Tomorrow Children's Fund, UNICO National Foundation Scholarship Fund, Belleville High School Scholarships (UNICO/Martini and UNICO/Garruto), Jimmy "V" Cancer Fund Bowl-a-thon, the UNICO Mental Health Foundation, New Jersey Kidney /Eurology Foundation, St. Thomas' Youth Club, St. Rocco's Church of Newark, Belleville High School Scholarship, St. Peter Church in Belleville. and the Belleville Education Foundation.



Joseph Alessi helps Alyssa and Ashley Alfano distribute cookies and zeppoles from the St. Joseph Altar.



(L-R) Kaitlyn Kerr, Amanda Masserker, Paige Masserker, Salvatore Palmisano, Debra Shaw (St. Mary), John Cataldo (St. Joseph), Ashely Alfano and Alyssa Alfano.

ACES member Amanda Massaker presented UNICO National's President André DiMino with the Presidential Award. Amanda stated that she hopes this award would be a constant reminder that the future of UNICO lies with its youth and heritage. ACES member Kaitlynn Kerr presented UNICO National's First Lady Jenny DiMino with a beautiful gift from the ACES and the chapter.

MC Steve Rovell thanked the committee, the chapter and ACES members and the supporters of this year's Ad Book. A special thanks to Fungillo's Villa, Anufuso's Al-Di-La, Joe and Sue Ali's La Sicilia, Joe and Josephine Gencarelli's City Light, Hanover Manor, Leonard's Novelty Bakery, Nutley Shop Rite, Brookdale Shop Rite, Michael's Florist, Rick Hathaway's Piano's, Biondi's Funeral Home, Charles Anthony's Studio, Ritacco Brothers and Giuletti and Romeo Pizzeria. Also Jack Di Piazza, Leonard Novelty Bakery, Joan Cataldo, Peter Boreyko, Chuck & Charles Palmisano, Settimo Guttilla from E&S Foods, Paul Alongi.

Dr. Alfano President of the chapter closed the program by stating, "For twenty-two years the young ACES, UNICANs, friends and families have provided this wonderful event. We hope to continue this tradition and many of our charitable programs for many more years but we need your help and support." Alfano continued, "I feel the best way to support the St. Joseph's Altar and promote our rich Italian Heritage is for local Italian Americans to become part of the Belleville Chapter."

The chapter is seeking proud Italian Americans and individuals married to Italian Americans, 18 years and older, that are willing to foster a positive image by performing good deeds and fighting the negative portrayal of Italians and Italian Americans especially by the motion picture and TV industry. The chapter has taken an active role in making the Belleville/Nutley Columbus Day Parade a success, donated books to the Belleville High School, Belleville library and has raised funds for local and national charities, scholarships and food baskets."



St. Josephs Altar presented by Belleville UNICO

## SAN DIEGO CA

### TRATORIA FANTASTICA FEBRUARY LUNCH



San Diego members Byron Mignanelli (L) and Luke Vinci are organizing an ambitious outdoor summer festival called **Ferragosto** to raise money for Our Lady of the Rosary Italian Catholic Church.



Valerie Orsini enjoys her copy of ComUNICO!



Sandro Piancone (L) with Treasurer Barry Masci.



Joe Cortese (L) and Anthony Napoli take shelter in the covered outside dining patio during one of San Diego's rare heavy rain storms!



## RUTHERFORD NJ

### MILLE GRAZIE AWARDEES



(L-R) Frank Tidona, Chapter President Joan Tidona, Mille Grazie Chair Captain Vincent Lombardi, Captain Brittany Catanzaro, First Lady Jenny DiMino and UNICO National President André DiMino.

Captain Vincent Lombardi and Captain Brittany Catanzaro of the New York Waterway made history when, thanks to their extraordinary skill, professionalism and heroic efforts, they provided assistance to the passengers and crew of US Airways Flight 1549 in the remarkable rescue that has come to be known as the "Miracle on the Hudson."

Last January 15th, we learned with horror of the bird hit accident that disabled engines and forced the US Airways jet to make an emergency landing in the Hudson River. Incredibly, thanks to the quick response of rescuers, all passengers and crew members were saved.

First on the scene was Captain Lombardi. He brought his ferry, the *Thomas Jefferson*, up to the plane minutes after it hit the water. While he credits his crew with the rescue, it is clear that tremendous expertise and undaunted action on the part of Captain Lombardi ensured that his craft was in proper position to facilitate assistance. They rescued 56 people.

Captain Catanzaro, on the ferry *Thomas Kean*, was headed in the opposite direction at the time of the crash. She turned immediately and moved toward US Airways Flight 1549, the second ferry to reach the scene. Approaching cautiously, she expertly guided the craft to allow her crew to affect the rescue. They brought 24 passengers to safety.

The Rutherford UNICO Mille Grazie award was established to acknowledge and honor the efforts of individuals who have in some way promoted the true and positive image of Italian Americans. Captain Vincent Lombardi and Captain Brittany Catanzaro are recognized for their heroic actions and composure under extreme pressure. As true heroes, they bring positive recognition to our illustrious Italian heritage.

Mille grazie Captains Lombardi and Catanzaro. You make us proud!

**Poverty is the worst form of violence.**  
-Mohandas K. Gandhi (1869-1948)

## BELLEVILLE NJ

### UNICO ACES DONATION



UNICO National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona receives National Scholarship and Mental Health donations from Belleville UNICO ACES members Paige and Amanda Massaker. Chapter President Manny Alfano looks on. The money was raised at this year's Belleville UNICO St. Joseph's Altar.

## SAN DIEGO CA

### CUCINA URBANA FEBRUARY LUNCH



San Diego Chapter President James Pieri Jr. presents a "Qui Si Mangia Bene" certificate to Sara Stroud of Cucina Urbana



Jim DeSpensa (L) and Steve Codraro enjoy the cuisine in San Diego's Banker's Hill neighborhood.

## SCRANTON PA

### ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

The Scranton Chapter of UNICO National recently established a permanent endowment to fund a three-tiered program in Italian Studies, Heritage and Culture at Worthington Scranton campus of Penn State that focuses on academics, co-curricular and out-of-classroom experiences, as well as community outreach.

The program will complement the campus' existing cultural offerings in Spanish, French, German and Chinese, while expanding learning opportunities for students and community members interested in furthering their knowledge of Italian culture and heritage.

"This past year, the campus offered an Italian language courses, which were very well-received," said Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen, Penn State Worthington Scranton's chancellor. "This endowment from UNICO will allow the campus to expand upon this interest by creating additional Italian language and culture courses, as well as by providing opportunities for international travel, regional field trips, a speaker series and other similar venues."

"UNICO's generosity will allow us to make Italian studies an integral part of our campus' curriculum in perpetuity," he added.

Penn State Worthington Scranton and the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National have enjoyed a very positive relationship for the past several years by virtue of an endowed scholarship the group created in 2002. This fund has been of tremendous assistance in helping local students pursue a Penn State education close to home.



UNICO members present an endowment check to Penn State Worthington Scranton's Director of Development, Maria Russoniello, during a recent meeting. (L-R) Chairma of the Scranton UNICO Foundation Joe Guido, Peckville Foundation Trustee Attorney Frank Blasi, Lake Ariel, Coordinator of Letters, Arts, and Sciences at Penn State Worthington Scranton Paul Perrone and Moscow residents Ms. Russoniello, Attorney Frank Castellano and Scranton Foundation Board member Christopher DiMattio.

**LifeInItaly.COM**

### FUN FACTS ABOUT ITALY

Italy's contributions to science include the barometer, electric battery, nitroglycerin, and wireless telegraphy.



## SCRANTON PA

### NEW MEMBERS

The Scranton Chapter of UNICO inducted four new members at its March meeting.



(L-R) Pauline and Henry Sallusti sponsors of new member Sara Levy, rear left-right, UNICO National Counsel Frank Blasi, and UNICO National Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio, sponsors of front row left-right, Rose Marie Crotti, Roberta Fratzola and Mike Rescigno. Chapter President Sam Prudente, looks on (far right).

## PHILADELPHIA PA

### A TOUCHDOWN FOR MENTAL HEALTH!

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the Philadelphia Eagles had a huddle up for autism and family fun and awareness day at Lincoln Financial Field on April 11th. The event had locker room and field tours, face painting, Eagles Cheerleaders, the Swoop mascot. Children enjoyed a variety of arts and crafts. The kids loved meeting football players from the Eagles who generously donated their time.

This event benefited the Center for Autism Research at CHOP.



The Vice President of the Philadelphia Chapter, John Ferrara reports that it was an honor to volunteer to help with autistic children at a recent chapter community service event. In the photo above, Chapter President Ben Ferrara (L) and John Ferrara (R) pose with two Philadelphia Eagles Cheerleaders and twin brothers who both have autism.

## HAZLETON PA

### CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Frank Ciampi, celebrated his 80th birthday on January 13, 2010. Born in West Pittston, he is the son of the late Mary (Gatrone) and Frank Ciampi he attended school in West Pittston and was a member of Immaculate Conception Church in West Pittston.

After serving in the Korean War from 1950 to 1953, Frank married Ann Marie Mesolella and moved to Hazleton to begin his career as president and owner of the International Printing Company Inc. Frank served as editor of the Anthracite Tri District Newspaper, official publication of the United Mine Workers of America Newspaper serving Districts 1, 7 & 9 for over 20 years. Frank has been a member of the Typographical Union since 1960. Frank served as president and owner for over 50 years until his retirement in 2006.

Frank has been active in many organizations. He has been a proud member of the Hazleton Chapter of UNICO which is the first chapter of UNICO in Pennsylvania.

### LA CUCINA ITALIANA COOKING WITH NONA



Rossella Rago of the Brooklyn Chapter of UNICO, is the host of the online cooking show called Cooking with Nonna. Her show explores the history and vitality of Italian cuisine as told by first, second, third generation Italian Nonne. Go to [www.Cookingwith-Nonna.com](http://www.Cookingwith-Nonna.com) for additional information.

## PITTSFIELD MA

### DONATION TO NAMI

On Monday, March 8th, the Pittsfield Massachusetts chapter of UNICO presented a \$2,000 check to the National Alliance on Mental Illness – Berkshire County (NAMI-BC). The donation will be used to help fund training of crisis intervention teams within four police departments in Berkshire County. The training will consist of a 40 hour class that will better enable police officers to be better prepared to deal with the mentally ill in the community. Jim Beauregard, who is the vice president of NAMI-BC, said local law enforcement have been clamoring for such training. "The mentally ill have a 30 percent chance of being arrested every 10 years," said Beauregard.

NAMI has raised more than \$50,000, he added, to start up the training program based on the first crisis intervention team created 22 years ago in Memphis, Tenn.



Wayne Ditore, and the other board members of the Pittsfield Chapter, present Jim Beauregard, Vice President of NAMI-BC, with a \$2000 check at the monthly board of directors meeting.

The Little Italy Association of San Diego and UNICO National Italian American Service Organization present

### LITTLE ITALY FILM NIGHT: A DOCUMENTARY ON THE BATTLE FOR GUADALCANAL AND WWII HERO, SGT. JOHN BASILONE

Introduced by Frank Cannata, Past National President of UNICO National Italian American Service Organization

**Saturday, May 1st  
7:00pm-9:30pm  
Under the Night Sky on  
India and Fir Streets  
(Near the Piazza Basilone)**

John Basilone was the only Marine in WWII to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart (Also featured in the HBO series "The Pacific")

A Q&A session will follow the screening

Free and Open to the Public

619-233-3898 LittleItalySD.com



## NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII

### UNICANS ENJOY NETS NIGHT

On Friday, March 5th, Unicans and their families and friends enjoyed an exciting game between the New Jersey Nets and the Orlando Magic at UNICO National's NETS NIGHT at the Izod Center. The game saw former Net, Vince Carter return to the Izod Center and help lead his team to victory. For most of the first half the game was close, but then the Nets fell behind and just couldn't overcome a fifteen point deficit – falling 97 to 87 at the final buzzer. Besides enjoying an exciting basketball game, NETS NIGHT attendees helped raise monies for their chapter. Five dollars of each ticket sold was rebated back to the chapter selling the ticket.



*Belleville Chapter member, John Vital (L) and his daughter Kristen and Bayonne Chapter member, Alan Russoto (R) and his son Gabriel and wife Helen watching the intense action between the Nets and Magic at the Izod Center during NETS NIGHT.*



*Second quarter action between the Nets and Orlando Magic during NETS NIGHT at the Izod Center.*



*Celeste Pandolfi (L) of the Kearny Chapter and her friends enjoying the action during UNICO National's NETS NIGHT.*

## ORANGE/WEST ORANGE NJ

### 36TH ANNUAL SPORTS AWARDS BREAKFAST

The Orange/West Orange Chapter of UNICO National just completed its 36th annual Sports Awards Breakfast with over 300 in attendance. UNICO has enjoyed a rich tradition over 50 years in the Orange-West Orange community, celebrating its beautiful Italian culture and heritage, while continuing the legacy of past generations through a bond of service to the community and living up to their motto of "Service Above Self".

Event chairman Robert Parisi and event Master of Ceremonies and founder Ben Spinelli moved the program along. The guest speaker was Don Piccolo, Brian Piccolo's brother. Brian Piccolo inspired these unsung hero awards for those athletes who inspire others. Unsung heroes strive and endure through the seasons to be the best they can be while giving 100% at all times.

This year's Unsung Hero recipients were: Robert Juliano & Chris Sugess from Seton Hall Prep, Kelsey Meehan & Kirby Chery from West Orange High School, Mark Williams and JoAnna Williams from Orange High School, Jennifer Rothschild and Zachary Schwartzman from Solomon Schechter Day School.

This year's recipient of the Ben L. Spinelli Community Service Award was Rev. Msgr. Michael E. Kelly of Seton Hall Prep for his dedicated service to the community. This award was presented by West Orange Mayor John McKeon.

Also included in the program was a magician, a sports quiz and a memorabilia silent auction. UNICO members did all the cooking and serving breakfast.



*Cooks: Carmine Campanile, Joe Anzalone, Pat Capone, Paul Ippolito and Vincent Gonnella.*



*(L-R) John DiNapoli, Frank Cannata, Don Piccolo, President André DiMino and Nicki Carpinelli.*

## SAN DIEGO CA

### BRIAN PICCOLO DINNER SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 12th

Ciao i miei amici! San Diego UNICO is extremely excited about our upcoming 2010 Brian Piccolo and Anthony Furlano Scholarship Awards Dinner and Ceremony. This year our annual awards dinner will be held at the prestigious Hyatt Regency Aventura in La Jolla, California on Saturday, June 12th.

Your participation is greatly appreciated and assists us in reaching our goal of raising over \$15,000 to provide scholarships to Italian American students in the San Diego area.

This year, our guest of honor is Mr. Don Piccolo, brother of Brian Piccolo and President of the brand new Northern Chesapeake Chapter of UNICO. We are delighted to announce that UNICO National President Mr. André DiMino and First Lady Jenny will be at the banquet.

All are welcome, so please join us. We have a reduced room rate of \$169 per night at the Hyatt Aventura and the cost of the dinner is \$100 per person.

If you have never seen the 1971 ABC Movie "Brian's Song," I encourage you to rent and watch it. It is a touching story on the strength and courage of one man and the triumphs he had to endure. It is a true testament to what it means to be Italian American.

James Pieri, Jr.  
President of the San Diego UNICO  
jamesd@mountainwest.com  
(619) 422-8400



*(UNICO National President André DiMino and Don Piccolo will be guests of honor at the San Diego Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner on Saturday, June 12th. Don is the brother of Brian Piccolo.*

### OFFICIAL COMUNICO PHOTOGRAPHER APPOINTED

Move over Frank Capra! Steve Pelonero of the Passaic Valley NJ Chapter has been appointed official photographer of C o m U N I C O . Steve and Pat Pelonero attend almost every UNICO National event and Steve is always busy taking pictures.



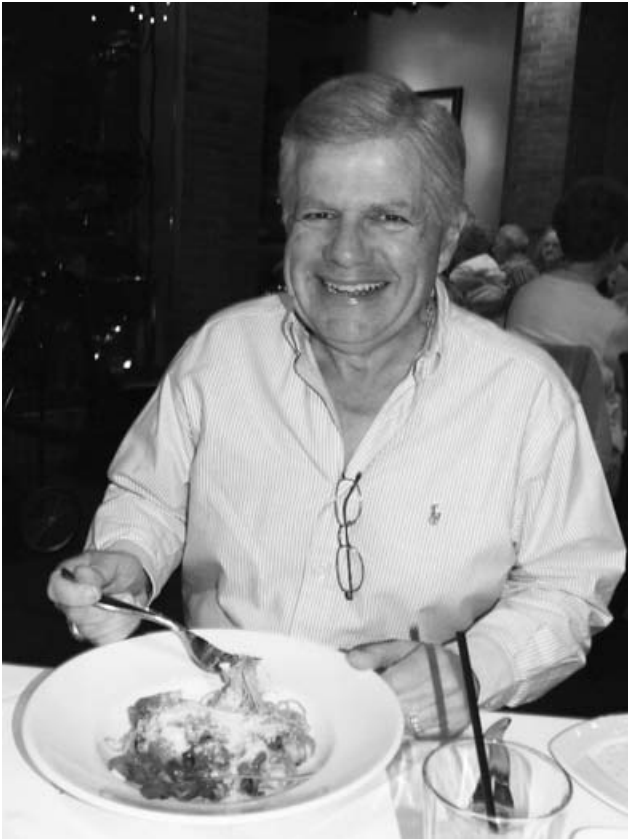


## SAN DIEGO CA

### PO PAZZO MARCH LUNCH



Marianne Lalli-Regan (L) and San Diego Chapter President James Pieri Jr. (R) thank our host Joe Busalacchi. Joe is an amazing restaurateur and a great friend of UNICO. His restaurant Po Pazzo translates as "a little crazy!"



PNP Frank Caperino is caught sprinkling Parmigiano-Reggiano on his seafood pasta!



Sal Sciortino (L) and Joe DiCintio enjoy the luncheon in San Diego's Little Italy. San Diego's Little Italy is a model business district that incorporate Italian Heritage and Culture into the fabric of the neighborhood.

## ORADELL NJ

### DOO-WOP BEEFSTEAK DINNER



Oradell UNICO held a Doo-Wop Beefsteak Dinner at the Brownstone with music by *The Neighborhood*. UNICO National President André DiMino swore in new member Rosalba-Santaite Depalma. President Edward Luzzi and Vice President Richard LaSasso witnessed the ceremony. Everyone attending had a great night of dancing and singing along including the pink ladies. The fund raiser was a success and puts Oradell back on the map!



### OFFICIAL COMUNICO PROOFREADER APPOINTED

Marianne Lalli Regan has been appointed official proofreader of ComUNICO. Her writing and proofing skills are greatly appreciated by the ComUNICO Editor! Marianne is a member of the San Diego, CA, Chapter.

## WESTFIELD NJ

### CHAPTER HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



UNICO National President André DiMino along with members of the Westfield, NJ Chapter receiving an award for their contributions to refurbishment of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Room at the Westfield Armory.

The Westfield, NJ Chapter of UNICO was recognized during a breakfast celebration by the Family Readiness Group of the NJ National Guard 102nd Cavalry on Saturday, November 14th, 2009 for all its contributions to the Westfield Armory. The Westfield, NJ chapter refurbished the MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) Room and the weight room at the Armory. Starting in the spring 2009 with a fundraiser and continuing through the fall, the Westfield chapter members were able to secure donations of paint, floor covering, rugs, TVs, couches, furniture, appliances and other necessities to transform the MWR room from a storage area into a room where soldiers could relax, unwind and socialize. Members of the Westfield chapter along with other volunteers cleaned, painted and made repairs to the MWR room and surprised the returning soldiers with the new facilities.

This was followed by a parade through the town of Westfield where members of the NJ National Guard 102nd Cavalry unit marched to the cheers of thankful supporters. In the afternoon, there was a carnival to further celebrate the safe return from Iraq of all the soldiers from the 102nd Cavalry.





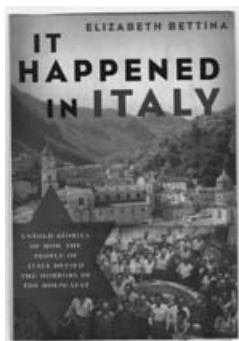
## BOOK REVIEW



*Two Books Reviewed  
by  
Dr. Tony Arabia*

### IT HAPPENED IN ITALY AND STOLEN FIGS

Looking ahead in 2010, there are two books that I wholeheartedly recommend: "It Happened In Italy" by Elizabeth Bettina and "Stolen Figs" by Mark Rotella. In her book, Bettina hand wrote note this to me: "If you are not indifferent; things can be different." The book's subtitle is "Untold Stories of how the People of Italy Defied the Horrors of the Holocaust." She dedicates this book to her grandmothers and to all who have the courage to care and are not indifferent to the plight of innocent people. Early in the book



on page 7 is a photograph and on the facing page she wrote: THE PHOTO -- THE RABBI ! and her first sentence was "A picture changed my Life!" To summarize, Bettina speaks of her time in Campagna and throughout Italy and documents with pictures and records very thoroughly how the Italians helped the Jewish

people who were in camps in Italy during WWII. This is an amazing true history of that era that Bettina personally researched with survivors who have over the years been truly grateful that their experience was remarkably and humanely different than the terrors of millions of Jews in Nazi Germany.

"Stolen Figs and Other Adventures in Calabria" by Mark Rotella is a delightful book of writings about the travels in Calabria and the Calabresi who have an amazing zest for life, great food and the proud heritage of their region. Rotella speaks of their sturdiness and stubbornness. Each Calabresi has his or her share of "testa dura," a hard head! He and his father travel from Naples and encounter natives who reflect that Naples 'E una bella citta!' (it is a beautiful city!) As Rotella nears the end of his book, he describes Catanzaro as we remembered it from our travels, and comments that he took the trip back to Italy to discover it. Certainly, it is easy for all of us Italian Americans who have been there to identify "our Italy" with his.

Both Bettina and Rotella are easy reading and exceptional books. Perceptive, appreciative readers, like you, may wish to see all these books as St. Jerome said 1600 years ago in terms of your personal evaluation of your own life --

GOOD, BETTER, BEST  
NEVER LET IT REST --  
UNTIL YOUR GOOD IS BETTER  
AND YOUR BETTER IS BEST!



## SCHOLARSHIP

### SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS COMING SOON!



As usual, response to the UNICO National 2010 scholarship program was excellent. Applications have been forwarded to our judging committees in separate locations. We anxiously anticipate the results.

Great care is exercised to ensure the integrity of our awards. The

six judging committees are composed of non-UNICAN professionals and each is directed by a member of the National Scholarship Committee. The great majority of candidates are highly qualified and their efforts are worthy of recognition. It is not easy to determine the best of the best. Our judges perform this task admirably.

Since applications must be submitted through UNICO Chapters, we thank all of you who have nominated candidates. It requires diligence to determine applications have been properly prepared and that all required documents are included. Your work is valued.

Most importantly, we extend our sincere appreciation to those chapters, districts, individuals and others who have provided or will provide financial support. Your donations help us continue the program defined as UNICO's Number One Project; we rely on your assistance to continue to award National scholarships. The UNICO National Foundation expends \$35,000 each year to underwrite the scholarships.

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

If your chapter hasn't donated this year: NOT A PROBLEM! There is still time. Do what you can, but please do something.

As UNICANS we make a commitment to "Service Above Self." This is apparent every day. The contributions we provide and the activities we support make things better. The work done by individual chapters is extraordinary; the good we can accomplish as we combine our efforts is phenomenal. When we pool our resources we can achieve so much more. Of course I encourage you to reinforce our scholarships, but in reality all our National charities are essential. I respectfully ask you to support our National programs. The impact of collective contributions will be awesome.

Joan N. Tidona  
National Scholarship Director

## THE "V" FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

### MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE



Our UNICO partnership with the "V" Foundation has proven the "motto" Service Above Self" over and over.

Our 8th Memorial Grant of \$50,000 with the help of matching funds from the "V" Foundation will be presented the week of July 12th to Anthony Heaney, MD, PhD. at the

UCLA Jonsson Cancer Center in Los Angeles California. This grant was funded in memory of our dear departed member of the Los Angeles Chapter, Frank Milo, and will be earmarked for pancreatic cancer research.

This latest donation brings our total grants funded through UNICO to \$400,000 since we first partnered with the Jimmy "V" Foundation! This past year was very difficult to fund-raise and solicit donations. The support of chapters, districts, individual UNICANS, family and friends during these tough economic times is deeply appreciated.

Now we are embarking on our 9th grant. With convention time quickly approaching, please consider a donation to UNICO National for cancer research through our UNICO National Foundation. Checks can be presented on the convention floor to recognize chapter's or individuals. With all of the pain and misery that cancer causes, we should see a long line of people presenting checks at the microphone during the Jimmy "V" report!

If you or your chapter is not attending the convention, please consider including the Jimmmy V Fund in your chapter's budget. Make out your check to the UNICO Foundation earmarked for the "V" Foundation for Cancer Research and mail it to our National office.

All of our UNICO charities are asking for your help. Cancer research is certainly an urgent cause that cuts across all of society.

Thanks to all for your good thoughts and continued support to "Help Find A Cure." The "V" Foundation welcomes your input. We will be announcing our 9th \$50,000 grant recipient at the National Convention at the Hershey Lodge this summer. Make plans to attend the convention and enjoy a Hershey Chocolate experience while you help celebrate our opportunity to serve our community with dollars that go directly into scientific research to battle cancer.

Frank C. Paolercio, Sr.  
UNICO National  
"V" Foundation, Chairman  
Email: paolercio8@verizon.net  
Cell: 908-531-4379

#### Italian Proverb:

*Chi va piano va sano e va lontano.  
Who goes slowly goes safely and goes far*



## AMERICANISM COMMITTEE

### PHILIP MAZZEI AWARDS

The UNICO National Americanism Award Committee is chaired by Frank Tidona. The committee met in Nashville to select the awardees who will be honored at the UNICO National Convention in Hershey PA.

The UNICO Philip Mazzei Americanism Awards consist of three separate honors. The awards are given annually to any person regardless of sex, color, creed, race or national origin.

- The Grand Patriot Award recognizes the fostering of freedom and good will toward mankind.
- The William Paca Award recognizes historical research that illuminates the contributions of "unsung heroes" to freedom.
- Civis Illustris Award recognizes achievement in the arts and humanities, civil, social, commercial or industrial vocations that have benefited humanity.

Philip Mazzei (December 25, 1730 – March 19, 1816) was an Italian physician and a promoter of liberty. He was a close friend of Thomas Jefferson and acted as an agent to purchase arms for Virginia during the American Revolutionary War.



The Americanism Committee in Nashville, TN ! (Front Row L-R) Gerri Camurati TN, Americanism Committee Chair Frank Tidona NJ and Nina Held MO.

(Back Row L-R) Lou Pandolfi NJ, Joe Monaco TX, Tom Vaughan CT, Mike Camurati TN, National President DiMino, Jim De Spenza CA, Frank Blasi PA, and Rich Caifano IL.

**The deadline for the July Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, June 7th, 2010**

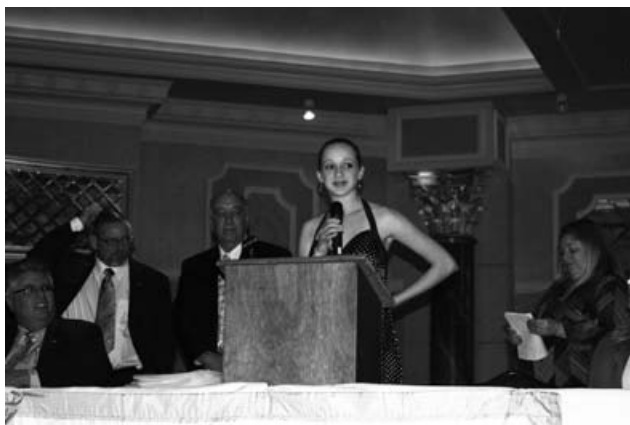
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or by mail to:  
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## SADDLE BROOK NJ

### BRIAN PICCOLLO DINNER SHOWCASES NINE DISTRICT VII CHAPTERS

On Monday, April 12th, the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National participated in the New Jersey District VII, 38th annual Brian Piccolo Awards dinner honoring athletic high school students from our local area.

The dinner location was the Venetian in Garfield, NJ. All nine chapters in the district participated with their members and award winners. Saddle Brook Chapter's award winner was Alison Presti, a senior in Saddle Brook High School. She excels in Tennis and Track.



Alison Presti accepting the Brian Piccolo Award from the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO.



(L-R) DG NJ VII Dominic Nicastro, guest speaker Don Piccolo, Coach Altomora, Saddle Brook Brian Piccolo Award winner Alison Presti, Saddle Brook NJ Chapter President, Criss Mangano, Coach Zaccone, Saddle Brook NJ Chapter Brian Piccolo Chair John Cook and District Dinner Chair and DDG Jim Herd.



(L-R) DDG Jim Herd, DG NJ VII Dominic Nicastro, First Lady of UNICO National Jenny DiMino, National President André DiMino, guest speaker and brother of Brian Piccolo Don Piccolo and the 2010 District VII Brian Piccolo Award winners.

## BRICK NJ

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☐ Hole Sponsor \$100.00  
Includes 3 prominent signs on tee boxes. Maximum of 72 signs for event

☐ Non-Golfer Banquet \$40.00  
Includes buffet dinner and program

☐ Friend of UNICO

I am unable to participate but would like to contribute \$10 \_\_\_; \$25 \_\_\_; \$50 \_\_\_; \$100 \_\_\_

\*\* \$50.00 contribution or more puts your name on the Honorable Mention Board at the sign-up table.

Please make checks payable to Brick UNICO Foundation and mail to:  
Brick UNICO PO Box 773 Brick, NJ 08723  
Anthony Sclafani, Chairman 732-779-1567 tony4ins@optonline.net

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#### Italian Proverb:

*A confessore, medico e avvocato non tener il ver celato.*

*To the priest, the doctor, and the lawyer do not keep the truth hidden*

## SCRANTON PA

### VALENTINE'S SOCIAL

UNICO held their annual Valentine's Social on February 11. Romance was in the air with people dancing to the music of Solo-Tu. We installed two new members at the social event.



Front row (L-R) New member Joanne Verduce, UNICO National Executive Vice President Chris DiMattio, sponsor, of new member Julie Yando, Ashley Yando, Second Row (L-R) Scranton Chapter President Sam Prudente, sponsor Michelle Mc Dade, sponsor Mark McDade, PNP Al Dante, and UNICO Member and Valentine Social host Ed Bush.



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## LOU&amp;A Avatar's eagle eye

by Louis R. Carlozo

It's several thousand miles and a massive cultural leap from rustic Calabria to Hollywood's A-list. Yet Mauro Fiore, the Oscar-winning director of photography behind James Cameron's "Avatar," makes it look so easy. Despite his impressive Tinseltown credits — including blockbusters like "Training Day" and "The Island" — Fiore hasn't forgotten his American roots in the Chicago area, or his original roots in Italy. He paused to chat with Fra Noi about growing up in Chicago and southern Italy, and how a rich cultural upbringing paved the way for his film work.

**Fra Noi — Marzi is a town of 1,500. What are your memories of the place?**

Mauro Fiore — Italy for me is a very romantic place. When my parents left in 1971 I was only 7 — and to me it was always a Technicolor landscape. We'd return every other summer, because my grandmother still lived there. In Chicago, we grew up in

Elmwood Park — and it was so different. When we would arrive in Marzi, people waited for us in the town square. It was just a glorified, amazing place to return.

**FN — It sounds like it looms large in your mind and heart.**

MF — You can walk it in 10 minutes, but it sort of expands in front of you. A very huge place — yet it's so tiny. Everyone in the town remembers so much about you; people know all about my parents. I was just back last May; we try to go back once a year because my parents are there. My parents moved back about eight years ago. And my sister, who went to Loyola University Chicago and got her masters in psychology, went back — and never left. She met an Italian man, finished her thesis over there, and now she has two children.

**FN — What was it like coming from small-town Italy to big-city America as a boy? Did you feel any culture shock or language barrier?**

(See Fiore on Page 52)



You can take the Oscar-winning cinematographer out of Calabria and Chicago, but you can't remove these cherished locales from Mauro Fiore's heart.



Natalie Merchant shines the musical spotlight on more than two dozen of her favorite poems in her latest album.

## NEWSMAKERS

by Mary Racila

## Poetic justice

*"I always felt that being a musician was a vocation and that it was something I would do throughout my life and that I wanted to do it with dignity."*

— Natalie Merchant, 2005

During her 30-year career as a singer-songwriter, she has sold in excess of 14 million albums. Her chart-topping songs — which grace movies like "When in Rome," "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" and "Cheaper by the Dozen" — firmly established her as one of the preeminent female performers in contemporary pop.

Born in Jamestown, N.Y., Natalie Merchant shares her birthplace with the legendary Lucille Ball. She was the third of four children born to an Irish mother and a Sicilian father. Her family's name was originally Mercante, but was anglicized to Merchant.

"I was third in the birth order, a position typically reserved for the invisible child. I was a painfully shy girl, quiet, delicate, observant and cautious but had a bold inner life and a fierce attraction to beauty," Merchant says.

With a jazz musician for a father and a mother

(See Newsmakers on Page 52)

## FEATURE Do you know the way?

If a group of civic-minded Italian Americans has its way, a little bit of la bella Italia is headed to California's Silicon Valley.

Plans are underway to transform a now-defunct business district in San Jose, Calif., into a bustling cultural and commercial destination packed with Italian-centric eateries, shops and entertainment venues.

A consortium of local Italian-American business owners, politicians, cultural leaders and artists is spearheading the makeover, which they hope will rekindle a spirit of community and ethnic pride that vanished from the city decades ago.

"We committee members are in our late 30s and early 40s, and we're eager to do something good for this city and revive the Italian culture," says Valentina Cirasola, a San Jose-based interior designer and a member of the Little Italy San Jose Committee.

Although the city is firmly rooted in Spanish colonial history, San Jose in the early 1900s was a popular destination for Italian



The Little Italy San Jose Committee has plans to bring a touch of italianità to California's third largest city while breathing new life into a defunct business district.

immigrants, who were drawn to the area's booming agricultural industry.

The Italians settled in the city's River Street district, and soon built homes, storefronts, a boardinghouse for poor laborers and even a house of worship — the Chiesa Italiana della Sacra Famiglia (Holy Family Church), which was designed as a small replica of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. But in a scene that played out in many Little Italys across the country, economic changes, demographic shifts and the construction of Highway 87 scattered San Jose's Italian-American community beginning in the 1960s.

Today, San Jose is the third largest city in California, and what's left of the city's historic architecture is now overshadowed by glass and concrete office buildings. The modern architecture is not surprising considering that the city is the unofficial capital of Silicon Valley, the area south of San Francisco that's home to some of the country's largest technology firms such as Cisco, Adobe and eBay.

(See San Jose on Page 52)

by Jim Distasio



# LIBRI Funny lady

by Fred L. Gardaphe

Gina Barreca cracks me up. If you haven't had the chance to read or see her act, you can pick up her latest book, "It's Not That I'm Bitter ... or How I Learned to Stop Worrying about Visible Panty Lines and Conquered the World" and taste her humor, much of which has previously appeared in magazines and journals.

Author and editor of nearly 20 books, mostly of or about humor, Barreca is a regular columnist and contributor to a number of publications, including the Philadelphia Inquirer, Hartford Courant, Education World, Chronicle of Higher Education and more; she is also professor of English at the University of Connecticut.

Barreca is the consummate humorist; she's studied it, done it, edited it, written it and about it, historicized it, criticized it, feminized it. Don't read it all at once; savor some and save the rest. Leave it somewhere where you are likely to plop down and take a reading break. You'll find yourself coming back to it whenever you need a smile. She won't be offended if it sits in your restroom or next to your bedtime reading light. One or two of these short pieces every once in a while will have the same effect as two-for-one cocktails at happy hour.

Not every entry is guaranteed to tickle your fancy — many are directed at women, but indirectly she really wants men to read them as well. Pay attention and you'll be privy to a world that Italian men used to call "Chiachera" — woman's talk, but it's like being in the doctor's office and picking up a women's magazine to see what the latest advice is on how to attract, treat, tantalize, detach or rid yourself of one man or another.

Some of the titles are stand alone humor,

such as the essay on reincarnation, "If You Don't Pay Your Exorcist Do You Get Repossessed?" You get the sense that Barreca can find the humor in anything, and she does. Feminism, dating, Christmas, buying bras, bathing suits and what women wear, hear, see, become when they are with each other, around men, at work, at home. It seems she's got

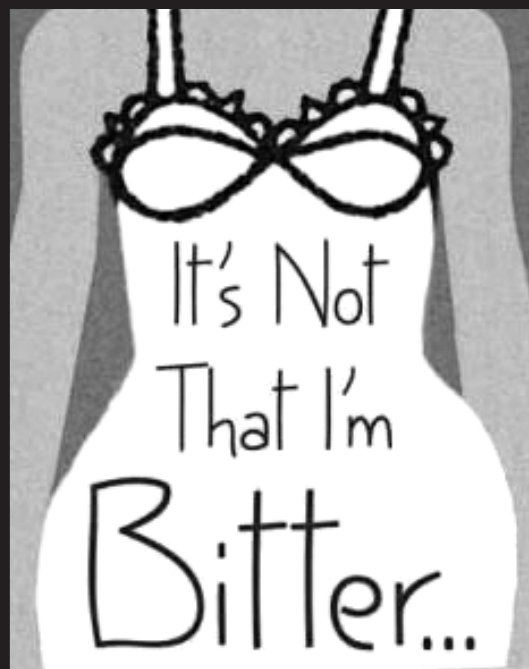
her eye everywhere, searching for that scene that will help you laugh your way into understanding that you are weird and that you are not alone.

There's a fair bit of humor about being Italian, but as with other contemporary comedians, she doesn't stray far from her experiences with her family, well represented in "Who's Funnier," an essay focusing on the difference between men and women.

"My big Italian family was funny. And we were poor, which is why I am comfortable saying the poor are funnier than the rich. You had to be funny in our neighborhood or else you couldn't survive; you had to learn to 'crack wise,' to make yourself heard about the sound of your aunt Josephine whacking a cutlet with a wooden mallet like John Henry laying down track. If our humor was vulgar — bathroom humor, slyly suggestive sexual innuendo or the irreverent mocking of the social norms — well, that's because we were basically prototypes for The Vulgar."

She is as seriously funny as she is serious about the role humor plays in being a human. "By seeing the ironies and absurdities of the world around us we can lighten up and be less weighed down — humor permits perspective, and perspective is essential for change." "It's Not That I'm Bitter ..." takes on the heavy topics such as aging, health, gender equity, and history, instilling in everyone a perspective that you might have had yourself or, most likely, never considered.

If you'd like to know more about her and keep up with her many writings and appearances, you can check out her website at [www.ginabarreca.com](http://www.ginabarreca.com).



"It's Not That I'm Bitter ..."  
by Gina Barreca

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# SPORTS Master strategist

by Charles P. Pecoraro

With a degree in industrial engineering from Northwestern University, Joe Girardi is educated in the science of designing, installing and improving integrated systems.

But he digressed from blueprints to navy-blue pinstripes in the fall of 2007 when he was named manager of the New York Yankees. That's when he turned to numerology and requested uniform No. 27, a symbol of his mission.

The iconic team had won 26 World Series in its illustrious history, and Girardi wanted a graphic reminder on his back of what he was hired to do — win a 27th.

Whatever you call it — coincidence, luck, karma — it worked like a charm. Last season, his second on the job, No. 27 guided the Yankees to an unprecedented 27th Major League championship.

In the cerebral world of Girardi, managing a big-league baseball team requires problem-solving skills similar to those needed in engineering to make things operate effectively. He explained to a Northwestern alumni publication:

"As an engineer, you figure out how to make systems function efficiently, and that's what you also do as a baseball manager," he said. "You try to get the most out of the people and circumstances around you."

What sets Girardi apart during his 17 years as a big-league catcher, broadcaster, coach and manager is an unyielding commitment to preparation. He puts himself in a position to be ready to meet any problems and challenges, expected or otherwise.

That's why he switched from 27 to 28 this season. With No. 28 stitched on the collar of his pullover and back of his shirt, he's making a statement that he's not satisfied with one mission accomplished. He's now focused on piloting the Bronx Bombers to a 28th crown.

As such, he's no stranger to the pressure facing him in 2010. In the Yankees' universe, anything less than a World Series conquest is unacceptable. He realized that when he helped them capture three titles in the four years he played there.

Girardi is a shrewd strategist who learned from his first-year mistakes and set a calming, confident tone in the clubhouse. He also freed himself of the burden of succeeding successful skipper Joe Torre to restore glory to the Big Apple while pacifying a demanding ownership, critical media and rabid fandom.

When he stood before his team in February



Joe Girardi is applying the analytic skills he acquired while earning a degree in industrial engineering at Northwestern University to his role as the skipper of the resurgent Yankees.

at the opening of spring training in Florida, his message was simple — this is a new year and we haven't won anything yet.

More than three months had passed since the Yankees' triumph over the Phillies in the Fall Classic but, he emphasized, that's history. There was plenty of time to celebrate and savor the rewards of winning it all. Now it's back to business.

"All 30 teams are 0-0 going into the April start of the new season," he reminded his players. "We know what it took last year, and now we have to work harder to get back in that groove."

Complacency can be a lurking disaster for defending champions, especially in a sport where a team hasn't repeated since Torre's Yankees captured three consecutive titles from 1998 to 2000. But given their competitive nature and pride, Girardi isn't concerned that his players will lose their objective and motivation.

He has arguably the league's most potent — and highest paid — roster to work with. His lineup is loaded with stars and superstars like Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez, Mariano Rivera, Mark Teixeira, Jorge Posada, C.C. Sabathia, A.J. Burnett — are we forgetting anyone? As if that isn't enough firepower and pitching strength for one team, they became more formidable during the off-season by adding hotshot outfielder Curtis

Granderson and ace hurler Javier Vazquez.

You would think that all Girardi has to do is sit back in the dugout and watch his hitters crush the ball and pitchers mow down the opposition. But one of his strong suits is how he manages playing time during the grueling 162-game regular season.

He has a keen sense of when to rest aging veterans like Jeter, Rodriguez and Posada so they remain fresh and productive over the long haul. He proved equally adept at cultivating morale and respect during spring training, for example, by canceling practice one day in favor of a billiards tournament.

During the honeymoon phase of Girardi's term, the notoriously aggressive New York media often portrayed him as a tough-as-nails drill sergeant. One tabloid ran a photo of him wearing a Gen. George Patton-like expression, under the headline "G.I. Joe."

But he earned style points by treating the press to an occasional clubhouse spread of salami, prosciutto, mortadella, sopressata, provolone and other culinary tokens of his Italian heritage. The reporters literally ate it up.

Away from the ballpark, the guy who's been sporting a buzz haircut for half of his 45 years relishes time spent with his wife, the former Kim Innocenzi, who he met at Northwestern, and their children Serena, Dante and Lena. Each kid is a proud owner of one of the World Series rings he has collected.

A native of Peoria, Ill., Girardi forged a .267 career batting average while catching for the Cubs (twice), Rockies, Yankees and Cardinals. When his playing days ended, he became a commentator for the YES and Fox networks.

In 2005 he went from the broadcast booth back to the dugout as a coach — and later manager — for the Florida Marlins, leading them to playoff contention despite the lowest payroll in the majors. Two years later he accepted an offer to manage the Yankees, signing a three-year contract reportedly worth \$7.5 million.

After letting Torre go, the Yanks were convinced they had a worthy manager in Girardi. Hank Steinbrenner, general partner and son of principal owner George Steinbrenner, told the New York Post: "I think Girardi is going to end up as one of the greatest managers in the history of the game."

With such a glowing vote of confidence, plus a lineup studded with future Hall of Famers, it would come as no surprise if Girardi is wearing uniform No. 29 next year.

45 AMERICA

MAY 2010

COMMUNICO

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The next deadline is **JUNE 7**

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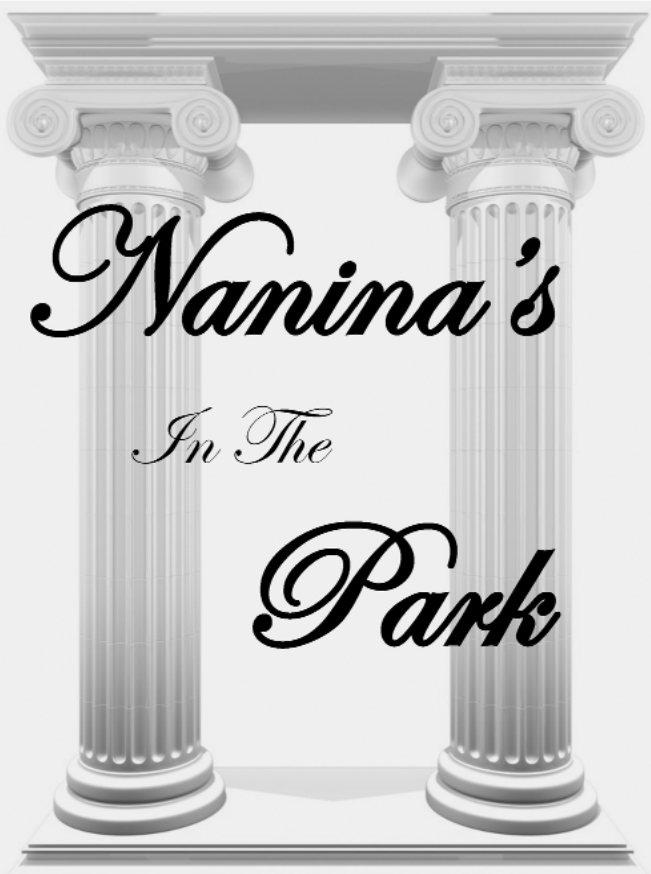


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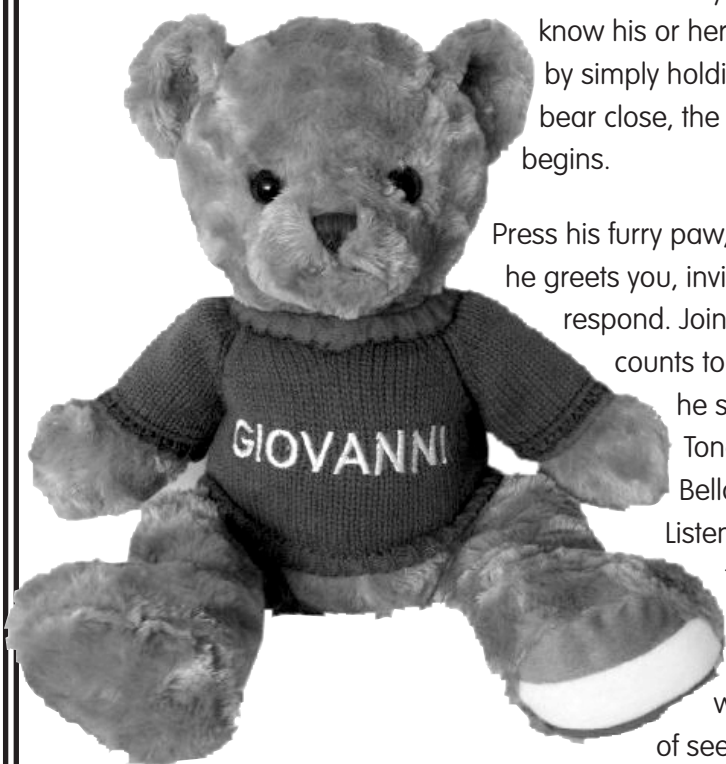
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# PERSPECTIVE

by Nicola Orichuia



## The rise of digital fascism

Those who fought during World War II to liberate Italy from fascism could not predict a future made of cellphones, computers and electronic programs that would allow people around the world to connect with just a click. But they were hoping that future generations of Italians would always repudiate Mussolini and all he represented. Instead, technology is giving fascism and its founder a new life.

In January, a program called iMussolini made headlines around the world when it was heralded as the best-selling application on Apple's Italian iPhone store. The online store allows people to buy and download hundreds of thousands of programs. In just a few days, tens of thousands of users had bought the controversial app, which contains more than 100 speeches made by Mussolini during his 20-year reign. Interviewed by the Italian daily La Repubblica, the 25-year-old programmer who came up with the idea, Luigi Marino, said he was surprised by the success of iMussolini: "The first day it came out it was downloaded 55 times. The second day, the downloads went up to 600. The third day, thanks to some attention from the media, the downloads shot up to 1,000." The app cost 79 eurocents (just over \$1) and Marino got to keep 70 percent of the revenue, while Apple kept the remaining 30 percent. After several weeks of protests, the app was finally taken down from the iTunes online store.

The program's success has been a reason for concern. In Italy at least, iPhones are mostly in the hands of younger owners. This means that the program wasn't being downloaded by old nostalgic supporters of the fascist regime, but by a new generation that is evidently attracted to the fascist ide-

(See Orichuia on Page 53)

# CINEMA

## Maestro in the making

by Jeannine Guilyard

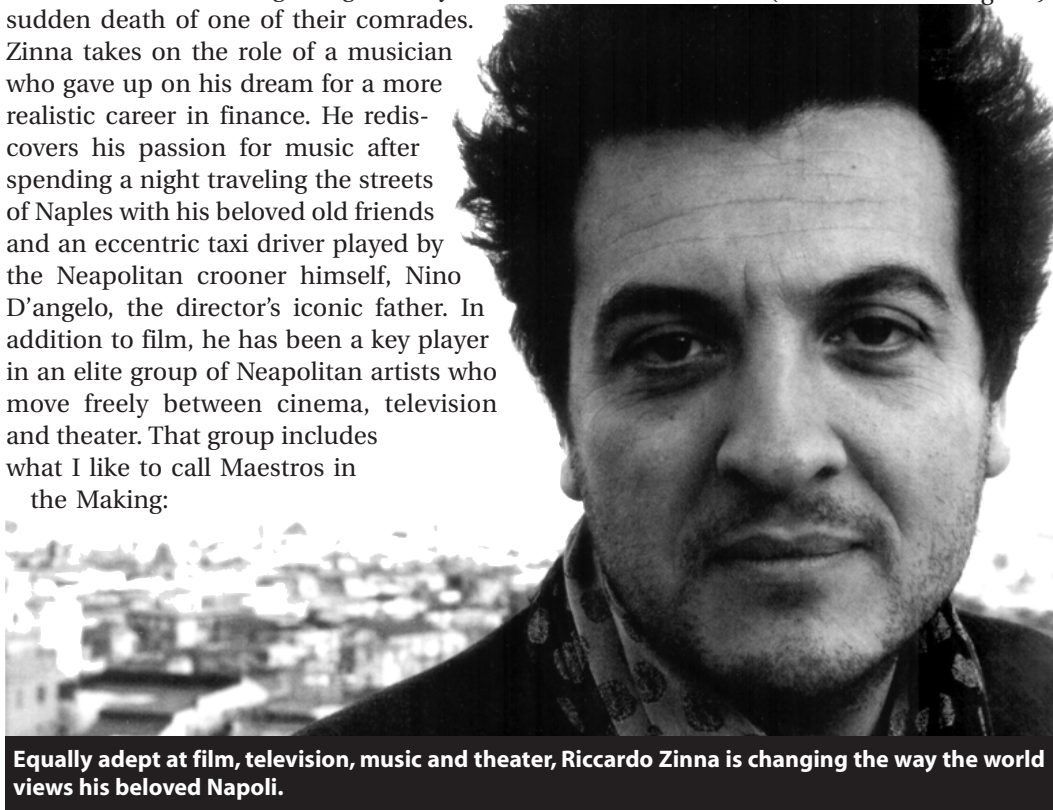
Born in Naples in 1958, Riccardo Zinna truly is a jack of all trades. He's a natural-born artist who does it all. He's an actor, musician and visual artist with no formal training. And yet, he has managed to rise to the top of his game in each of his artistic fields. He credits his mother's passion for life and her support and confidence in him to live his life freely and do what makes him happy. Zinna is best known in Italy as a television and film star. He has done many supporting roles in high profile films such as Gabriele Salvatores' thriller, "Io non ho paura," and Nanni Morretti's "Caro diario." However, he can certainly carry the lead role as well. He did so with great success in Toni D'angelo's recent breakout hit, "Una notte." The film follows a group of old friends who were brought together by the sudden death of one of their comrades. Zinna takes on the role of a musician who gave up on his dream for a more realistic career in finance. He rediscovers his passion for music after spending a night traveling the streets of Naples with his beloved old friends and an eccentric taxi driver played by the Neapolitan crooner himself, Nino D'angelo, the director's iconic father. In addition to film, he has been a key player in an elite group of Neapolitan artists who move freely between cinema, television and theater. That group includes what I like to call Maestros in the Making:

Toni Servillo, Silvio Orlando, Paolo Sorrentino and, of course, Riccardo Zinna. These filmmakers, all bursting with Neapolitan pride, have taken the stories and landscapes of their legendary homeland and transmitted them throughout the world through their passion and their art. Fra Noi recently spoke with Riccardo Zinna about his career and the famous Neapolitans that he collaborates with.

**Fra Noi — It seems that you have been acting nearly all of your life. Have you always felt that your destiny was to be an actor?**

Riccardo Zinna — Absolutely not! When I was 16 years old, I was in a band where I sang and played guitar. Silvio Orlando, who went on to become a famous actor in Italy,

(See Cinema on Page 52)



Equally adept at film, television, music and theater, Riccardo Zinna is changing the way the world views his beloved Napoli.

# SPOTLIGHT

## Italy's burger or Trojan Horse?

by Nicola Orichuia

The Italian government is pleased and proud to present ... the McItaly? In late January, Agriculture Minister Luca Zaia gave his blessings to McDonald's latest fast-food offering. "McItaly is a great goal that I had set and which has finally been realized," he said at a McDonald's restaurant located near Rome's central Spanish Steps. Wearing a white apron with the fast-food chain's logo, the minister added that "a global network such as McDonald's represents an important new segment of the market for our farmers. Our agriculture couldn't let go of this opportunity, and the numbers are there to show it: 1,000 tons of Italian products used, for a total value of 3.5 million euro (almost \$5 million)."

Touted as being made entirely of Italian ingredients, McDonald's new burger might have dodged public scrutiny were it not for an international war of words launched by the British left-leaning newspaper The Guardian. One of the paper's most renowned food critics, Matthew Fort, wrote



It may be made entirely of Italian ingredients, but can the new McItaly actually help the nation's fast-food woes?

a fiery editorial blasting the McItaly, which is a burger dressed with artichoke spread, Asiago cheese and lettuce. "An imprint of Italian flavours!" Fort wrote on January 28. "It is quite clear that Signor Zaia wouldn't let such offensive products near his mouth unless there was a photo opportunity attached to it."

Instead of ignoring the article, Zaia replied with a cryptic statement that turned the whole discussion into a political squabble: "We are now more than used to the vulgarity of some media and even of a certain kind of politics. The left wing, with its loudspeakers, persist in baying at the moon, finding themselves further away from the real problems and fenced in their own sterile moral orthodoxy, which impairs any kind of development and hinders a clear vision of reality. With regret, we are forced to deliver bad news to this kind of left: Stalin is dead. And we can safely bet he never set foot in

(See Spotlight on Page 53)



# FOLK TALES 'The Triplets of Verona'

by Lionel Bottari

It was about half past the era before the end of time when it occurred to the Devil that he might be missing something. As we all know, he was a fallen angel, and so long after his fall, he began to recall the female angels more and more fondly, even though their innocence and angelic habits were now repugnant to him. But their faces and forms seemed to him to be far more interesting than the ugly visages of his demons, all of them male, and all of whom were trying to outdo one another with the most hideous and awful displays of masculine excess.

They would butt heads like rams or bulls, they would strut about and crow like roosters, they would insult, tease and kick one another, and this would lead to yet another long, loud and brutal brawl. How nice it would be, thought the Devil, if some more gentle creature could be part of his hellish experience. It was then that the Devil got the idea that he might consider taking a wife.

Of course, the inferno was full of female sinners suffering punishments for all sorts of transgressions committed during their lives, but these were souls now, not creatures of flesh and blood. Since he was present in all physical and ethereal forms, he decided he would have to take a wife from the women of the world.

Naturally, he searched for his new bride in Italy, since that place is so famous for its beautiful and intelligent women. But in many ways, although he was generally a clever Devil, there were things he should have studied before he took on the form of a man.

In that city of Verona, where the Devil

emerged, there were three sisters who were triplets. Identical in every way, they had the habit of dressing alike and enjoyed playing the trick of confusing everyone as to which of them was which. They also had a strange and secret way of communicating among themselves, where one seemed to read the feelings of the others. This made them ever-the-more strange, and even frightening to many. Of course, rumors of witchcraft dogged them, and so the young men who might have been suitors were afraid to approach them and looked elsewhere for their brides.

The Devil had taken on the form of a handsome devil as he strode those ancient streets, so

famous as the home of those star-crossed lovers, Romeo and Juliet. He was sure that this would be the best place in the world to find a wife, and it wasn't long before he spied a real beauty walking swiftly past him across the wide piazza. As he strode to the other side of this square, trying to decide whether to follow, he spied her again, this time on a balcony, watering her flowers. Before he could call out to her, she swiftly ducked back into the apartment.

While the Devil was trying to decipher this marvel, he saw her again, emerging from a shop!

"Indeed," he thought, "Since she seems to be able to disappear and reappear as I do, what more perfect match for me could there possibly be? This is the woman I must pursue as my bride-to-be, but how?"

It was then that the Devil, without being aware of it, approached Linda, Belinda and Melinda in turn, trying his hand at winning favor. He never guessed they were different people, and they never faltered, due to their rare and wonderful way of divining what their sisters had already said to this new suitor. At last, the Devil, thinking himself bedeviled by love, proposed marriage to Linda and was accepted.

And so the two were wed.

So the Devil took his wife to his cozy home in Hell, magically transforming his living quarters into a fine apartment in Verona, complete with a door through which the couple could easily come and go into the world of the living.

(See Folk Tales on Page 53)



"To the Devil, the good citizens of Verona all seemed simply to be jolly and pleasant, and so he was well pleased with himself." (Illustration by Jean Parisi)

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# VIAGGIO Navigating Villa Borghese

by Judith Anne Testa

The trouble with great art museums is that they offer too much ... great art! Visitors' visual overload is especially acute in Rome, where the whole city is an open-air art museum, with masterpieces of architecture around every corner and many major piazzas adorned with fountains enriched with sculpture. To then go inside Villa Borghese, a building that is in itself a work of art, and furthermore find it full of memorable paintings and some of the most spectacular sculptures in the world, can seem like way too much of a good thing.

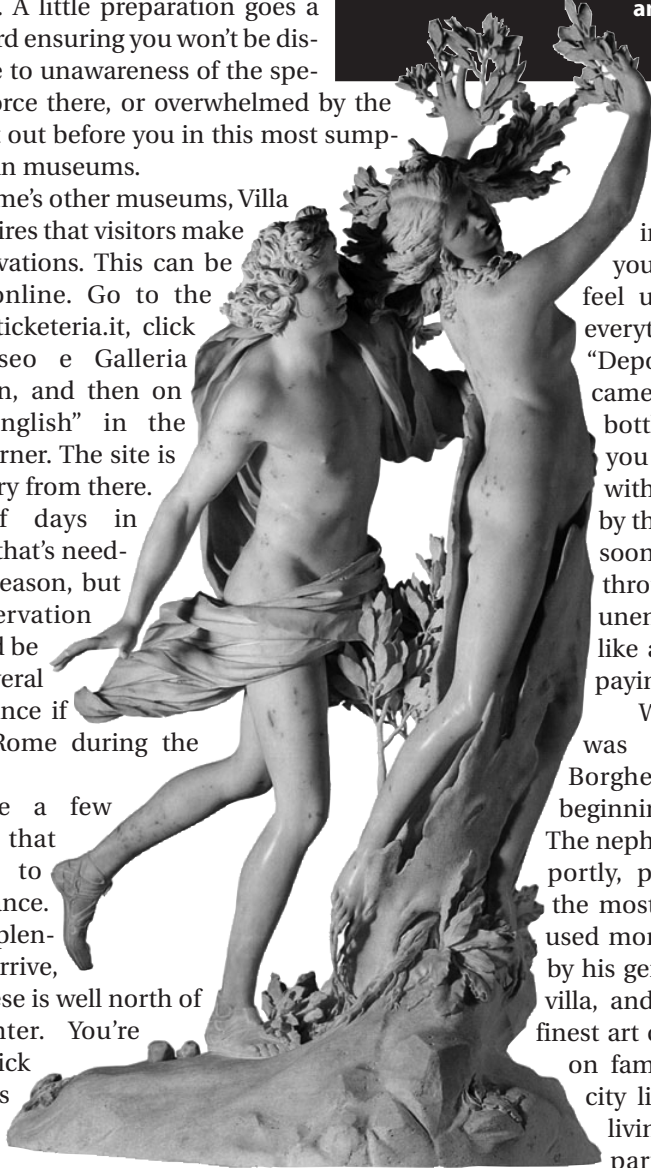
The secret to maximizing your pleasure and avoiding artistic overkill at Villa Borghese is to know what to look for and how to find it. A little preparation goes a long way toward ensuring you won't be disappointed due to unawareness of the special rules in force there, or overwhelmed by the visual feast set out before you in this most sumptuous of Roman museums.

Unlike Rome's other museums, Villa Borghese requires that visitors make advance reservations. This can be done easily online. Go to the website [www.ticketeria.it](http://www.ticketeria.it), click on the "Museo e Galleria Borghese" icon, and then on the word "English" in the upper right corner. The site is self-explanatory from there. A couple of days in advance is all that's needed in the off-season, but the reservation process should be completed several weeks in advance if you'll be in Rome during the summer.

There are a few more details that are helpful to know in advance. Give yourself plenty of time to arrive, as Villa Borghese is well north of the city center. You're required to pick up your tickets at least half an hour before



The author offers tips on how to visit Rome's most sumptuous museum ... and survive! Among its many masterworks are "Apollo and Daphne" (lower left) and "Deposition of Christ" (lower right).



your scheduled entrance time, and you'll lose your reservation if you're late. Furthermore, you aren't allowed to bring anything into the museum with you. Put your wallet in your pocket if you feel uneasy about checking it, but everything else must be left at the "Deposito." This includes handbags, cameras, notebooks and pens, water bottles, umbrellas and anything else you happen to be lugging around with you. Some visitors are shocked by this unusual regulation, but you'll soon discover what a joy it is to walk through the villa's splendid rooms unencumbered — it makes you feel like an honored guest rather than a paying visitor.

Whose "guest" are you? The villa was built by Cardinal Scipione Borghese (1576-1633), and from its beginning was intended as a showplace. The nephew of Pope Paul V Borghese, the portly, pleasure-loving Scipione made the most of his influential position. He used money provided in the early 1600s by his generous papal uncle to build the villa, and in it assemble one of Rome's finest art collections. A "summer cottage" on family land then well outside the city limits, it was never intended as living quarters, but rather for grand parties and receptions, where

guests could stroll around and admire the cardinal's art collections (as well as perhaps sneak a peek at his notorious collection of pornography).

If the visitor had two weeks, rather than the two hours to which each visit is limited, the villa itself could easily occupy that time, as its every surface is covered with exquisite decoration — sumptuous colored marble, intricately carved moldings, inlays of relief sculptures both ancient and more recent, and ceilings covered with colorful frescoes of subjects from classical mythology. A vast restoration project that took an entire generation — from the 1960s until nearly the year 2000 — brought the villa back to the colorful splendor it had enjoyed in the 1600s.

The first room visitors enter is the grand salon — a maximum of 350 at a time, after picking up tickets on the below-ground level that also contains a shop, a small cafeteria and restrooms. Inserted into its floor, the grand salon has portions of an interesting ancient Roman mosaic showing gladiatorial combats, discovered on another Borghese property and brought here by Cardinal Scipione. My advice at this point is to make straight for the second level and then work your way down — which isn't what most people do — so you won't have many people around as you admire the paintings on the second floor. To get there, walk  
(See *Viaggio* on Page 53)



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by Charles P. Pecoraro

## Cibo Matto's Stein shares his recipe for Bucatini Carbonara

With a name like Todd Stein, he's not likely to be mistaken for an Italian. But his visit to Bologna, Italy, in 1996 was the springboard for a culinary career with cooking that's Red, White and Green to the core.

"It was like a blind date with Sophia Loren," recalls Stein, chief chef at Cibo Matto in the Wit Hotel in downtown Chicago. "I fell in love with the food, culture, everything about Italy."

Since arriving last summer, Cibo Matto (translation: crazy food) has generated buzz and business as an up-and-coming dining and winning rendezvous with a chic, place-to-be-seen vibe. And Stein's contemporary, innovative menu indeed augments the appeal.

Stein, who previously cooked at MK in Chicago, David Burke's in Las Vegas and Vivo in Cleveland, crafts sprightly flavored Italian regional fare that's anything but crazy — or cheap. Example: white truffle risotto for \$70.

At Cibo Matto ([www.thewithhotel.com](http://www.thewithhotel.com)), the bespectacled chef doesn't hide his persona under a bushel or behind closed doors. Guests can spot him in the exposed kitchen, toiling over an order or directing traffic among his galley mates.

His creative instincts kick in with the fior di zucca appetizer. Twin zucchini blossoms are stuffed with herbed ricotta, deep-fried to a fragile crispness and stimulated with arugula pesto and fried parsley.

He also puts a savory spin on increasingly popular burrata, endowing the creamy cheese with wild arugula, semi-bitter frisee, sweet-tart onion marmellata and tangerine slices. It's a tasty departure from conventional burrata recipes.

Stein does admirable work with pasta, too. He presses all the right buttons with deliciously dark squid ink spaghetti alla chitarra, interspersing the guitar-shaped noodles with chunks of lump crab, then bringing the heat with jolts of serrano chiles.

The foundation of Stein's production is his signature dishes. One that earns a lot of conversation and calls is bucatini carbonara, a primo primi-course presentation of thick noodles clinging to a vibrant pancetta-pecorino sauce and adorned with a duck egg yolk. His recipe:

### Bucatini Carbonara

12 ounces bucatini  
8 ounces pancetta, cut into 1/4-inch pieces  
2 tablespoons EV olive oil  
4 tablespoons pecorino-Romano cheese, freshly grated  
2 duck egg yolks  
4 tablespoons parsley, chopped  
Salt, cracked black pepper

In large pot of boiling water, cook pasta until al dente. Drain, reserving 3 tablespoons of cooking water. In large skillet, heat oil, add pancetta and cook over moderate heat until most of fat is rendered, about 7 minutes. Add hot pasta to skillet and stir to coat, 1 minute. Remove from heat, stir in reserved water, grated cheese and black pepper. Season with salt, put pasta in a bowl and sprinkle with parsley, pepper and more cheese. Place duck egg yolk on top. Serves 2.

# IN VINO VERITAS

## Pinot for the people

by Dick Rosano

Some Italians came to America to sample the New World's lifestyle. Some came with the Old World lifestyle and expected to introduce their new American friends to the way things are in Italy. The American wine scene is one of many cultural subsets that has benefited from that melding of styles.

Over the past two centuries, we have become accustomed to the class and cultural distinction of Italian immigrants, from food to shoes to opera to cars. In the wine world alone, there are hundreds of such families, as told in this column and my book, "Wine Heritage." As a melting pot culture, Americans have embraced European style in general, and Italian style in particular.

This was the aspect of the melting pot that Vincenzo Cacciatores wanted to explore — and exploit — when he embarked on a new life in North America. Born in Sicily in 1942 and with a background in farming, he settled in Montreal with a plan to sell produce from all over the world. In 1970, he moved to California where his attention was diverted to table grapes. Serving up fresh fruit to the hungry masses was laudable but, in the 1990s, he and his son, Sam, made an almost-inevitable decision to switch from table grapes to wine grapes.

How else would a traditional Italian live peacefully when surrounded by some of the finest vineyards in the world?

Today, with over 2,200 acres under farming, the Cacciatores family has olive trees, table grapes, wine grapes, and a nursery where they develop specialized grape varieties and rootstock.

It didn't take long for the Cacciatores to decide to focus their attention on the grapes that grow best in California's climate, including chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, syrah, zinfandel and merlot. But an expatriate's vineyard wouldn't be complete without some vines from home, so sangiovese and pinot grigio are also cultivated on Cacciatores land.



**There's a place in the world for vintners, like Vincenzo Cacciatores, who produce pleasing wines at a modest price.**

Wine is produced mostly in large lots — the website says they have 24 fermenters each sized for 7,000 gallons, and aging takes place in 10,000- to 20,000-gallon tanks — but, used judiciously, such large-format fermenters and aging tanks don't have to detract from the wines. We wouldn't open a \$50 bottle of wine every night, but we should become more familiar with the affordable wines that we can enjoy without guilt — like Cacciatores.

Wines can be ordered from their website ([www.cwocorp.com](http://www.cwocorp.com)) where you'll also find information about the family and its other products.

Apart from the marketing of wines themselves, CWO also offers personalized wine labels. See website for details.

Terra Bella 2008 Chardonnay (California, \$8) — Medium body, fruity, yeasty, nice fullness and balance. Score: 85

Terra Bella 2008 Pinot Grigio (California, \$9) — Fresh and lively, refreshing acidity, slight hint of lemon on an otherwise citrusy palate. Score: 85

Terra Bella 2006 Cabernet Sauvignon (California, \$8) — A bit rustic for a Cabernet, grapey, prune flavors. Score: 81

Terra Bella 2006 Merlot (California, \$8) — Simple yet pleasing, soft textures, easy to drink, focus on cherry and blueberry flavors. Score: 84

Terra Bella 2007 Sangiovese (California, \$9) — Lightly fragrant, soft earth tones, raspberry and blueberry flavors. Score: 82

Terra Bella 2007 Syrah (California, \$8) — Fragrant and deep scented, black cherries and a hint of earth, nice balance, a "best buy". Score: 85

Terra Bella 2006 Zinfandel (California, \$8) — Simple, earthy, cherries and raspberries on the palate, nice edge to it. Score: 83

Cacciatores also offers another line of wines, labeled La Gondola (a 2008 Pinot Grigio and 2007 Sangiovese, both for \$18), with a bit more finesse.

Optimum 2009 Extra Virgin Olive Oil (California, \$22) — This is one of the smoothest olive oils in my cabinet. Instead of the tingling spice of a Tuscan oil, this is fragrant and sumptuous, with a seductive flavor of the fruit that yields it.

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



## FIORE

(Continued from Page 43)

MF — I didn't suffer from anything like a sentimental past. But my father and sister held onto their Italian existence. It affected them much more than my mother and I. Maybe I didn't understand, but there really wasn't any time to feel any homesickness. Within a year, both of us kids were speaking English fluently.

**FN — What drew you to cinematography?**

MF — I have really strong visual memory of my childhood. I can visualize the sorts of things like our first day stepping off the plane and getting into my Uncle's car at the airport. I probably found this out later, after I chose my career. Yet it was probably something that influenced my decision.

**FN — What a family you have here in the Chicago area — tell us about them!**

MF — There's my Uncle Ugo Fiore, my Aunt Anna, my Uncle Vincenzo Fiore and my Aunt Sara. Vincenzo was actually here first, and he sponsored my Uncle Ugo, who sponsored my father. And in my family my father, Lorenzo, is the oldest. My mother is Romilda, and my sister is Mariuccia. For four years, we lived upstairs from Uncle Vince. He had a three-flat in Elmwood Park. And all three brothers had businesses in the same street, the same block in Niles. Ugo started out with a store where he sold furniture and lamps from Italy. Then Vince started importing drapes from Italy. Then my father started importing ceramic tile. So you could walk the block and get your house decorated, which is often what happened.

**FN — They also had a popular radio show. Tell us about that.**

MF — It was called "Radio Fiore," and it started close to 1978, 1979. My Uncle Ugo started buying time on an AM station, advertising stores, playing Italian music, taking requests — he developed a rapport with the Italian community. Then when my father opened his business, they bought some radio equipment so they could transmit from his store. My uncle started purchasing more and more hours, and my sister was an announcer. I was her engineer. We'd put that program on during the weekends and collaborate on a New Year's party, which started as just the customers of the stores, but turned into a big deal — as many as 1,000 people.

**FN — How did you jump from part-time radio engineer to big-time Hollywood cinematographer?**

MF — It started with Janusz Kaminski. He graduated Columbia College the same time as I did, 1987. I went on a trip to Europe and he went to Los Angeles; when I came back, he had just lined up some work with Roger Corman, the movie producer. He lined up a job with Roger as a gaffer, the person in charge of the lighting. And he called me and got me a job as a key grip, the person who pushes the dolly and is in charge of rigging on the set. That job went well and I just continued. Then in 1993 came "Schindler's List." I was the gaffer and Janusz was the director of photography. Janusz won an Academy Award, so that opened up a lot of doors.

**FN — What was most challenging about "Avatar"?**

MF — I had to work with a camera I'd never worked with before, that no one had ever worked with before. I learned I could dive into a situation that is overwhelming at first technically — but now, to have these new skills is really rewarding.

**FN — How has all the attention from "Avatar" changed your life?**

MF — It's really interesting to get this much attention. But it's not really why I do what I do. It's not why I chose the career. It started with an interest in photography in high school, and being surrounded by friends who were in the arts. Creating that history for myself, that path for myself, it combined what I was most interested in: photography, music and the presence of drama around me.

## NEWSMAKERS

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who loved the arts, her family was constantly surrounded by music and were inspired by pop greats like the Beatles, Al Green and Aretha Franklin. In pursuit of music and education, the Merchant kids were often discouraged from and even at times forbidden to watch TV.

"I was taken to the symphony a lot because my mother loved classical music. But I was dragged to see Styx when I was 12. We had to drive 100 miles to Buffalo, N.Y.," Merchant says. "Someone threw up next to me and people were smoking pot. It was terrifying. I remember Styx had a white piano, which rose out of the stage. It was awe-inspiring and inspirational."

In 1981, at the tender age of 17, she joined an unknown band called Still Life. "I was already in college as part of an advanced placement program," she recalls. "I'd studied piano and sang in school for fun, but I'd never been in a band before. The plan was to go to art school; I'd been accepted to the School of Visual Arts in New York. But that didn't quite end up happening."

For over a decade, she was the voice of 10,000 Maniacs, a band that Still Life became. The group dominated the airwaves in the '80s and early '90s with four albums, including "In My Tribe" and "Blind Man's Zoo." Those albums produced over 10 chart-topping singles, most notably "Peace Train," "Trouble Me" and "These Are Days."

The New York Times opined, "Merchant has been a symbol of intelligence and integrity in rock for nearly a decade."

In 1993, Merchant took a leap of faith and went solo. "By then, I'd been in the band for 12 years, and since I was so much younger than the other members I'd always felt like the little sister or something," Merchant explains. "I needed to mature, to emancipate myself. The group and I didn't always agree on everything and I really had to be able to speak for myself, not for everyone else."

Her bold move paid off. Her first album, "Tigerlily," sold more than 5 million copies and produced three Top 40 hits — "Jealousy," "Wonder" and "Carnival." Merchant and her label were shocked by the incredible response and exposure on airwaves around the globe.

Vogue said, "Merchant is one of the most successful and enduring alternative artists to emerge from the '80s — intact and uncompromised."

Over the next 10 years, she produced three more critically acclaimed studio albums. After the release of her fourth album in 2003, Merchant took time off to start a family. She married Spanish filmmaker Daniel de la Calle and gave birth to their daughter Lucia. She also took the time to become an experienced gardener and accomplished painter.

Today, she is coming full circle. In January, she launched a new website — a comprehensive visual and audio archive that documents her career. On April 13, her fifth solo album, "Leave Your Sleep," will be released along with an 80-page companion book. In fact, two versions of the album will be available — the full 26-song version and a scaled down version containing 16-track "selections" with abridged liner notes.

She describes the project that took six years of research, writing and recording as "the most elaborate project I have ever completed or even imagined." The album is not what you'd expect from Merchant. She found her inspiration in poetry. She compiled her favorite poems by other writers and paired each one to music.

For instance, Chronogram magazine points out, Merchant sets Albert Bigelow Paine's "The Dancing Bear" to a Klezmer tune, and transforms Jack Prelutsky's "Bleezer's Ice Cream" into a New Orleans R&B stroll. The remaining 24 songs are just as unique, containing their own favor and flair.

"I chose works by both well-known and obscure poets, ranging from anonymous

nursery rhymes and lullabies to poems by British Victorians, early and mid-20th century Americans and a few contemporary writers. Ogden Nash, e.e. cummings, Robert Louis Stevenson, Christina Rossetti, Edward Lear, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Robert Graves are among the most well known of the group," Merchant explains. "The poems inspired vastly different musical settings with themes that ranged from humorous and absurd to tragic, romantic and deeply spiritual."

It was those different settings that gave rise to the dizzying array of genres on the album. "I have always loved many different styles of music but had barely scratched the surface of those genres in my own recordings. This time in the studio I really wanted to experiment so I called on some of the most accomplished musicians in Cajun, bluegrass, reggae, chamber and early music, jazz, and R&B, as well as Balkan, Chinese and Celtic folk. Some were old friends and some were artists whose work I had admired from afar, such as the Wynton Marsalis Quintet, Medeski, Martin & Wood, the Klezmatics, members of the New York Philharmonic, Lúnasa, the Chinese Music Ensemble of New York, the Memphis Boys, Katell Keineg, the Ditty Bops, the Fairfield Four and Hazmat Modine. The sessions were recorded in live ensemble settings to capture a fresh and spontaneous energy; they were some of the most magical experiences I've ever had making music." When all was said and done, the recording sessions lasted a full year and involved more than 130 musicians.

Merchant is currently on tour in Europe promoting the new album. For dates in the States this summer, visit [www.nataliemerchant.com](http://www.nataliemerchant.com).

"I need to perform live because I have a surplus of fear, anger and frustration. But because I am so polite and reserved, the only place I can truly exorcise those demons is onstage."

*Sources: www.Nataliemerchant.com, Chronogram magazine, Granta magazine, Wikipedia, livejournal.com, The New York Times, VH1, MTV, Last.fm, BBC music, Nonesuch records. Cover photo from the February Chronogram magazine by Mark Seliger.*

## SAN JOSE

(Continued from Page 43)

The bulk of the area's population lives in the surrounding suburbs, and the city proper functions mostly as a business destination and turns into a veritable ghost town after the five o'clock whistle sounds, Cirasola says.

"It's a city where people go there to work and that's it," she says. "People feel no connection to the city."

The Little Italy committee hopes to change all of that. Its proposal to the city council calls for closing down several streets in the River Street district to vehicular traffic and turning them into cobblestone-covered walkways and piazzas. Two large Roman-inspired arches will be erected and act as gateways to an area flanked by historic Victorian-style homes once occupied by Italian-American families that will be renovated into restaurants, delis, artist studios and corporate offices. Plans also are underway to build the new Italian American Heritage Foundation Cultural Center in the area to complete the rich Italian milieu.

The goal is to increase pedestrian traffic and spur economic growth in an area that is ripe for redevelopment. The new Little Italy is a stone's throw away from San Jose State University and the HP Pavilion, which is the home of the NHL's San Jose Sharks. The committee is now raising funds for the arch construction and making the case to local businesses that they should hang their shingle in this upstart Little Italy. The sales pitch: "If you build it, they will come."

Two businesses, including a law firm and an after-school tutoring center, have already moved into remodeled Victorian homes, and more than two dozen other

businesses have expressed interest in the location.

Besides giving local Italian-American merchants a big boost, the committee hopes the new Little Italy will help a 21st century city find its soul, Cirasola says.

"The Little Italy will increase San Jose's visibility, and the preservation of the Italian culture will add a proud element to the city," she says.

*For details, visit [www.littleitalysj.com](http://www.littleitalysj.com).*

## CINEMA

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was also in the group. He played the flute. From there, we took part in a theater production under the direction of Maestro Roberto De Simone, writer and director of the now legendary production "La gatta cenerentola." After that experience, I became busy with theater and founded a company in the '70s that collaborated on productions with other companies in the community. So everything just fell into place.

**FN — Have your Neapolitan origins influenced your work as an artist?**

RZ — Yes, Naples has definitely influenced my work as an artist. It's a magical city, rich with inspiration. Life is sometimes difficult in Naples, but it has a unique vitality that really cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

**FN — Tell me about your experience working on "Una notte." What was it like working with someone as experienced as Nino D'angelo while also working with his son Toni, who is a new filmmaker?**

RZ — It was such a joy to work on this film. It took about a month to shoot, and to go through Naples at night for four weeks is an experience in itself! (Even if most travel agencies would not advise it!) Then if you have a taxi driver named Nino D'angelo driving you around, it becomes an exceptional experience! Nino D'angelo adores Naples and to spend time driving around with him at night really heightened the experience and showed Naples for the amazing place that it is. Perhaps because it's an independent film, there was a perfect harmony between cast and crew, something rarely found on the set of bigger productions. The crew faced many challenges in making this smaller production reach the standards requiring it to be viewed in a competitive arena with other big budget movies. It ended up being a huge success and has been recognized all over the world. The film's success can be attributed to the director's passion, enthusiasm and determination to tell this story and turn his dream into a reality. With a low budget film like this, it was interesting to see the creative process take over where the expensive technical equipment couldn't otherwise provide. It's a combination of the atmosphere on the set, the beautiful city of Naples, the intensity of the subject matter and the great company of the cast and crew that makes me feel privileged to have worked on this film.

**FN — Tell me about your experience working with another one of your Neapolitan counterparts, Toni Servillo.**

RZ — In one half of its 90 years, I have participated in the show "Zingari" by Raffaele Viviani under the direction of Toni Servillo. We took part in a major tour, which brought us all over Italy and Europe. It was an interesting experience to work with such a talented director and cast. Toni is a highly respected actor and director with a deep respect for his profession. He has a clear vision of what he wants to achieve through cinema, and he obtains those goals through hard work. He is always studying his craft.

**FN — You've also built a name for yourself in the music industry. How long have you been playing? Do you usually play professionally, or is it a pastime for you?**

RZ — I have always been involved in music. I started playing guitar when I was 12 years old. Then I started to play the trumpet. I never intended to make a profes-

*(Continued on the next page)*



sion out of it, but through the years, I have composed music for theater productions and radio broadcasts. Recently, I did the soundtrack for Toni D’angelo’s latest film, which was in competition at last year’s Venice Film Festival. The film is a documentary about poets living and working in Rome.

**FN — You’re also a visual artist. When did you begin to paint? Is your art on exhibition anywhere?**

RZ — When I was a teenager in high school, I took some art classes but it’s only been within the last 10 years that I picked up a paintbrush and started to paint again. It’s something that I really enjoy. Last year, my work was on exhibit at a theatre in Rome, called Eliseo.

**FN — Are there any artists (visual, film or music) that have influenced your work?**

RZ — Well, I imagine that everything that I’ve gone through in life, all of the experiences that I’ve had are reflected in my work. However, I recently saw something on YouTube that really moved me. It was an old film choreographed by Pina Bausch for “The Man I Love” by Gershwin. It’s just fantastic!

**FN — Are there any filmmakers that you’d still like to work with?**

RZ — Yes, there are many, such as Martin Scorsese, Matteo Garrone, Aki Kaurismaky, Emir Kusturica, Kim Ki Duk, Milos Forman and Paolo Sorrentino ... just to name a few!

Riccardo Zinna has already achieved so much in his life and career as an artist, but he’s just getting started. He continues to paint, compose music and embrace his Neapolitan roots in film and theater. Zinna’s latest film, “Benvenuti al sud,” is slated for a spring release in Italy. You can also see him on RAI in the television series, “Medicina generale,” and in a made-for-television movie called “Gli ultimi del paradiso.” “Io non ho paura” and “Caro diario” are available on amazon.com.

## SPOTLIGHT

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a McDonald’s.”

The minister’s attempt to land a few political punches backfired. Fort said he was flattered by the attention his article had received, reiterating his point of view: “It’s a good knockabout,” he wrote, “but I think Zaia rather misses the point and that his attack on pinkoes, fellow travellers and old Stalinists is a distraction from the main issue: the failure of the government to look after Italy’s unique legacy of artisanal produce.”

With the Mcltaly, the government hopes to up the nutritional value of fast-food menus chosen by “thousands of European youngsters every day” while showing support for Italian farmers. “Thousands of European farmers are facing the consequences of the worst economic crisis since ’29. Mcltaly will bring to the Italian farmers 3 million and 448,000 euros of additional income per month,” said Zaia. “It will also enable McDonald’s clients to eat a healthy burger with ‘Made in Italy’ products with Protected Designation of Origin and Protected Geographical Indication marks.”

Although the numbers flashed by Zaia are impressive, they need to be viewed in perspective. Since McDonald’s serves up a limited palate of globally standardized ingredients, farmers will be tempted to sacrifice quality for quantity. And given that the McDonald’s brooks no seasonal variation, produce like tomatoes, lettuce or artichokes will either be grown in greenhouses or frozen after each season, both of which undercut nutritional value. But the biggest risk is to the diversity of the agricultural terrain. With a multinational monster like McDonald’s ready and willing to gobble up their crops, more and more farmers will start growing whatever McDonald’s asks them to grow.

As for the burgeoning fast-food culture among younger generations, Zaia is rightly troubled by this trend, saying he hopes to “convince them to forget about junk food and choose a healthier and better quality food.” If Zaia actually cared about the eating

habits of the young, he wouldn’t be promoting a greasy burger that most will buy alongside an order of fries and a Coke. The McDonald’s policy is the same all over the world: If you order the meal, which most young people get with French fries and a soft drink, you pay less overall. So it’s hard to reconcile Zaia’s enthusiasm for the Mcltaly with his larger dietary concerns.

If he’s really interested in making fast food healthier, why would he turn to McDonald’s, whose fatty caloric fare is at odds with any dietician’s recommendations? Instead of promoting an American mega-corporation, which is doing fine on its own, the Italian government would do better to promote Italy’s own version of healthy fast-food: panini and pizze al taglio (pizza by the cut), which are readily available at cafés across the country.

And what does the emergence of the Mcltaly say about the country’s acclaimed food culture? In point of fact, no other designated food product is identical throughout the nation. Italy’s cuisine is intensely regional in nature. Pizza is a Neapolitan tradition, cannoli are Sicilian and everyone eats pasta with different sauces based on where they live. It’s ironic that Zaia has crowned a hamburger — already an exotic import from another food culture — that bears an Anglicized name as Italy’s first national standardized food.

## ORICHUIA

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ology: an ideology that instead of being dead and forever buried, keeps being resurrected thanks to initiatives such as this.

It doesn’t really matter that Marino has distanced himself from any political implications that come with the app, whose function, he maintains, should only be a library of historical documents. To give anyone the power to carry with them Mussolini’s speeches, without filters or commentary, is akin to going back in time and introducing weak and easily influenced minds to racist and hideous discourse. It would be as if an app developer in Germany decided to gather all of Hitler’s speeches in an iPhone app. Do we need to be reminded that those same speeches — from both Mussolini and Hitler — led two of Europe’s most populous countries into the deadliest war in history?

How Apple could justify having such a program on its digital store also warrants scrutiny. It should have been obvious, even before releasing it, that such a program would offend those who had fought against fascism. “It is a disgrace and a surrender to crass commercialism that the Apple computing company has approved the release of this ‘app’ through their online iTunes store,” said Elan Steinberg, vice president of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and their Descendants, in an online statement. Apple, which goes through every single app that is submitted by developers around the world, managed to make the situation worse, as the app was released on January 21, just six days prior to the European Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust. This coincidence was embarrassing, to say the least.

For those who wonder what the fuss is all about, the Italian Constitution lays any questions to rest. Thanks to the so-called “Scelba” law of 1952, it is considered a crime to pursue “anti-democratic goals of the fascist party through promotion, threat or use of violence as a method of political strife or promoting the suppression of liberties guaranteed by the Constitution or denigrating democracy.”

On April 25, we celebrate la Resistenza and those partigiani who helped liberate northern Italy from nazi-fascist occupation. To be offended by such initiatives such as the iMussolini program is the least we can do to honor those who have fallen to defend Italy.

## FOLK TALES

*(Continued from Page 48)*

As the two strode through the streets of Verona, everyone who saw them laughed or at least smiled, for they all knew the tricks played by the triplets and thought this foreigner to be the biggest fool ever born. To the Devil, the good citizens of Verona all seemed simply to be jolly and pleasant, and so he was well pleased with himself.

But even the Devil has to tend to business, or it will all go to hell, and so there was another doorway in the apartment, the purpose for which he refused to tell his wife. Since it was an entrance into the Inferno, he insisted that his new bride never ask what was behind that door, and never, ever open it, let alone enter therein. Of course, Linda agreed, but she could not allow her husband to keep a secret from her.

One day, when the Devil went out for a stroll, Linda opened the door and saw the flames and smelled the burning brimstone of Hades. When she questioned her husband about it, he became angry at her for disobeying his orders. He cast her in through the open door, shouting: “Since your curiosity has gotten the better of your promise, see what the hell is in there for yourself!”

But when the door slammed behind her, her sisters immediately knew that something bad was afoot.

When the Devil went out again, it wasn’t long before he saw Belinda. She immediately approached him and apologized, for although she did not know exactly why, she knew her sister had upset him. She also knew her sister was in distress, but could not know what had happened. So she played along, pretending to be the Devil’s new bride, so as to find out what was going on. All the while she maintained the illusion, which was now an unbreakable habit of the triplets.

The Devil marveled that his wife could so easily escape from the Inferno, and congratulated himself again mentally on his choice of a bride. Then Belinda suggested they go home so that they might have lunch, and she made sure the Devil had his fill of wine so that he might more readily take a nap. The girl took the opportunity offered by the Devil’s snoring to begin to search through the apartment for a sign of her sister’s whereabouts. When she approached that fateful door, she sensed the presence on the other side of it and opened it.

The roar of the fires of Hell awoke the Devil from his nap, and faced with what appeared to be his wife once again impudently disobeying his command, he pushed her in and slammed the door shut.

“Perhaps this time you will learn your lesson!” shouted the Devil.

But as soon as he went out, there was the last sister, Melinda, standing there before him. She’d received the message from her sisters, of course, and realized that they were in danger and guessed that only she could save them. So she apologized for upsetting this devil of a brother-in-law, then sent him on an errand.

Alone in the apartment, Melinda searched for her sisters. When she discovered the door and opened it, she freed the other two triplets. By now, of course, they fully realized that Linda had indeed married the Devil. She knew they would have a devil of a time escaping unobserved, so she hid her sisters in another part of the apartment. As she looked out the window for him, Melinda saw the cooper across the street, hard at work making barrels. She called out to him to bring her two barrels, which he did, and Linda hid herself in one of them.

When the Devil returned, his “wife” had another job for him.

“Bring this barrel of wine to the home of my parents, like a good son-in-law. I will be watching you, so don’t dally or slack on the way.”

Accustomed by now to his wife’s uncan-

ny ability be everywhere at once, he picked up the heavy barrel without a quizzical thought and staggered down the street with it, and every time he tried to stop or rest, he heard his wife’s voice shouting, almost in his ear to hurry up. How could he have known it was Linda shouting from within?

Before his return, Belinda had hidden herself in the other one and the scene was repeated, but this time, in addition to hearing what he thought was his wife’s voice, he actually saw her at the parent’s house waiting for his arrival. By the time he got home, the poor exhausted Devil fell into a deep sleep. Melinda went across the street and borrowed the two-wheeled hand truck the cooper used to move barrels around the shop. Then she opened the door to Hades and used the truck to wheel the demon, asleep in his chair, through the doorway and over the edge of the cliff. Then she carefully shut the door behind her.

The Devil awoke as he was falling into the fiery pit! He wished heartily that he’d never met his devil of a wife, and so one spell was cast as another was broken.

Melinda had just enough time to get to the street before the illusion of the Devil’s home disappeared, and soon was reunited herself with her sisters. But the Devil’s power was such that they remembered nothing of what had happened, and he wished nothing more than to forget it, too.

And so it is with so many of us, who sit here scratching our heads trying to figure out why things turn out the way they do.

## VIAGGIO

*(Continued from Page 49)*

straight through the grand salon to the room directly behind it — on your right in that room and through an inconspicuous door is a circular staircase that will take you upstairs.

The painting collection, which has been much expanded since Cardinal Scipione’s time, contains some real treasures, along with a lot of things you can walk past with a clear conscience. Trying to look at everything on the walls of a museum is a recipe for exhaustion. Obviously, you can stop and look at anything that catches your fancy, but there are a few not-to-be-missed masterpieces that are worth more than a glance. But on your way in, as you pass through the vestibule, spare a glance for the two mediocre portraits of Pope Paul V, since it was his (or more accurately, the Church’s) money that bankrolled much of Cardinal Scipione’s art collecting. There’s also a lovely little painting there by the Flemish artist Abraham van Cuylenborch that shows how the villa looked in the 1600s.

Cardinal Borghese was more than an avid art collector; he was also notorious for extorting and even stealing works that caught his eye. In the Salone di Didone, full of beautiful High Renaissance paintings, the most memorable is surely Raphael’s “Deposition of Christ,” signed and dated 1507. Cardinal Scipione thought it was memorable, too — so much so that he had his agents steal it from a church in Perugia and bring it back to Rome. So what can you do when the Pope’s nephew steals your altarpiece? Best not to protest too much. Eventually Pope Paul V had a lesser artist make a copy of the work, and the aggrieved Baglioni family had to be content with that.

Other highlights of the second-floor painting collection include a ripely sensual painting by the northern Italian master Coreggio, showing “Danae and the Shower of Gold” (1530), in which Zeus takes the form of a shower of gold coins in order to possess a willing Danae. In one of the last galleries is Titan’s “Sacred and Profane Love” (ca. 1514), a much-studied work that shows a nude and a fully clothed woman

*(Continued on the next page)*



on opposite sides of a fountain. Oddly enough, scholars think the clothed figure represents profane, or earthly, love and the naked figure sacred or divine love. Go figure.

The current arrangement of the Borghese galleries places the museum's notable collection of paintings by the great baroque master Caravaggio on the ground floor, in a room called the Sala di Sileno. There, you'll find several paintings the cardinal bought and several more that he stole. By more or less legitimate means, Scipione acquired Caravaggio's brooding "St. Jerome" (1605), his haunting "David with the Head of Goliath" (ca. 1610), in which Goliath's head is the artist's self-portrait, and his "Madonna dei Palafrenieri" (1605-1606). The latter briefly graced the altar of the church for the Vatican grooms (palafrenieri), but it didn't stay there long, once Cardinal Scipione caught sight of it and insisted on buying it. Scipione also persuaded his uncle Paul to imprison Giuseppe Cesari, one of the most successful painters in Rome, on trumped-up charges, so the greedy cardinal could confiscate Cesari's collection of more than 100 paintings, including two Caravaggio works today in the Borghese: "The Sick Bacchus," and the highly homoerotic "Boy with a Basket of Fruit." In the latter a sensuous youth seems to offer himself along with a basket of luscious fruits. (Cardinal Borghese was widely rumored to be homosexual.)

I suggest being selective and not gorging yourself on paintings at the Borghese, because the main course, so to speak, is the cardinal's collection of sculptures by Gianlorenzo Bernini, the leading artist of Baroque Rome and among the greatest sculptors who ever lived. Bernini (1598-1680), the son of a sculptor who worked at the Vatican and who began nurturing his son's talent the moment the boy could hold a hammer and chisel, came to Cardinal Borghese's attention while still very young. For the cardinal, Bernini executed three dazzling marble masterpieces: "Pluto and Persephone," "Apollo and Daphne," and "David," all slightly over life-size and completed between 1622 and 1624. They're still in their original locations in ground floor rooms of Villa Borghese and are the high-lights of the cardinal's collection.

As you descend the stairs from the second floor, you'll find yourself in the room containing Bernini's "Pluto and Persephone." According to the Greek myth, the god of the underworld, Pluto, kidnapped the maiden Persephone, carrying her off to be his bride. Bernini portrays the moment when the triumphant god steps across the border into his subterranean kingdom, guarded by the four-headed hellhound, Cerberus. In his arms the frantic Persephone thrashes, twists and struggles, and even cries marble tears, but Pluto keeps a firm grip on her, as we can tell by the sight

of his fingers sinking into the soft flesh of her thigh. It's easy to forget that her thigh isn't soft at all — it's solid white marble.

Proceeding past the doorway leading to the second floor, you'll come to a smallish room where Bernini's "Apollo and Daphne" will make you forget that the room holds anything else. It's the most amazing piece of virtuoso marble carving in the world. Here, too, the subject is from Greek mythology: the god Apollo developed a passion for the nymph Daphne, who didn't return his ardor. Ignoring her reluctance, he chased her through the woods, intent on having his way with her. He'd almost achieved his goal when she called on her father, a river god, for help. That god must have had a strange sense of humor, as he responded to his daughter's pleas by turning her into a laurel tree.

Just as Apollo finally gets a hand on Daphne, her metamorphosis begins: her body starts to be enveloped front and back by bark, thus frustrating any of Apollo's amorous plans; her hair turns to twigs, her fingers sprout leaves, her toes take root. With a touch of racy humor, Bernini shows some of the leaves teasingly tickling Apollo's groin. The virtuosity of the marble carving is breathtaking. At the tips of Daphne's fingers, where laurel buds blossom with an almost audible pop, the solid block of marble dematerializes into a filigree of wafer-thin leaves. It's hard to believe it's stone, and not a giant block of Ivory soap.

Bernini's "David," the last of the sculptures for Cardinal Borghese, is in a room adjoining the one containing the "Apollo and Daphne." Although less of a tour-de-force, the figure of David is no less dramatic. Bernini captures the biblical hero in the act of slinging his stone at Goliath. His torso twisted to gain maximum velocity for his sling-shot, David nonetheless stares straight ahead, concentrating on his unseen adversary. With his unruly hair, frown-creased brow, and especially his clenched mouth, lips sucked in and compressed by his jaws, he's the very essence of intense, focused effort. The carved stone rope of David's sling-shot, which extends from the hero's left hand all the way back to the right hand holding the rock that will kill Goliath, is another bit of Bernini's dazzling skill as a sculptor. The rope is taut — any second now David will release the stone — it makes the viewer want to duck, to get out of the line of fire.

When you leave Villa Borghese you might feel you haven't done it justice, you've only looked at a few of the many hundreds of objects on display. But you can always go back another time. The cardinal is long gone, but as the ancient Roman proverb puts it, "Vita brevis, ars longa" — life is short but art endures. Cardinal Borghese's treasure house will still be there — after all, it's in Rome and Rome is the Eternal City.

*Reconnect with your  
Italian heritage ...*

**Start a UNICO Chapter  
in your area!**

**Call 973.808.0035 Today!**

**HEADS UP!**

The deadline for the July ComUNICO is:  
**MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010**

Send your Chapter News to Matteo Risi via e-mail at:  
**mmpsd@aol.com**

or mail to:

**Matt Risi - UNICO c/o Minuteman Press  
7525 Metropolitan Drive, Suite 303  
San Diego, CA 92108**

**QUESTIONS? Call Matt at 619-993-3913**

**UNICO National**

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**JOIN the Organization of Choice!**

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Join our Nationwide ranks supporting charitable efforts like:

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# SHOP 4 REWARDS™

*Shop On Line and Get Cash Back!*



## A new UNICO Fundraising Benefit It's Easy as 1,2,3...

For those unfamiliar with the program, you can access over 1,300 online retailers through our virtual mall. From there you can visit each retailer's website where you will have access to all discounts, sales, savings and clearance deals. You pay no more than you would by entering their web site directly.

By simply utilizing our online shopping network you will be able to receive up to 30% Cash Back on your purchases.

50% of the Cash Back generated will go to you and 50% will go to help support **UNICO** National and all of our programs.

**[www.myshop4rewards.com/uniconational](http://www.myshop4rewards.com/uniconational)**

Using the Shop4Rewards program is as easy as 1,2,3!

### **1** Register for a FREE Rewards Account at [www.myshop4rewards.com/uniconational](http://www.myshop4rewards.com/uniconational)

With your rewards account you can:

- Access the UNICO Virtual Mall
- View pending and Paid Submissions
- Receive bi-weekly promotional codes for even more savings

### **2** Go Shopping

- Simply click on the retailers logo and shop directly from their site  
You will receive all of the same discounts, sales, savings and clearance deals provide by the retailers PLUS up to 30% Cash Back on all your purchases

### **3** Get your Cash Back!

- File for your Cash Back with our online form and wait for your check!
- 50% of the Cash Back generated from your online purchases will go to help support UNICO National and all of our programs

#### Things to Remember...

- You must shop through the UNICO National virtual mall in order to receive cash back – if you go directly to the retailers site we cannot track your transactions
- Cash Back submissions must be made within 90 days of the purchase date
- A minimum of 90 days is required to process all cash back
- You must accumulate \$20 in your rewards account before a check will be issued
- A \$2.00 administration fee will be deducted from all checks
- All product returns and questions are made directly with the retailer





# MARCONI SCIENCE AWARD DINNER NASHVILLE TN



*Marconi Award Winner Joseph Mule' Receiving the UNICO Marconi Science Award Medal from UNICO National President André DiMino.*



*Geraldine Lipari and Marconi Award winner Joseph Mule' on the dancefloor. at the Marconi Dinner.*



*Sal and Deb Benvenutti on the dance floor at the Marconi Dinner.*



*The women of UNICO crowd around our dashing and handsome Marconi Award Winner! The tradition is for every girl to dance with our Marconi Science Award recipient.*



*The Marconi Award Program is by tradition held on the Saturday night of the Mid Year Meeting. This year's Marconi Awards dinner was a great success with eight tables of guests!*



*Astronaut dolls were the hit of the evening!*

