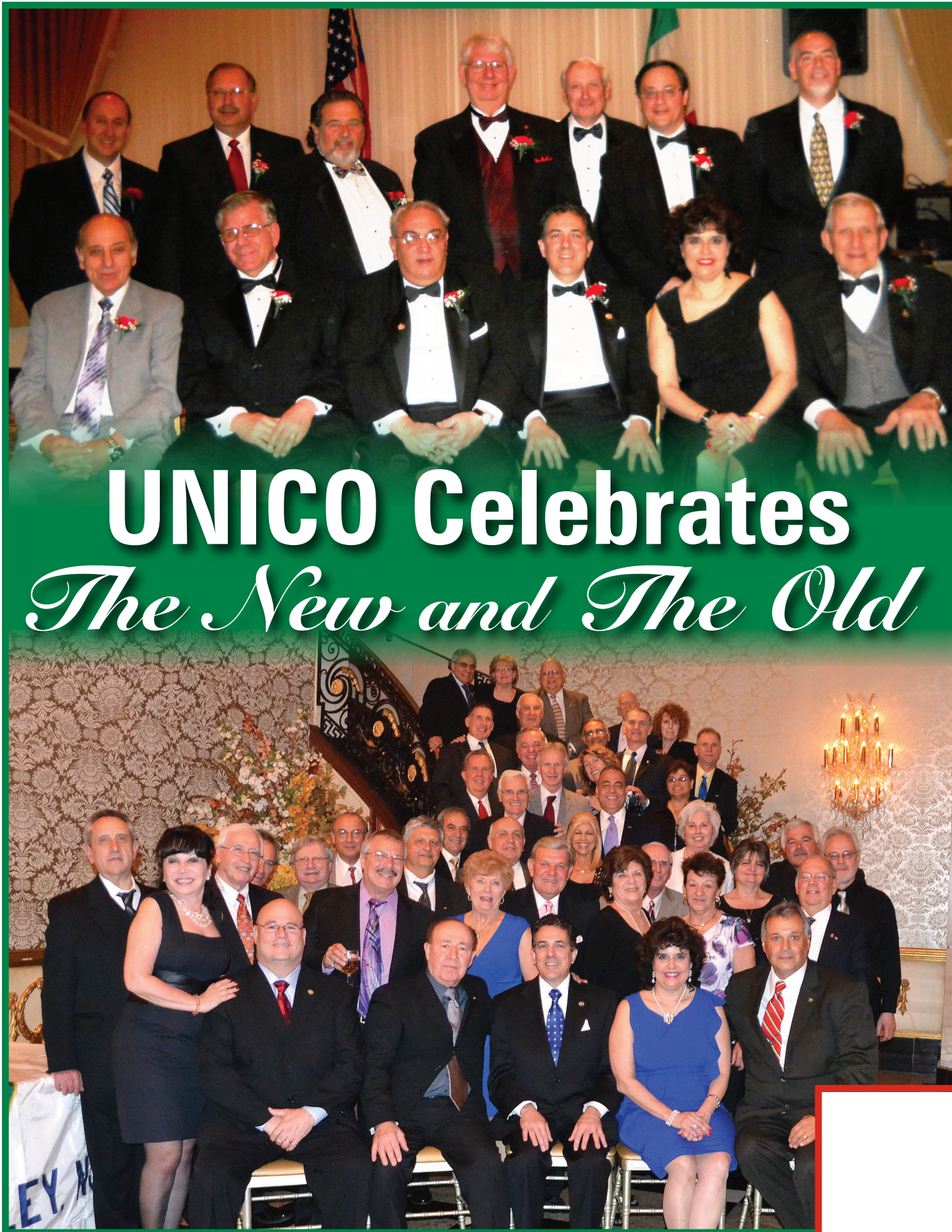


*The Voice of* **UNICO NATIONAL**  
*Com* **UNICO**

**MAY 2012 • VOLUME 67 • ISSUE 04**



**UNICO Celebrates**  
*The New and The Old*

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



**“Service  
above *Self*”**



**KANSAS CITY CHEF  
JASPER MIRABILE**

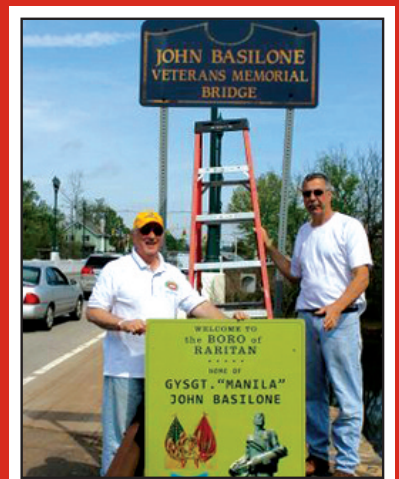
*Page 55*

**ROCK LEGEND  
DION DIMUCCI**

*Page 43*

**90TH ANNUAL  
CONVENTION**

*Pages 16 & 31*



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICE DAY**

*Page 38*



# 2011-2012 CALENDAR

National Dues	July 1, 2012	National Office
National Convention	August 8-12, 2012	Marriott Resort & Spa-Marco Island, FL
Eastern Regional Meeting		To Be Announced

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Spring  
Forward  
Glenn  
Pettinato**

I am very happy to report that much was accomplished at the Annual Board Meeting in March. I want to personally thank all the members who attended the meeting, taking time away from work and family. Friendships were renewed and created during the week – a benefit for being a member of UNICO. But special thanks go out to Dr. Peter Pettinato, the Chairman for the event, Past National President Frank Cannata, Sal Benvenuti, Pat Pelonero and First Lady Terri. These members worked tirelessly to make the event a success from its inception, to the registration table, to the actual Board Meeting and finally, to Saturday night's Marconi Dinner.

On Thursday, members attended a dinner meeting for local residents of Myrtle Beach interested in creating a Chapter under the leadership of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Rick D'Arminio and resident Don Piccolo, brother of Brian. Hopefully, a Chapter will be chartered later this year.

On Friday, many committees met and chose well-deserving awardees for National Awards. They included the Vastola Awardee Gerald Heytink, Cianci Recipient Past National President Joseph Coccia, Rizzuto Winner Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Lombardi Recipient Vince Papale, Nigro Awardee Chris Castelluccio, Basilone Awardee Lieutenant General George Flynn and DeFillippo Recipient Dr. Frank Lanuti, MD. Also, on Friday, at the Foundation Meeting, I was pleased to give a check to Foundation President, John DiNapoli, for \$150,000 from National to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund.

On Saturday, many important reports were given and noted at the Board Meeting. Two new committees reported and brought UNICO National into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They were the National Reconstruction Committee chaired by Gerard Heytink and the Convention Advisory Committee chaired by Past National President John Alati. Certain amendments were recommended by the Board to be brought to the Convention in August from both committees. We now have an agent of change to make sure that members who wish to run for National Office have certain requirements and that future Conventions, starting in 2013, will

be facilitated by an advisory committee comprised of past national officers who have experience in running prior Conventions and also facilitated by the National Office. All of these amendments are a win-win for UNICO National. Again, First Lady Terri supplied snack bags full of goodies for attendees. After all the work that morning, a luncheon was provided and attendees were very appreciative. In the evening, Marconi Chair, Past National President Andre' DiMino, performed flawlessly in the presentation of our Marconi Award which was awarded to Dr. Victor Greco. The Hazleton Chapter recommended Dr. Greco for the award who designed the first Heart-Lung Machine. First Lady Terri again did an excellent job of decorating the dinner and cocktail tables.

Finally, I was fortunate to attend the Keystone Charter Night on April 14. It may be the largest Charter group ever with 136 members. UNICO needs to stay committed to chartering new Chapters to stem the natural loss of members. Every member can be involved with this endeavor because we all have friends and relatives who live in areas where UNICO Chapters are scarce or non-existent. UNICO will falter if we cannot maintain or grow our membership. District Governors and Past National Presidents in local vicinities can help control membership and help in chartering new Chapters. Please contact National for any information pertaining to Expansion and Membership Retention.

## FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE



**Dedication in  
UNICO  
Terri  
Pettinato**

We all welcome spring; it is a time for rebirth and growth! Speaking of time, I can't believe our year is drawing to a close. Glenn and I still have a full schedule ahead of us, I look forward with great anticipation to attend the upcoming UNICO events. Everywhere we go, the UNICO family embraces Glenn and me which reminds us how blessed we are to be able to serve the largest Italian American Service Organization in the country.

We were pleased to join the Orange/West Orange Chapter for their 38th Brian Piccolo Annual Sports Awards Breakfast where we had

the honor to meet guest speaker Eric LeGrand, a Rutgers University football all-star who was injured in 2010 and who is now an inspirational speaker. Many awards were given to talented athletes in their communities. The entire Chapter of Orange/West Orange worked diligently to make it a successful, uplifting event.

At this year's Mid-Year Board meeting registration, UNICANs were greeted with fresh oranges and goldfish/candy bags. Then President Glenn moved onto conducting our important UNICO business on Friday for National Committees and Saturday for the Board Meeting. On Saturday evening was the Marconi Science Awards Dinner which honored Dr. Victor Greco of Hazleton, Pennsylvania for his accomplishments in creating the first heart-lung machine. It was a lovely evening with lavender china birds and seashells which graced the tables. I gave out presents to the first two couples who registered for the Board Meeting.

On April 13th we were warmly greeted by the UNICANs of New Jersey District VII for the 37th Annual Brian Piccolo Sports Award Program. We are so fortunate to be in an organization that allowed both of us to be a part of honoring outstanding student athletes from the district. Afterwards, I reached out and hugged the students and shared the joy with their parents. It was a night to celebrate!

Glenn and I had the honor to attend the chartering of the new Keystone Chapter. The Carbondale Chapter was the sponsoring Chapter for the 136 new members. The new Chapter President, Mark McDade, with his wife Michele, was sworn in by President Glenn and was also presented with the Charter by Expansion Director, Tom Vaughan and President Glenn. President Glenn was surprised with a birthday cake and we sang "Happy Birthday". Glenn received a handsome watch while I received a beautiful bouquet. UNICO welcomes the Keystone Chapter! A very memorable evening was enjoyed by all!

Finally we went to the Passaic Valley Chapter on April 18th for their 40th Anniversary Dinner. Steve Pelonero, Chapter President, addressed the guests as well as President Glenn who stressed that new UNICANs need to be nurtured in order to carry out our mission of "Service Above Self" every day and for the future of UNICO. It was wonderful to see all our friends. It was certainly a fun evening.

I look forward to visiting more Chapters which spread the good works of UNICO and which continue to enrich our lives. I will continue to speak on Culture and Heritage; we love your stories. So please continue to send them into the National Office for the next ComUNICO issue.

Lastly, as we approach Memorial Day, let us all take the time to remember our fellow Americans who served our country and who made America the beautiful land we love.





## UNICO National Officers

Glenn Pettinato.....	President
David Donnini.....	Executive Vice President
Michael Veselka.....	First Vice President
Richard D'Arminio.....	Second Vice President
Joseph Paci.....	Third Vice President
Sam Prudente.....	Treasurer
Francine Nido.....	Secretary
Frank T. Blasi, Esq.....	General Counsel
Mark McDade.....	Membership & Retention Director
Thomas Vaughan.....	Expansion Director
Joan Tidona.....	Scholarship Director
Anthony D'Alessio.....	Auditor
John Borgese.....	ComUNICO Business Manager
Dr. Frank Greco Jr.....	Sergeant-at-Arms
Chip Calabro.....	Eastern Regional District Governor
Paul Domico.....	Midwest Regional District Governor
Jim DeSpenza...	Western Regional District Governor

## UNICO Charity Chairs

**COOLEY'S ANEMIA**  
Peter Pettinato  
570-698-9626  
plpettinato@peoplepc.com

**MENTAL HEALTH**  
Barbara Lipari Laborim  
BL135@verizon.net

**SCHOLARSHIP**  
Joan Tidona  
Jntidona@verizon.net

**21ST CENTURY  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**  
John DiNapoli  
201-247-6383  
jdinapoli@unico.org

**'V' FOUNDATION FOR  
CANCER RESEARCH**  
Frank Paolercio Sr.  
908-531-4379 Cell  
paolercio8@verizon.net

**Charitable donations to UNICO Charities are tax deductible!**  
Send your check to the UNICO Foundation to:  
271 US Highway 46 West, Suite A 108, Fairfield, NJ 07004

## UNICO National Office Team

Sal Benvenuti.....Executive Administrator  
Pat Pelonero.....Office Manager and ComUNICO Editor  
Lisa Adubato.....Administrative Assistant  
Joyce O'Hara.....Bookkeeper

*The Staff of the National Office is dedicated  
to serving our Members and Chapters!*

973-808-0035 • UNICOnational@UNICO.org • www.UNICO.org

# CONTENTS

## NEWS FROM UNICO NATIONAL

PAGES 2-4.....	VIEWPOINT
2 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2 FIRST LADY'S MESSAGE
4 EDITOR'S DESK	4 CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE
4 SECOND VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	

PAGES 5-15, 17-18, 20, 22-27, 34-37, 41.....CPTR/DIST NEWS

PAGES 7, 34, 36.....BOOK REVIEWS

PAGES 8, 10, 12, 14, 17-18, 37.....NATIONAL REPORTS

PAGE 13.....NEW MEMBERS

PAGES 16, 31 .....NATIONAL CONVENTION

PAGE 21.....IN MEMORIAM

PAGES 28-29.....MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING

## NEWS FROM AMERICA & ITALY

PAGES 43-45.....	AMERICA
43 NEWSMAKERS	43 LOU&A
43 REVIEW	44 LIBRI
45 SPORTS	

PAGES 47-49.....ITALIA

47 CIRCO ITALIA	47 PERSONAGGI
47 CINEMA	48 VIAGGIO

PAGE 51.....LA VERA CUCINA

## ComUNICO

For ComUNICO advertising information call (973) 808-0035

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Title of Publication: ComUNICO Publication No. 00647700. Filed 10/01/2011. Frequency of Issue: Every Other Month  
No. of Issues Published Annually: 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$25.00. Mailing Address of Office of Publication,  
Headquarters, and Publisher: 271 U.S. Hwy. 46 West, Suite A-108, Fairfield, NJ 07004. Editor: Pat Pelonero. The purpose,  
function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has  
not changed during the preceding 12 months. ComUNICO is the official publication of UNICO National. Pages 1-42,  
55 and 56, editorial content copyrighted by UNICO National ©2012. Pages 43-54 editorial content copyrighted by  
Fra Noi Inc. ©2012. The name "Fra Noi" and the front page and pages 43-54 folio designs are all federally registered  
trademarks owned by Fra Noi Inc.

Volume 67, No. 4 • ComUNICO (ISSN-1044-7202) • Total Circulation 7,000+

Phone: 973.808.0035 Fax: 973.808.0043 E-mail: uniconational@unico.org

Periodical postage is paid to Caldwell, NJ and additional offices.

Postmaster, please send Form 3579 and all address changes to:

271 US Highway 46 West, Suite A-108, Fairfield, NJ 07004-2458

## COVER PHOTOS

MAIN Top: UNICO National welcomes members of the newly chartered Keystone Chapter. Seated from left: Past National President Frank Cannata, Gerry Heytink, Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro, National President Glenn Pettinato, First Lady Terri Pettinato and Past National President Mike D'Arminio. Standing from left: District Governor Pennsylvania II Frank Castellano, Thomas Gretzula, Joe Cerullo, Chapter President Mark McDade, Peter Noto, UNICO National Second Vice President Rick D'Arminio and Expansion Director Tom Vaughan. (Page 36)

MAIN Bottom: Passaic Valley Chapter members celebrate their 40th Anniversary. (Page 11)

SIDE BAR Top: Chef Jasper Mirabile of Jasper's Restaurant, Kansas City, MO. (Page 55)

SIDE BAR Bottom: UNICO National Celebrates Community Service Day. Members of the Raritan Valley Chapter erect a new sign in honor of Sergeant John Basilone. (Page 38)



## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



### A Message from Second Vice President Richard D'Arminio

As Second National Vice President, I work with the Chapter Presidents and try to assist in any way that I can on any subject. It may be on how to run a meeting, Membership & Retention, Expansion, fund raising ideas, Committees, etc. I, along with the other Vice Presidents also try our best to attend various events, local Chapter meetings, and represent our National President if he is unable to.

One way I can talk to all of the Chapter Presidents on various issues is through the conference calls that I started in January. We had a pretty good attendance of over 25 Presidents on the call sharing ideas on many issues. I would like to do another call on June 26th so please reply to any e-mails you may receive from me or our National Office as it would be good to hear from you before our Convention in August.

I have visited many of the local Chapters in my District and surrounding towns to witness the great work and see how well the Presidents run their meetings. One of the common successes to a Chapter running smoothly is an agenda that is handed out to all in attendance with a listing of different members chairing at least one committee. It allows for the flow of different ideas and gives all the opportunity of feeling that they are contributing. It's much easier chairing or being on at least one committee vs. a few people doing all of the work!

I work with many of our National Officers in the area of Membership, Retention, and Expansion and constantly help our two Chairman, Mark McDade and Tom Vaughan by asking the various Chapters to either run a new membership drive alone if they can or with their District. Tom and I are working closely together on a New York- Manhattan Chapter and Myrtle Beach, South Carolina where we just finished our Mid Year Board Meeting. UNICO hosted a dinner with 9 prospective members as we are working hard to charter a Chapter this year.

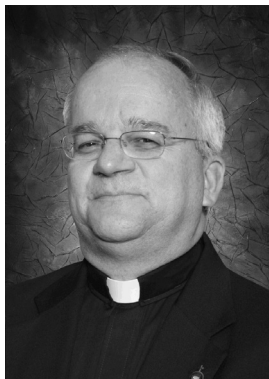
Speaking of new Chapters my travels brought me to Pennsylvania recently as I witnessed the birth of the Keystone Chapter with 144 members! Approximately 90 were new members! Our Membership Chairman Mark McDade is also the Charter President and is to be commended. I have also recently returned from a two day visit to Kansas City, Missouri and met with some of the members of the Kansas City Chapter before attending the Dorothy Varsalona Jimmy "V" Cancer fund raiser Gala that was hosted so graciously by our UNICO Foundation Trustee, Paula Varsalona-Marino. I will be attending the Roseto, Pennsylvania Chapter dinner on April 28, and just attended the 40th Anniversary celebration

of the Passaic Valley Chapter that is run so well by President Steve Pelonero.

Good things are happening and even greater things can happen if we all communicate more, share ideas, and attend the National Meetings and Convention. It is your duty as a Chapter President, District Governor, Delegate, and National Officer. It is your right and a privilege as a member to also be there.

Please help us by allowing us to help you so again all I ask is that you e-mail me back or return a phone call when I reach out to you.

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



### Chaplain's Message: Fr. Bob Wolfee

The Catholic Church considers Pentecost to be the birthday of the Church. On the first Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and other followers of Jesus. They received the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit and were empowered to continue Jesus' work throughout the world.

In July 2008, approximately two hundred thousand young Catholics from all over the world attended World Youth Day. World Youth Day is actually more than a one day event. It is a series of Masses and conferences over a period of many days. The theme that year was taken from Jesus' words in Acts of the Apostles, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness." A song "Receive the Power," reflecting that message was played at every event during the week.

In one of Pope Benedict XVI's reflections during the week, he told the youth that the Holy Spirit would help them use their gifts to make a positive impact on the world. At the final Mass the Pope prayed that "the great assembly which unites young people from every nation under the heaven will be a new Upper Room." He said that the Holy Spirit is always trying to break through out indifference and our spiritual weariness. The Holy Spirit calls us to be witnesses to God's justice, peace and love.

On the first Pentecost, Jesus literally breathed on his disciples, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Although he doesn't literally breathe on us, Jesus wants to breathe his energy into our hearts every day. The spiritual dynamic that was present at that first Pentecost, moving people to love God, to seek out holiness and to come together as a Church is still at work today. All we have to do is quiet our hearts and be still enough to listen to the Holy Spirit's promptings. When we do, the fruits of the Holy Spirit will be manifested in us. Who knows what God is prepared to do through us?

God Bless!

## EDITOR'S DESK



### Editor's Comments: Pat Pelonero

With this issue comes our Memorial Day Holiday. I know you all join me in remembering our Veterans, Police and Firefighters that gave their lives to make our homeland safe and secure. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable holiday that is the kickoff to summer.

I would also like to offer my sincere condolences to the Charles Greenwald Family and to all the UNICO members that were like his family. I know that "Chuck" was revered at UNICO National and served the Organization well in many capacities and he will be deeply missed.

The past few months have been very busy for UNICO with dinners for Scholarships, Brian Piccolo awards and installation of Chapter Officers. UNICO National also had their "Community Service Day". Appearing in this issue you will see the many pictures and stories relating to all the wonderful events held at various Chapters and Districts.

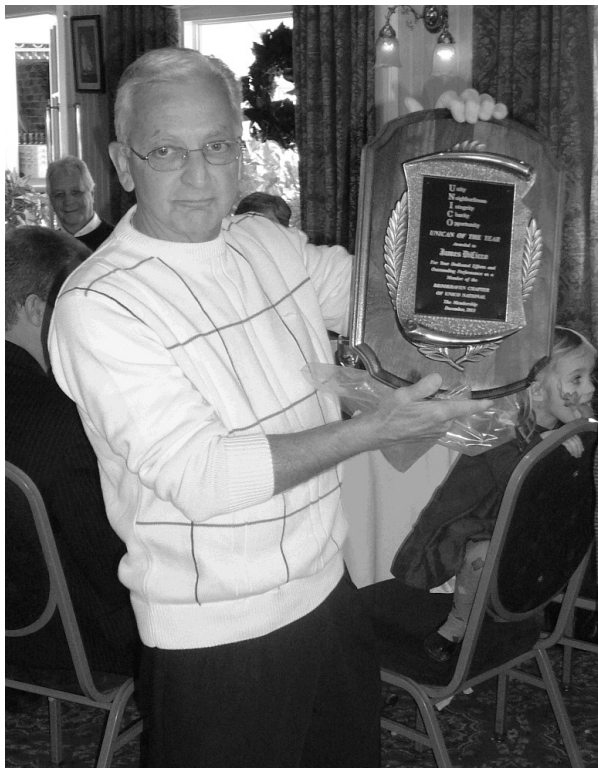
Once again we have an article that features a Chef, Author or Entertainer that is of Italian Heritage in ComUNICO. This issue we have asked a famous Kansas City, Missouri chef and restaurant owner Jasper Mirabile to be featured and he graciously accepted. Jasper is the owner of a restaurant that has been a fixture in Kansas City since 1954, opened by his father Jasper. I and a few other UNICO members have had the pleasure of dining at "Jaspers" and I must say if you are ever in Kansas City, Missouri you need to try this restaurant, you will not be disappointed. Jasper is very familiar with UNICO and donated to "The Dorothy Varsalona Dinner" held in Kansas City with the proceeds going to Foundation's "V" fund. Jasper is known for his "Mozzarella Theater" and teaches everyone how easy it is to make fresh mozzarella. Jasper also is on a radio show out of Kansas City. You can see more of Jasper's activities by going to his website [jasperskc.com](http://jasperskc.com).

See you next issue just in time for the UNICO National 90th Convention!





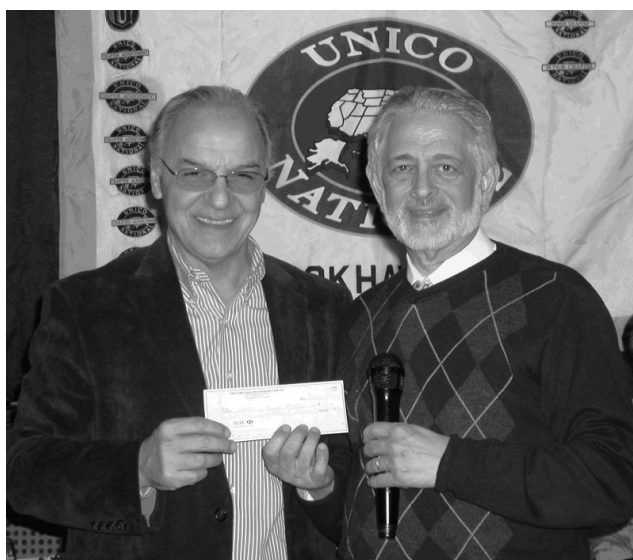
## BROOKHAVEN, NY



*James DiCicco is awarded the Chapter's UNICAN of the Year Award at the annual "Break-fast with Santa" party.*



*At the Chapter's March meeting, Heather Maloney, a Consultant for Mather Hospital's Public Affairs Department presented a slide show and gave a short talk on the importance of reducing sugary drink consumption as it has been linked to obesity and other health related issues.*



*Peter Carravetta, Stony Brook University's "Alphonse D'Amato" Italian Chair, receives an award in furtherance of the Italian Archives project at the University.*

## ELIZABETH, NJ

### LET THE BOCCE BEGIN

It was only after receiving an invitation to The Passaic Valley Chapter of UNICO National Bocce Tournament that we started to discuss amongst the membership, who would be interested in playing bocce. Surprisingly, there were many members who said they would like to play, not only in the April 29<sup>th</sup> tournament, but also on a regular basis. Well that was the impetus that we needed to start looking for a facility to play at and Elizabeth Chapter member, Sal Coppa, said he could get us a bocce court in the Peterstown section of Elizabeth.

So we have put together two teams to enter The Passaic Valley Tournament including Pat Arena, Lou Bani, Sal Coppa, Joe Chiari, Tom Fowler, Henry Marcantonio, Lou DiLeo, and George Marretta. While we are practicing for the upcoming tournament we received interest from other members as well and there are currently about 10-12 Elizabeth Chapter players. With the summer fast approaching, we are hopeful to get 20 bocce players on a regular basis and begin to have social evenings and weekends where we can enjoy the traditional Italian pastime – Bocce.

## GREATER RAMSEY, NJ

### Greater Ramsey UNICO Supports D.A.R.E.

Greater Ramsey UNICO supported the local Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (D.A.R.E.) with a \$500 donation which will be used to help fund D.A.R.E. programs and events. The D.A.R.E. program gives children the life skills they need to avoid involvement with drugs, gangs, and violence, Greater Ramsey UNICO is proud to be a supporter.

For more information about Greater Ramsey UNICO visit: [www.grunico.org](http://www.grunico.org)



*From left: Donna Bradshaw, Greater Ramsey UNICO 2nd Vice President; Steve Wekar, Greater Ramsey UNICO Treasurer; Tim Shoemaker, Ramsey Patrol Officer and Joe Tredici, Greater Ramsey UNICO 1st Vice President.*



## SPARTA, NJ

A little rainy and cold but the kids were great! Sparta UNICO's Annual Easter Egg Hunt was another great success! The kids found over 1000 Easter Eggs filled with candy. We also gave away dozens of Easter Baskets and two bikes. The bikes were donated by Dawn Corbo, a local realtor.



*The event was run by The Easter Bunny (center of the photo for those who do not recognize him) and Tom Cifelli, a long time Sparta UNICO member. Also pictured are Jack and Mike Shaaf, Gary D'Uva, Sparta UNICO President and Peter Trusio.*

Visit our Website at  
[WWW.UNICO.ORG](http://WWW.UNICO.ORG)

## BETHLEHEM, PA

### HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

The Bethlehem Chapter of UNICO celebrated 25 of service to the Bethlehem Community on April 27, 2012, at the Green Pond Country Club on Farmersville Road, Bethlehem Township, Pennsylvania.

The chief charitable program that the Chapter has supported from its beginning is the awarding of a \$1,000 College Scholarship to high school seniors, of Italian heritage, from Bethlehem Catholic High School, Freedom High School, Liberty High School and Saucon Valley High School. The Chapter annually supports the Dream Come True Program. In addition, each year, we choose one other local charity to support financially.

The Chapter has reinstituted celebration of Columbus Day in October. This past year we initiated an Italian Fest in October at Bethlehem Catholic High School. Bethlehem Catholic High also has formed an Italian Club, to interest the youth in learning about their Italian Heritage and involving them in charitable works for the community.

The Chapter is always interested in recruiting new members to join. The only requirement is being Italian or being married to a person of Italian heritage. Women are most welcome. At present there are forty-eight members. We hope to add twenty-five members for 2012. Contact Gus Concilio at (610) 866-7214 or E-Mail at [MayGusC@aol.com](mailto:MayGusC@aol.com) for more information.



## MONTVILLE, NJ

Montville UNICO Chapter honored St. Joseph's Day with a presentation of the traditional assorted breads and sweets at the March general meeting.



*Father Tom Fallone, Montville Chapter Chaplin, provided a short program about St. Joseph.*



*Tutty Giordano organized and presented the St. Joseph Day program.*



*Assorted breads and sweets are served at the celebration.*



## CLARK, NJ

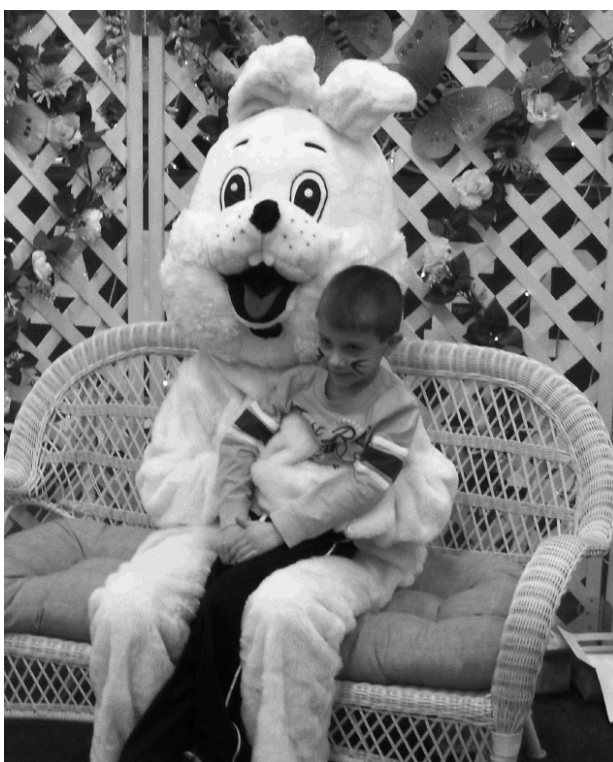
Clark UNICO recently had a new sign made for the Department of Public Works of Clark for all the help they give us during the Italian Feast we hold every year plus all the good they do for the town during the year.



*From left: Dan Violante, Bob Spinella, President Ralph Bernardo, George Abruzzo and Henry Varriano.*



*Four new members were sworn into the Clark Chapter on April 3rd at the monthly meeting. Bill Hearon Past District Governor swore each member in. From left: President Ralph Bernardo, New Members Marcus Sanguliano and Danielle Sanguliano, Past District Governor Bill Hearon and New Members Anthony Delconte and John De Marco. Congratulations and welcome!*



*Clark Recreation held its Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31st with over 450 children in attendance. UNICO member Karen Bernardo played the Easter Bunny. The event was free to all residents and made possible by the generous donations of various businesses and Clark UNICO.*



*Clark Township held the Annual Little League and Girls softball parade celebrating opening day. The Clark UNICO Chapter sponsors teams in both divisions along with Babe Ruth. The Clark Chapter was on the parade route cheering on our sponsored teams.*

## NJ DISTRICT VII

The New Jersey District VII Brian Piccolo Award Dinner was held recently at the Venetian Restaurant. Winners from the Chapters in the District were presented with plaques acknowledging their achievements.



*From left: Father Wolfie, National President Glenn Pettinato, Don Bosco Football Coach Greg Toal, 1st Lady Terri Pettinato, Maria Contini, New Jersey VII Governor Ralph Contini and Lyndhurst Chapter President Patty Hirsch.*



*Patty Hirsch, New Jersey VII Governor Ralph Contini, National President Glenn Pettinato, 1st Lady Terri Pettinato and Greg Toal are pictured with The Brian Piccolo Award winners.*





## FARMINGTON, CT

Borden W. Painter, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut presented "Mussolini's Rome" at the Farmington Library on April 4th. The lecture was sponsored by the Farmington Chapter of UNICO to promote Italian culture.

Rome was Mussolini's obsession. After coming to power as a result of his famed march on the city in 1922, he promised Italians that his fascist revolution would unite them as never before and make Italy a major power on the world stage. In the next two decades, Mussolini set about rebuilding Rome. Through an ambitious program of demolition and construction, he sought to make Rome a capital that both embraced modernity while preserving and glorifying the city's ancient past. Building the new Rome put people to work, "liberated" ancient monuments from cluttered surroundings, cleared slums; produced giant complexes for education, sports, and cinema; produced wide new boulevards and piazzas; and provided the regime with a showcase for the supposed grandeur, dynamism, and power of fascism. "Mussolini's Rome: Rebuilding the Eternal City", a book written by Borden Painter, reveals Mussolini's historically significant and lasting impact on the city to which millions flock each year.

## MUSSOLINI'S ROME



BORDEN W. PAINTER, JR.

**The DEADLINE for the July Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, June 18, 2012.**

Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org).

ComUNICO will only accept high resolution digital photos and text in MS Word or in the body of an e-mail.

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

## VERONA, NJ



*The Verona Chapter welcomes three new members. From left: New Jersey District XI Governor Gino Lolocono, new members John Terzo, Roseanne Chanley and Rick Lodato, Chapter President Linda-Gail Alati and Membership Chairman Frank DiRocco.*

## ISLIP/ SMITHTOWN, NY

On Friday March 30, 2012 the Islip/Smithtown Chapter held a very successful 2nd Annual Wine Tasting Charity Fund Raiser with all proceeds going towards the Chapter's charitable efforts. The fund raiser was held at The Wine Guy in Smithtown, Long Island. The Wine Guy in conjunction with Palm Bay International Distributors kindly provided all the hors d'oeuvres and Italian wines for the occasion. Gary Carpenter, Chapter member and 2nd Vice President coordinated the event. Gary invested much time and effort in producing this successful affair for our Chapter. Samples of the numerous Italian wines tasted are: Alta Luna Pinot Grigio, Travaglini Gattinara (why is the bottle shaped that way?), Rocca Della Macie Roccato and Bertani Villa Arvedi Amarone. One of the highlights of the evening was a contest to guess who the first President of Italy was. The winner was Ennio Cosentino, a guest, who received two bottles of Italian wines for his correct answer of Luigi Einaudi.



*Standing from left: President Joseph Petito, The Wine Guy Owner John Volpi, Chapter Membership Chairman Nicholas Romano and Chapter 2nd Vice President Gary Carpenter. Kneeling: Aldo Sergovich Regional Director of Palm Bay International.*

*The UNICO National Staff wishes you and yours a happy and safe Memorial Day!*



*From left: Ennio Cosentino, contest winner and his wife Isabell, Past President American Association of Teachers of Italian, Long Island Chapter; Aldo Sergovich, Regional Director of Palm Bay International and Chapter 2nd Vice President Gary Carpenter.*



*Aldo Sergovich Regional Director of Palm Bay International describes the wine tasting selections to Chapter members and guests.*



*From left: Kathleen Fenton, Senior Child Life Specialist at Good Samaritan Hospital; Chapter Members Jeanne D'Agostino, Roseann Iavarone (Bunny), Lee Sarcona and Carol Lynch, and Nancy Kennedy, Child Life Specialist at Good Samaritan join a special little girl patient in front.*





# SCHOLARSHIP



## UNICO National Scholarship Report: Joan Tidona

### Scholarships and Anti-Bias

UNICO National members proudly stand up for our heritage. The Anti-Bias Committee, under the direction of Dr. Manny Alfano and Past National President André DiMino, has long been in the forefront of the battle against egregious bigotry. It's not always easy! The biggest obstacle to correction is the participation in and the acceptance of vilification by some people of our own ethnicity. How many times do we hear that we should "lighten up?" How often are we told, "But, it's funny"? Certainly, if we all said, "BASTA" and took appropriate action, we could affect improvement. Other groups have been successful.

While, as an Italian American service organization, we feel compelled to address this issue, you might wonder what it has to do with scholarships.

Regrettably, if you are Italian American, you have most likely, at some time or another, been subjected to prejudice and discrimination. I'm sure those who have had this experience remember it vividly; I know I do. Unfortunately, our young people are not immune.

Negative stereotyping is a powerful force in promoting and justifying bias. Denigrating and defaming portrayals of Italian Americans, which began long ago, continue with a vengeance. On any given day, you will come across flagrant slurs aimed at Italian Americans. The problem is pervasive. It is especially deplorable when perpetrated, or condoned, by those who share our background.

Experts tell us that incessant stereotyping and disparagement can cause such depictions to be accepted as fact; to shape expectations and judgments. Such perceptions serve to permit, justify and endorse discriminatory practice. To promote and reinforce damaging stereotypes allows for and encourages unimaginable consequences.

The young Italian American students nominated for our scholarships are remarkable. Their many accomplishments are amazing. The academic achievements of these students are outstanding; their extra curricular activities and community service projects are exceptional.

All candidates are worthy of recognition and respect. They bring tremendous honor to their families and pride to those who share their heritage. Our nominees are truly representative of Italian American youth. While many of their contributions already benefit society, we can only imagine the positive impact they will have on the future.

These students and others like them – no matter how hard they work, no matter how talented they are – will likely encounter bias and

discriminatory actions. Consequently, young Italian Americans may be treated unfairly and denied opportunities.

Our young people deserve a decent chance. If we don't work to make that happen, who will? Shouldn't we attempt to affect improvement?

## FAIRFIELD, NJ

The Irene storm, this past summer caused total devastation to the prominent Italian town of Fairfield. Over 600 homes were affected by the flood waters that followed. Families lost everything in their homes, from personal items stored in basements, to losing the first floor of their household. Through the disaster families were unable to get to their homes. After the storm subsided a ten year old boy Anthony Sangillo with the help of his cousins and friends opened a lemonade stand. The youthful crew raised money to help those families who got hit the hardest from the flood. On the first day they ran out of lemons, local business's donated everyday household items for them to sale to continue to raise funds. In three days they accumulated four hundred dollars, and through the generosity of the Sangillo family they matched the amount. When the grandfather Ralph Sangillo heard what his family did, he doubled the amount. Daniel Sangillo (father of Anthony Sangillo) who is a member of Fairfield UNICO Chapter, and Sergeant-at-Arms donated the funds to the Fairfield Chapter with the intentions of helping Fairfield families, especially one family in particular, the Barnes family. Not only did they lose their entire home, but a few days later their oldest son who is only ten years of age was diagnosed with a form of Leukemia.

Fred Mongelli, President of the Fairfield Chapter told this story at one of the New Jersey District XI meetings and was rushed with donations from all the Chapters in the District including the Denville Chapter who also had their own flood victims. National President Glenn Pettinato contacted the Fairfield Chapter and also donated funds to help out, through the generosity of the National Chapters.

On behalf of the Fairfield Chapter and the community, the President of the Fairfield Chapter Fred Mongelli would like to thank all of those involved in aiding the families who fell victim of the flood, on trying to get them back on their feet. This act of thoughtfulness will never be forgotten. Donations are still being excepted, payable to the Fairfield UNICO Flood victims, P.O. Box 11302 Fairfield, N.J. 07004.



Little brothers Nicky and Joey Barnes opening gifts.

First Lady Michele Mongelli of the Fairfield Chapter held her own fund raiser for the Barnes family. With the aid of her own family, neighbors and close friends she received donations to make the Barnes Family Christmas a little brighter. A few days before Christmas, President Fred Mongelli, and First Lady Michele went to the Hackensack Hospital where Joey Barnes was being treated for Leukemia. They brought gifts for the entire family. On behalf of the Fairfield UNICO and the community we wish God speed to Joey Barnes recovery. Donations are still being excepted, payable to the Fairfield UNICO, Joey Barnes and send to: Fairfield UNICO P.O. Box 11302 Fairfield, N.J. 07004.



From left: First Lady Michele Mongelli, the Barnes Family and Fairfield President Fred Mongelli.

The Fairfield Chapter held its Annual Charter Night Dinner Dance at the Valley Regency, in Clifton, New Jersey on March 10, 2012. This year's honoree and Man-of-the Year award was presented to John La Forgia, for of his commitment to the Fairfield Chapter and the community. He holds a seat as Broad of Directors and also with Bob Alfano runs our Annual Golf Outing, which is one of our biggest fund raiser, and will be held on May 18th, 2012 at the Sky View Golf Club. Please contact Bob Alfano via e-mail at bob@robellgroup.com if interested in attending.

President Fred Mongelli would like to thank everyone who attended the event, and making it another successful fund raiser. A special thank you to the First Lady of Fairfield Michele Mongelli in helping the President plan the venue, and also Bruce Puleo, Chapter Secretary, who put the beautiful ad journal together.



From left: John La Forgia, Fred Mongelli and Joe Catenaro.





## MEDIA, PA



*Seated from left: Marty Argentieri, Larry Farnese, Carmen Iluiano, Anthony Romano and Charles Muldoon. Standing: Anthony Cirineo, Anthony Racó and Louis Verdecchio attend a recent dinner meeting.*

## WILKES BARRE, PA

The Wilkes Barre Chapter hosted their Annual Pig Roast fund raiser in February. As always many members from other UNICO Chapters in the Tri-State area were in attendance.



*From left: Bill Anzalone, National President Glenn Pettinato and Executive Vice Dave Donnini.*



*From left: Dominick Ortolani, UNICO National Executive Vice Dave Donnini, Bernie Brutto, UNICO Foundation Member Joe Cerullo and Joe Pierangeli.*

## LIVINGSTON, NJ

### ITALIAN AFS STUDENTS MAKE PRESENTATION AT LIVINGSTON UNICO MEETING

Two Italian students, living with American families, presented their views of living in this country with an American family and how it differs from their home country. One student, Maria Benvenuti from Rome, lives with a family in Livingston; a second student, Valentina Volpaccio from Rome, lives with a family in Chatham, New Jersey.

The presentation was made at Livingston UNICO's monthly meeting on March 21st during which each student gave insights to their experiences living with an American family and attending a high school. One of the marked differences is the rigidity of the daily school programs in Italy where the students remain in the same schoolroom and teachers are rotated. Both girls enjoyed the freedom and openness in American high schools where the both students and teachers change class rooms between periods. This allows far greater interaction between students and faculty during inter period breaks.

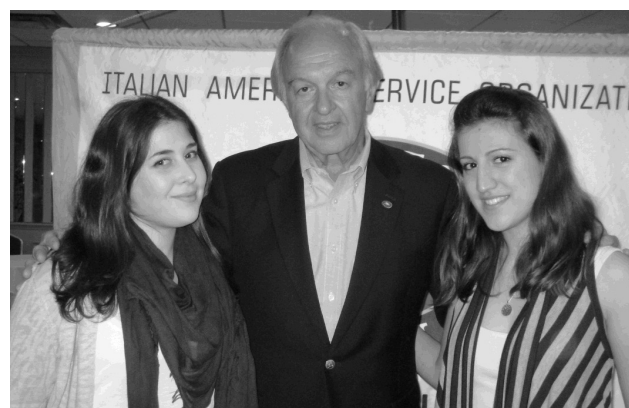
Since Italy is one of the countries that have a passion for food, they were asked about their experience with our local restaurants. They enjoyed the variety of foods available here; and, when asked about their favorite American food, the surprising answer was PEANUT BUTTER. This is a food that is not available in Italy and both will return to Italy with hopes of bring some back with them.

The American host families attended the meeting and provided their experiences with the Italian students. The Berger family was given only 3 days advance notice; they recently had Maria Benvenuti join their household and very pleased she is assimilating into the family and her life at Livingston High School. The Faran's had more time to plan and their relationship with Valentina has had time to mature; they have become very close and dread the day she will return to Italy.

The Farnan's are hosting Valentina Volpaccio in their Chatham home. She is attends Chatham High School.



*From left: Nancy Venza, UNICO Program Manager; Barbara Berger, Livingston Host; Maria Benvenuti, Italian Student; Sue Fershing, AFS Administrator; Valentina Volpaccio, Italian Student and Cathy Farnan, Chatham Host.*



*From left: Maria Benvenuti, Livingston UNICO President Al Branchi and Valentina Volpaccio.*

## GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA



*On November 11, 2011 Frank Ermilio, Jr. presented Peter D. Carlino with the 2011 Greater Philadelphia Chapter of UNICO Community Leadership Award.*



*Bart Caprario and Jody Arena from the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of UNICO present Drexel University with a check for \$50,000 to endow the New Age Realty Scholarship Fund.*

## CORRECTIONS AND OMISSIONS

ComUNICO March 2012, Volume 67, Issue 03 – Page 24, Kansas City Chapter President Michael Mange was pictured with his wife Teresa at the Dorothy Varsalona Cancer Gala.

ComUNICO March 2012, Volume 67, Issue 03 – Page 26, Convention Bowl-A-Thon Picture: Fourth picture should read Dave D'Arco not Dave Donnini.

ComUNICO March 2012, Volume 67, Issue 03 – Page 28, Our Story was written by Nutley Chapter Member Steve Mairella not Joseph Rocco Cervasio as noted in the article. Please see Our Story in this issue for Mr. Cervasio's story.

**To Advertise in ComUNICO: Contact the UNICO National Office at 973-808-0035 or e-mail at [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)**



## EXPANSION



**Expansion  
Director  
Thomas Vaughan**

Congratulations and welcome to the Keystone, Pennsylvania Chapter, the newest Chapter in UNICO National! I had the privilege to host the Charter Night celebration on April 14 at Fiorelli's in Peckville. Almost 200 people attended the evening's festivities which were highlighted by the induction of our Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade as the Chapter President and the presentation of the Charter by National President Glenn Pettinato and First Lady Terri. Keystone has almost 150 members, which makes it one of, if not the largest, Chapter charter in UNICO history; and more than half are brand new members. Congratulations to Mark and Past District Governor Peter Noto and to Charter Night co-Chairs Cathy Gerard and Michele McDade. It was a fabulous event.

In other Expansion news, Past Expansion Director Gerry Heytink and I spent a memorable 18 hour day together traveling to Delaware and Maryland in March. We drove down and met Maryland 1 District Governor Mary Theresa Morrison at her house in Rehoboth Beach and proceeded to meet members of the still aspiring Ocean City Chapter for lunch. After a very encouraging meeting there, we drove to Millsboro, Delaware for a meeting with two groups, one from Dover and one from Millsboro. We met at Luca Ristorante whose owners, David and Christine Jones (he's Sicilian and proudly flies a Sicilian flag outside) hosted a dinner for all of us. Over a delicious meal of lasagna we introduced UNICO to the prospective members and left them with plenty of material. Gerry and I were even able to attend a Rehoboth Beach Chapter Board of Directors meeting. We really enjoyed meeting several members and had a great exchange of ideas. My new best buddy Gerry and I ended our 600 mile round trip day very hopeful about new Chapters. I want to congratulate Gerry on being selected as the 2012 Vastola Award winner and thank him for his assistance that day and in preparing me for the Keystone Chapter Charter. Also thanks to Mary Theresa for all of her help and her unflagging enthusiasm for our organization.

In other news, 2<sup>nd</sup> National Vice President Rick D'Arminio and I are working on a Manhattan Chapter. We recently held a conference call with three people interested in organizing a mid-town Chapter and mailed them a package of materials. Rick also helped in organizing a get-together at the Mid-Year Board of Directors meeting in Myrtle Beach with about 50 UNICANs and ten people interested in starting a Chapter there with

Don Piccolo. The dinner was held at Lombardo's, whose owner John Lombardo, is looking forward to being a member and hosting Chapter events at his restaurant. One of the Myrtle Beach attendees addressed the group and promised that there "will be" a Chapter in Myrtle Beach. Good fun and good food were enjoyed by all. I am working on those and other prospects. Until next time!

## PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

Point Pleasant Members Rich Canale, Carl Johnson, John Pusterla and Charlie Brema have organized several innovative and fun projects for fund raising this year. These four members all hail from Union City and have been active members of Point Pleasant UNICO for the past four years. Their UNICO Super Bowl and Spring Jelly Bean Contest not only added some excitement to regular dinner meetings but also added needed funds to the Chapter's Scholarship account.



*From left: Richard Canale, Carl Johnson, John Pusterla and Charles Brema.*

New Jersey District I Governor Grace Gynn introduced member Josephine Bellino to the Point Pleasant St. Joseph's Day Dinner meeting attendees. Josephine, who serves as the Chapter's Hospitality Chairperson, greets each member at the front door and also makes certain all dinner payments are collected promptly, with a smile. Speaker for the evening was Zeke Zaccaro, Chapter Italian Heritage Chairperson. Zeke gave an interesting history of the formation of Italy to present day. He also made available signed copies of "Unto the Sons" by Gay Talese. Special thanks to member and Chef Joseph Spano for providing a unique and delicious feast for this event and every UNICO meeting.



*New Jersey District I Governor Grace Gynn and Josephine Bellino celebrate St. Joseph's Day in Point Pleasant.*

## CEDAR GROVE, NJ

Cedar Grove UNICO held its Annual Easter Egg hunt, Saturday, April 7th at Cedar Grove's Community Park. More than 200 children participated in the hunt for eggs containing candy, small toys and prizes. Everyone was searching for the golden eggs which were separated into three age groups with an Easter Basket for the winner of each age group. The age groups are 0-2 years old; 3-5 years old and 6-8 years old. There was also a jar to guess the number of jelly beans and the winner received an Easter Basket full of goodies.

No Easter Egg Hunt would be complete without an appearance by the Easter Bunny. The bunny of course was the star of the hunt, he helped the kids search for and reach eggs in high up places, posed for photos, gave high-fives, and it wouldn't be complete without a trip down the slide.

Another year, another successful Easter Egg Hunt!



*The Easter Bunny had some special helpers throughout the day, Cedar Grove UNICO members from left: Christina DeFresco, Christina Brindisi, and Nicole Brindisi.*



*The Easter Bunny takes a break with Cedar Grove UNICO President John Borgese.*



# UNICO PHOTOGRAPHER

**Steve Pelonero**

**Smile, you may be on the UNICO Camera**

While I was at the recent March Mid Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and taking all of the pictures that I do, I was asked by some of the members (as I frequently am) to send them the pictures that I took of them. Did you know that you can see them all on the [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org) website in the "Photo Gallery Section"? And did you know that you can also "right click" on any of the pictures and save them?

There are currently over 120 different albums, with a total of over 4,500 pictures (and always still growing and being added to), all on line that can be copied and saved to your own Picture Folder in your computer.

When you get to the "Photo Gallery Section" just left click on the "Picasa Logo" and the albums open up. Then click on the album of your interest (the most recent is always shown on the top). From regional meetings, to conventions, to fund raisers, to chapter events, it's all there. If I was there, then your pictures are there as well. You can also submit your own pictures to the website by sending me an e-mail to [UNICOpictures@gmail.com](mailto:UNICOpictures@gmail.com) ... But remember, the website pictures do not get forwarded to ComUNICO, that's another e-mail that you have to send to [ComUNICO@unico.org](mailto:ComUNICO@unico.org).

It's just another way to keep our UNICO heritage live ... "Thanks for the Memories"



## PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



The Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter swore in its 72nd member at their April meeting. Welcomed into their Chapter is Elaine Giordano from Totowa, New Jersey. From the left: Darlene Post sponsor, Elaine Giordano, and Steve Pelonero, Chapter President.

## 40 Years of Service

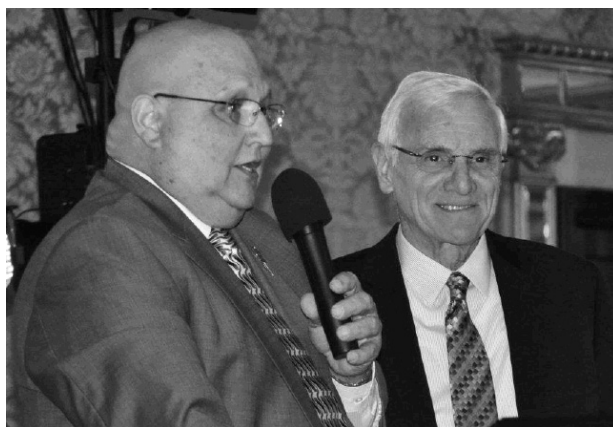
The Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter celebrated their 40th year of "Service Above Self" on April 18th, 2012 at the Venetian in Garfield, New Jersey.

Originally Chartered 40 years ago as the Little Falls Chapter, they changed their name in 1986 to Passaic Valley UNICO and have continued to serve the towns of Little Falls, Totowa, and Woodland Park in their New Jersey District IV area. With a current membership of 72 members, the evening was celebrated with the attendance of the UNICO National President, Glenn Pettinato and his wife and First Lady Terri Pettinato. Also present were many other National Officers, local Chapters and their Presidents, family members and friends. Chapter President Steve Pelonero welcomed everyone with some bringing introductions and then turned the evening over to their Master of Ceremonies Anthony Nappi, their longest and still active member from over 25 years ago. Also in attendance was an original Charter member James Cestone, as well as many of their other current and long time members. With entertainment provided by singers Julian and Dominique, everyone enjoyed the evening with a 6:30 cocktail hour, followed by more introductions and then dinner from 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

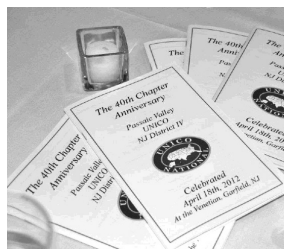
Over the years, the Passaic Valley Chapter has brought to UNICO National a Past National President, Joseph Agresti, 2 District Governors, John Morano and Chuck Russo, an Eastern Regional District Governor and National Sergeant-at-Arms John Morano and also the current UNICO National Photographer who took the evening off to help celebrate it with his Chapter.

Their Chapter was originally sponsored by the Passaic/Clifton Chapter (back then known as the Passaic Chapter) who has also recently celebrated their 50th Chapter Anniversary. At that time, the Passaic Chapter President and now Past National President Joseph Coccia, was the sponsoring Chapter President.

The Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter wishes to thank everyone for their support in this momentous occasion for their members. Please visit their Chapter via their website at [www.PVUNICO.com](http://www.PVUNICO.com) and also ask them to be your facebook friend at [www.facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO](http://www.facebook.com/PassaicValleyUNICO)



Past National President Joe Agresti and Master of Ceremonies Anthony Nappi welcome members and guests to the night's festivities.



Chapter President Steve Pelonero and Past National President Joe Agresti receive a Proclamation from Congressman Bill Pascrell. The Proclamation was presented by Passaic/Clifton Chapter President Dave D'Arco.



Seated from left: Kathleen Baumgard, Charter Member Jim Cestone and Rich and Lorraine Polizzi. Standing from left: Pat and Ronnie Corrado, Pat and Victoria Ferro and Helen and Tony Triolo.



Passaic Valley's Executive Board gather for a picture. From left: Dominick Bucci, John Barbieri, Bob Appaluccio, Paul DeAppolonio, Bruce Ponchak, Steve Pelonero.



From left: Linda and Carmen Gaita, are joined by Carmella Gaeta.



Joe Agresti and John Morano review last minute details.



## KANSAS CITY, MO

The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National is preparing for its Annual Festa Italiana, which will be held June 1-3. The Festa is our largest fund raising event, with proceeds used to fund our on-going scholarship program.

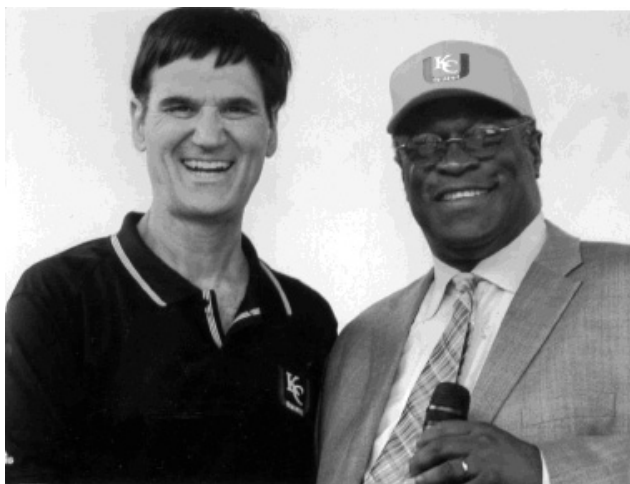
The UNICO Scholarship Committee headed by Chairman David Sullivan spent long hours reviewing applicants and their qualifications with recommendations from area high school educators. The Kansas City Chapter is proud to confirm that \$54,500 will be awarded on Sunday, June 3rd, at 2:00 PM at a special awards and scholarship program held on the main stage at the Festa. The 2012 scholarship amount surpassed the total of \$52,000 that was awarded in 2011.

Last year more than 100,000 people attended this gala family event, enjoying authentic Italian food, beverages, games, and continuous live music and entertainment. Featured 2012 entertainers will include Louis Prima Jr. and The Rat Pack Reprise from Las Vegas. Special thanks to Entertainment Chairman Jerry Viviano and the countless hours he donates to schedule and organize the entire entertainment program.

Kansas City UNICO continues to expand and achieve with a talented and diverse group of old and new members capable of planning, staffing and organizing the entire Festa under the guidance of Chairman Frank Cherrito and designated committees, striving to surpass and improve upon past success and future endeavors.

In 2011 the Kansas City Chapter nominated its 2009 Brian Piccolo Award and academic scholarship recipient Ivan Charbonneau as a candidate for UNICO National's D.M. Nigro Award for Amateur Athletics. Following last year's winner, Kansas City UNICO submitted another former Piccolo and scholarship winner, Chris Castelluccio, a football running back and honor scholar at Washington University in St. Louis. Chris not only excels in football but has a double major in Finance and International Business and a minor in Accounting. He studied in London recently and is UNICO National's 2012 D.M. Nigro Award winner.

Former UNICO National President Andre' DiMino plans to attend the Festa for a third consecutive visit and Chris DiMattio hopes to attend as well.



*Festa Italiana Entertainment Chairman Jerry Viviano is pictured with Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Sly James.*



*Chapter President Michael Mange is pictured with and Festa Italiana Chairman and Past Chapter President Frank Cherrito.*



*Past National President Andre DiMino is pictured with long-time Kansas City UNICAN Tommy Rago.*

Unico is currently selling Family and Business banners that will be displayed at this year's event.

### "La Dolce Vita Banners"

#### HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO:

- \* DISPLAY YOUR FAMILY NAME!
- \* IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE!
- \* DISPLAY YOUR BUSINESS NAME!

#### New This Year!

Add a photo for an extra \$25 send any size photo that you would like displayed on your banner and we'll enlarge it.

Size: 2ft x 2ft  
with color  
Cost: \$100  
(with Photo \$125)

#### Please write clearly how you'd like banner to read:

#### Use your Family Name or Business

You can place any information you'd like on the banner. Most people place their family last name or in memory of someone. Most businesses place their name, good luck, grazie, etc. You can take your banner home at the end of the event.

Checks Payable to Unico

Please Print Your Phone #:

**Mail to:** Frank Cherrito  
5641 N. Ames Ave.  
Kansas City, Mo 64151  
816-985-3192

**"La Dolce Vita Banners"**



## HERITAGE AND CULTURE



### Sal Mangano Chair

Time just seems to fly. It feels like I stood in front of you yesterday in Washington, DC. But that was last August. It is now mid-year of another administration. So let me start by thanking President Pettinato for re-appointing me as Chair of this important Committee.

This year the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee will continue getting the word out to Chapters and Districts to celebrate our rich heritage.

I want to stress the importance of continuing to keep our Italian heritage alive and well through UNICO National and America. It is most important today because of the continued stereotyping of Italian Americans that occurs in today's media. It seems as though there are more new shows that blatantly defame Italian Americans. I speak of programs like "Jersey Shore, New Jersey Housewives and now Mob Wives." Not only that but we are inundated with repeats of other stereotypical programs like "The Sopranos and The Godfather Trilogy" along with others.

This is why we must learn to use our heritage as a tool to gather new members in our UNICO Chapters. This is a tool that will bring a great crop of new members that are proud of their Italian Heritage and ready to work on the Chapter and National levels to fight this discrimination.

Once again I must reiterate that we need more programs that embrace our culture and heritage on the Chapter level. We need to remember that it is our Italian Heritage that creates the common bond that keeps us together. Every Chapter must establish Italian heritage programs whether they are educational events or social events along with of our charitable work.

Successful combined Italian Heritage/Membership Drive programs must be continued on the Chapter level. Information for establishing such programs is available from your National Office.

The Membership and Retention Committee must continue to use this tool in their quest for new members. We want to see our two Committees working together in this area. This is the formula for success. The continued success and growth of UNICO National is our main goal.

We must never ever forget the suffering many of our parents and grandparents experienced during their transition here in America. They paved the way for us to live a life that was not available to them in Italy.

In closing, I hope you are enjoying this year's stories (Actor Henry Armetta and Valentine's Day in Italy) that have been published in ComUNICO, as much I enjoy researching them.

"Uniti Sempre Avanti"



# UNICO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

As a new feature/returning feature to ComUNICO we will be spotlighting the new Members added since our last edition. We apologize in advance for anyone missed, or names misspelled. If you notice a new member missing or name misspelled, please notify the National Office.

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

## MARCH/APRIL

### BETHLEHEM

John F. Spirk, Jr.

### BRIDGEPORT

Benigno Fronsaglia

### CHICAGO SOUTH

Rosario Caprio  
Bobby Capuani  
Larry Christensen  
Andrew M. Trippi

### DENVILLE

Susan Vicario Penney

### FAIRFIELD

Joseph Arcata  
Gerald Christy  
Johh Davis  
Rocco Fiataruolo

### GREATER RAMSEY

Kathryn Landi  
Antonina Small  
Christopher J. Battaglia

### HILLSBOROUGH

Vincent Amendolare  
Mariann Cialdella

### KANSAS CITY

Anthony Bruno  
Daniel Joseph Poupey

### PASSAIC/CLIFTON

Frank T. Giardina

### ROSETO

Samuel D'Alessandro  
Annemarie T. Robertone  
Anita Dotta Price

### SAN DIEGO

Alexander Pellegrino  
Charles L. Vecchio  
Paul J. Gitnik

### UNION

Sophie Zinkiewitz

### CHICAGO WEST SUBURBAN

George Dicks  
Joseph V. Mollica  
Mike Tenerelli  
Nick Tenerelli  
Mario P. Veltri, Jr.  
George Walsh

### CLARK

Federico Gallo  
Travis Smith  
Joseph Sortino  
Natalia Zaviysky

### GARFIELD

Tony Lio

### GREATER RAMSEY

Kathleen Hewitt

### HILLSBOROUGH

John Lombardi

### MILWAUKEE

Elizabeth Anne Ceraso

### MONTCLAIR

Anthony M. Scarano

### ROSETO

Joseph Capozzolo  
Frank Sperrazza

### SAN ANTONIO

Mary P. Mangiapane  
Michael Mangiapane

### VERONA

Mark Eulie  
Rick Lodato  
Lynne Mortimer

### WAYNE

Raymond Zachmann

The Keystone Chapter of UNICO National was Chartered on April 14, 2012 with 136 Charter Members.

Lisa Balcerzak  
Lori Baress  
Jean Barnaba  
Kenneth Barnansky  
Marci Barnansky  
Dean Barone  
Cesira Berardelli  
Grace Berardi  
Gregg Betti  
Carl Bianchi  
Cathy Bianchi  
Patricia Bryla  
Sue Burti  
Estelle Byers  
Santo Cancelleri  
Thomas C. Carlucci  
Thomas N. Carlucci  
Ann Marie Carter  
Paul Catalano  
Frank Cimini  
Joseph Cimini  
Rev. Joe Cipriano  
Barbara Colangelo  
Robert Collins  
Sandra Collins  
Elizabeth Cook  
Frank Coviello  
Mary Ann Coviello  
Sally Cruciani  
Alphonse D'Amario  
Gaetano DePalma  
Mary DePalma  
Ernie DeStefano  
Lenora DelVecchio  
Margie DelVecchio  
Gene DiVizio  
Toni DiVizio  
Rose Ann Dougherty  
Ann Marie Evers  
Steven Evers  
Niccole Fent  
Robert Fiorelli  
Joanne Fumanti  
Anthony Garzella  
Joseph Gentile  
Catherine Gerard  
Sharon Gombita  
Autumn Gramigna  
Michael Gramigna  
Nanine Gramigna  
Elvira Grasso  
Vincent Grattolino

Elizabeth Hylton  
Carmela Iannetta  
Loree Jannicelli  
Thomas Jimmie  
Dolores Juliano  
Teresa Karsnak  
Basil Kleha  
Debbie Kleha  
Marie Lalli  
Edward Latarewicz  
Lenore Latarewicz  
Joanne Ligorio  
Ronald Liput  
Lori Macciocco  
James Mack Jr.  
James Mack Sr.  
Mary Mack  
Claire Maldonato  
Mary Rose Malia  
Frances Marrazzo  
Peter Mataloni  
Judith Ann McCauley  
Jennifer McDade  
Mark E. McDade  
Mark P. McDade  
Michael McDade  
Michele McDade  
Cherie' Mecca  
Dolores Mecca  
John N. Mecca  
John R. Mecca  
Michael Mecca II  
Anthony Medici  
Pauline Medico  
Julie Mele  
Joseph Michalczyk  
Lenore Mills  
Fred Mitchell  
Gail Morell  
Nick Morell  
Frank Muto  
Peter Noto  
Sallie Noto  
Anthony Pacifico  
Louis Palazzi, Jr.  
James Palumbo  
Marc Pane  
Annette Profera  
John A. Rettura  
John Anthony Rettura  
Theodore Riggi  
Valerie Riggi

Mary Rinaldi  
Gloria Rizzo  
Richard Mark Roani  
Adeline Rocco  
Dennis Ross  
Tony Rossi  
Patricia Roughan  
Marguerite Ruggiero  
Joseph Sadowski  
Karen Lee Sadowski  
Marie Scaringi  
Mario Sebastianelli  
Mark Serrenti Jr.  
Frani Shannon  
Robert Siragusa  
Shirley Siragusa  
Jay Sochoka  
Sheryl Lynn Sochoka  
Francesco Stoppini  
Mary Ann Stoppini  
Ann Summa  
Shirley Swinick  
Matilda Tarantini  
Patrick Tarantini  
Joseph Tropeano  
Raymond Tropeano  
Theresa Tropeano  
Leonard Verrastro  
Leonard Vinciguerra  
Marilyn Vitali  
Lorraine Vitris  
Annette Wormuth





# MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION



**Membership  
and Retention  
Director  
Mark McDade**

Now that we are in the home stretch of our fiscal year for UNICO, there are several topics that come to mind.

## Financial Obligations:

All Chapters should have their First Half per capita in by July 1st. Now is a good time to get your annual Chapter dues notices out. That gives you plenty of time to fulfill this annual financial obligation. Don't ever allow this to lapse or get the best of your Chapter. It also makes your Chapter eligible to send your allotted number of delegates to this year's 90th UNICO National Convention at Marco Island. That is where the membership gets to see the "Good Works" of UNICO National in action and also gets to play a "Big Part" in the decision making of this fine organization.

## Membership Reimbursement Program:

Several Chapters have already submitted for a reimbursement for their Membership Drive, Heritage Night or a combination of the two. While there is no form to fill out, there is a criterion that should be followed for this request. The Chapter should submit: an explanation of the planning of the event; a detailed program of the event; the results of the event and the actual costs of running the event. The Reimbursement Program is offered as a "Good Faith" incentive to the Chapters to run these events on an annual basis and is not geared to cover the total costs of the event. Those who submit will be given a piece of the available funds allotted to run this program.

## Bringing in New Members:

Of course, you cannot even participate in the Reimbursement Program unless you have run a Membership Drive or a Heritage Night. Every Chapter should do this once a year. At least one meeting a year should be dedicated to increasing membership. Every member should be encouraged to bring in at least one new member. "Uno per Uno"! While you have heard this cry before, how many have taken it to heart. This, "simple approach", will double your membership.

## Retention:

While one meeting per year should be dedicated to a membership drive, every meeting should be dedicated to retaining your membership. Keep your meetings interesting and welcoming. Your membership should be looking forward to the monthly meeting because they know they are part of the "UNICO Family".

## ComUNICO:

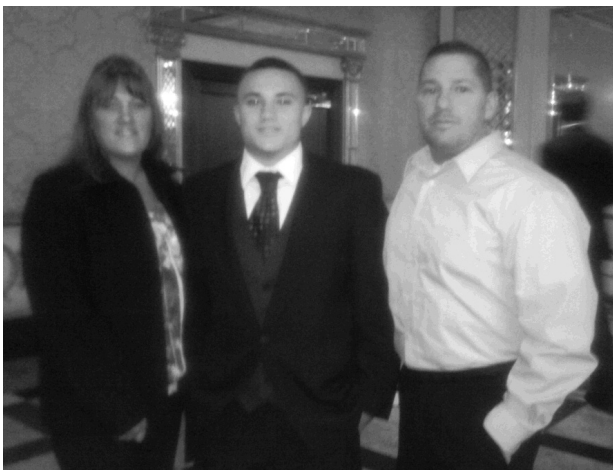
I hope everyone noticed the page dedicated to New Members in the March issue of ComUNICO. Now, all that needs to be done is to increase the numbers of new members to the point that we have to use a size 2 font to fit all the New Member names on the page! So, let's ALL bring in a new member for this year!

## NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley, NJ Chapter of UNICO National presented its Annual Awards at its April 5 meeting. Awardees were Mike Italian, UNICAN of the Year, and Mario DiMaggio, Lifetime/Outstanding Achievement. Mike was involved in coordinating the UNICO-Irish American softball game for charity, the Columbus Day Post Parade Dinner Party and Casino Night. Mario is a 45 year UNICAN who many National Members may remember, who in the 90's was the only representative at the UNICO National Convention every year. He was Chapter President and New Jersey District II Governor from 1985 – 1987. In 1992 he was selected as Nutley Chapter's Outstanding UNICAN. He also served as Chairperson of the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade in 2007, and honored as the "Nutley Man of the Year" by the parade committee.

The Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers for the 2012-13 year. They are Anthony Malfitano, President; Phyllis Coldebella, 1st Vice President; Sal Ferrara, 2nd Vice President; Bob Montanino, 3rd Vice President; Russ Todaro, Secretary; Mel Priolo, Treasurer and Anthony "JR" Moscolo, Sergeant-at-Arms. Members at Large will be Mike Italiano and Michael Cocco. The officers will be sworn in at the June 7 dinner meeting.

The Brian Piccolo New Jersey District VII award recipient from Nutley is Matt Del Mauro. Matt set records at Nutley High School this year for touchdowns in a year, touchdowns in a season, points in a season and yards gained in a season. He will also receive the Nutley Chapter Brian Piccolo Scholarship of \$1,500 at the May 20 Scholarship Breakfast. He will be joined by a female Piccolo Scholarship winner and 7 other scholarship recipients at the breakfast. The guest speaker will be Rich (Enrico) Giancola, head coach at Montclair State University.



*Nutley New Jersey District VII Piccolo award recipient Matt Del Mauro is flanked by his mother and father.*



*From left: Nutley Chapter President Anthony Malfitano, Nutley District VII Piccolo award winner Matt Del Mauro and Chapter Vice President Phyllis Coldebella.*



*Nutley New Jersey Chapter's oldest member, Salvatore "Pops" Cocco, at opening day of the Nutley American Little League. This is the first year of the Chapter's sponsorship of an American Little League Team. Pops is 91.*

**CALL TO CONVENTION  
TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 8 TO  
SUNDAY AUGUST 12, 2012  
MARRIOTT MARCO ISLAND  
BEACH RESORT, GOLF  
CLUB AND SPA 400 SOUTH  
COLLIER BOULEVARD  
MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA  
34145**

## SHARING YOUR STORY

It is our First Lady, Terri Pettinato's hope that you enjoy reading stories from our members and that they encourage you to submit your own! Please submit your story to [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org). Remember that stories need to be 300 words or less. We look forward to sharing your story!



## 2012 HERITAGE CALENDAR

2012 UNICO Heritage Calendar, make a statement against stereotypes and negative portrayals and celebrate the richness of Italian and Italian American heritage and culture by purchasing the 2012 UNICO Heritage Calendar!

Aficionados of Italian culture are urged to help support the great accomplishments of this incredibly rich culture through the new 2012 Italian American Heritage Calendar now available through UNICO National, President Glenn Pettinato announced today.

Throughout history and continuing today, Italians and Italian Americans have made incredible contributions to world culture in all fields, including science, entertainment, business, the arts, sports, religion, cooking, and so much more. Some of the names featured in the calendar say it all: Giovanni Caboto, Antonio Vivaldi, Lidia Bastianich, Giulio Natta, Giuseppe Garibaldi, Jennifer Aniston, Mario Batali, Luigi Pirandello, Lt. Joe Petrosino, Anna Magnani, Dante Alighieri, and Leonardo Da Vinci.

In fact, the calendar highlights 365 Italians and Italian Americans who have had an impact in the world, past and present. It features important Italian American heritage historical events, births, deaths, coats of arms from the regions of Italy and more. The beautifully printed keepsake wall calendars were produced through the efforts of UNICO's Anti-Bias Committee and sell for \$1 plus postage.

The calendar may be purchased by calling the UNICO National office at 973-808-0035. A fund raiser/bulk discount rate is also available. They also make a great gift for the holiday season. The richness, diversity and brilliance of the culture makes the 2012 UNICO Italian American Heritage Calendar a must to have on a daily basis.

Manny Alfano  
ABC/Calendar Chairman  
Bloomfield, NJ  
973 429-2818

## CARBONDALE, PA

The Carbondale Chapter proudly makes a \$10,000 gift to the Carbondale YMCA which recently had a multi-million dollar upgrade.



*From left: 1st Vice President Tom Gretzula, Bill Farber and Jason Mackie, YMCA Board Members. Back from left: Dr. Peter Pettinato, Mike Dobrowski, Maggie Pettinato, Don Gibbs, First Lady Terri, National President Glenn Pettinato, Jerry Arnese, Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro, Tom Gatto, Yvonne Gatto and Joe Masco.*

## SCRAPBOOK

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

### SCRAPBOOK GUIDELINES

1. To be eligible, Scrapbooks should only contain information covering the most recently completed fiscal year, that is, from July 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>.
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, fund raisers 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;

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 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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.



# NATIONAL CONVENTION

## EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The 90th Annual UNICO Convention is fast approaching. It is August 8-12 at the MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB & SPA.

This resort truly exemplifies the meaning of Southwest Florida beaches. The resort features 3 miles of the most pristine beach landscape. This resort has been rated as one of the top Mainland Resort Spas as well as having been voted the most beautiful in the Rand McNally/USA Today Road Finalist. You have to come and see this resort for yourself. Come early or stay longer. The great convention hotel rate will be available three days before or for three days after the convention.

I have visited the resort many times in the past 3 years. Every time I visit the resort it just gets better and better. As mentioned above, the beaches are amazing. The water is crystal clear and perfect for a morning swim or snorkeling with the kids. The resort even offers an excursion to swim with dolphins. Members and their families can also choose from pedal boats, parasailing, kayaks, and even relax with a piña colada while resting on a water hammock.

Join us for the following fun events. Wednesday night Ice Breaker will be a Jimmy Buffet themed Ice Breaker with the cocktail hour outside by the beach. This will be followed on Thursday by an organized UNICO afternoon on the beach.

I can attest to the remarkable dining options. The resort has 8 restaurants/lounges to choose. If you are craving a juicy cheeseburger or a filet mignon, you'll be satisfied. Wait until you see the breakfast buffet. I sampled it on my last visit. It features omelet stations, homemade waffles, pancakes, sausage/ham, donuts, yogurt, fruit, and soooooo much more.

I can keep writing about how wonderful Marco Island truly is, but you need to come see for yourself. So visit [www.2012unicoconvention.org](http://www.2012unicoconvention.org) for all of the registration forms. You may also call the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Golf Club & Spa @ 1-800-438-4373.

Yours in UNICO,

Frank Caperino,  
Convention Chair  
David Donnini,  
Executive Vice President



Flying to Marco Island for the 2012 UNICO National Convention?

UNICO National has obtained discount travel rates with the following Airlines:

**American Airlines**  
**Delta**  
**United Airlines**



Here are the UNICO National Exclusive Offer Codes you can use when booking your air travel!

**American Airlines** – Discount of 5% off published fares [www.aa.com/group](http://www.aa.com/group)  
Promotion Code 9682BN

**Delta** – Discount of 5% off published fares [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) Select Meeting Event Code and enter meeting code – NM9X9 in the box provided on the Search Flight page

**United Airlines** – Discount of 5% off published fares (8% off Business & 13% off First Class) [www.united.com](http://www.united.com) Offer Code ZMN360955

If you have any trouble please contact the UNICO National Office at:  
973-808-0035 or [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)



## 90<sup>th</sup> UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2012 MARRIOTT MARCO ISLAND BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB AND SPA MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA Souvenir Journal Form

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, 2012.**

**NOTE: A \$25.00 discount applies if received prior to June 1, 2012**

\* Corporate Sponsor pages will be produced in color – Please have submissions “camera ready” for printing.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: “UNICO NATIONAL 2012 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 Convention 2012**  
Attn.: Paul Alongi, PNP  
271 US Highway 46 W, Suite A-108  
Fairfield, NJ 07004

For more information, contact Paul Alongi, Chairman  
Phone (973) 541-3414 Fax (973) 402-0770 or Email at [palongisr@firstmco.com](mailto:palongisr@firstmco.com)



# UNICO FOUNDATION



**John  
DiNapoli  
Foundation  
President**

On March 23, 2012 The Board of Trustees of the UNICO Foundation met at the Myrtle Beach Resort & Spa in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Foundation Treasurer, Michael Spano reviewed the financial statements for the quarters ending September 30 and December 31, 2011. All financial information on the Foundation is available at the National Office.

The Trustees approved a Grant for Italian Studies.

A \$1,000 grant was approved for the Coccia Institute for teaching Italian Language to middle and high school students.

Two other grants were approved for Mental Health

A \$2,500 grant was approved for Meaningful Movement, Inc. Midland Park, New Jersey. The grant will provide programs for children and adults with disabilities.

A \$3,800 grant was approved for The Garden Academy, Inc. Maplewood, New Jersey. The grant is to purchase a curriculum and related materials to enable children with autism to acquire math skills.

The raffle is the only fund raiser for the Foundation. Each Trustee was asked to sell a minimum of 5 books. We expect each Chapter and District to purchase at least 2 books. The drawing will be held at the National Convention at the Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort on Saturday August 11, 2012 at 11:00 PM.

On March 3, 2012 Foundation Trustee, Paula Varsalona Marino with her husband Joseph Marino and her father Paul Varsalona held a fund raiser in Kansas City, Missouri. The event grossed over \$50,000 for Cancer Research. A portion of the funds were used to fund The "V" Foundation grant of \$50,000 in the name of Dorothy Varsalona, mother of Paula Varsalona Marino. Congratulation and thank you to Paula and her family for an outstanding event.

The Board approved an amendment to the Foundation Constitution which will be voted on at the National Convention in August. Copy of the amendment will be available prior to the Convention.

Just a point of information, every member of UNICO National is also a member of the UNICO Foundation.

If anyone has any questions, or concerns regarding the UNICO Foundation, please do not hesitate to contact me.



# GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO would like to THANK all the individuals and Chapters of UNICO that donated to the flood relief effort led by our National President Glenn Pettinato. There is not a member in our Chapter that does not know someone impacted by the devastating flooding that occurred this fall. Many know individuals that have lost everything. Our Chapter was graciously given gift cards from UNICO National to distribute to victims of the flood. Our members distributed these, and were touched by the response that was received. We would like to share two of the many notes that were received:

"Losing 37 years of your life in less than 37 hours, heartbreaking and shocking!! But; if you sat by a sunny window and prayed for us, if you helped us destruct our home and helped build it up again, if you visited us with a word of encouragement, if you gave us a hug when we needed to let go, if you opened your more than generous heart to help us get back on our feet, if you were there for any phase of the beginning our life after tragedy...then we hope that two powerful words THANK YOU will explain the feelings in our hearts. May God bless each and every one of you. Please extend our gratitude to your organization."

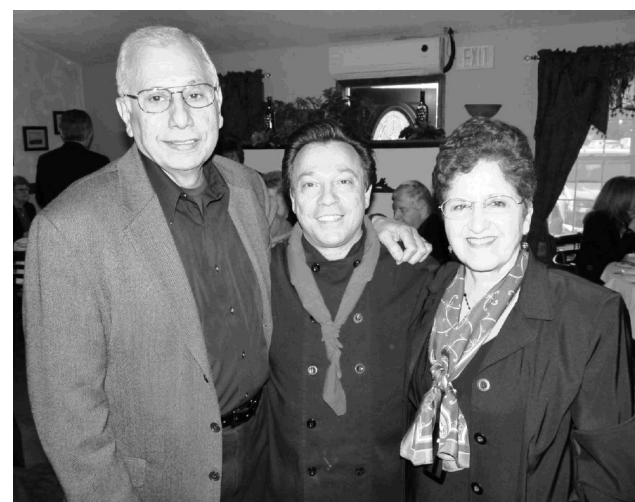
"Please extend my deepest and sincerest gratitude to the members of UNICO for their generosity in presenting me with a gift card due to damages incurred during the September flood. You as well as other members have approached me about membership in the past year and I have continued to put it off, but after seeing what a generous and charitable group your organization is, I plan to fill out my membership application in the hope that I will be accepted as a member so that I too will begin a journey of offering charitable deeds to those in need. I hope to be an asset to UNICO."



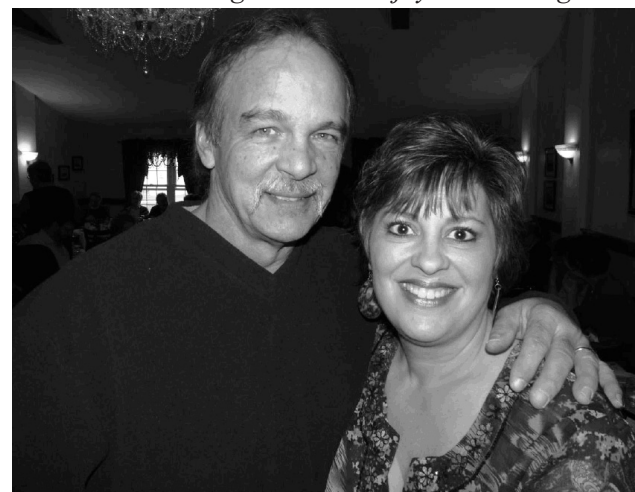
The Greater Binghamton Chapter of UNICO held an Italian Dinner and Wine Tasting on March 14, 2012. The event was held at Frank's Restaurant in Maine, New York. The event sold out quickly, and did not disappoint the attendees. The 5 course meal was prepared by Chef Frank LoPiccolo, the owner of Frank's Restaurant and a member of the Greater Binghamton Chapter. Each dinner course was paired with wine, compliments of Mionetto Wines. Accordion music filled the room, as did the flow of conversation and good times. Those in attendance had the chance to win raffle baskets that were beautifully crafted by members. All enjoyed the evening and the event proved to be a good fund raiser for the Chapter.



*Douglas Macleod of Mionetto Wine presents his wines.*



*From left: Members Frank Carro, Chef Frank LoPiccolo and Angela Carro enjoy the evening.*



*Randy and Bonnie Stacconi Phelps enjoy an evening out on the town.*



*From left: Members Felix DeSio, Jean DeSio and Joe Doolittle enjoy a glass of Mionetta's Prosecco.*



## RUTHERFORD, NJ



Members of the Rutherford Chapter attend the Brian Piccolo Award Dinner.



From left: Past National President Frank Tidona, National President Glenn Pettinato, Brian Piccolo Award Winner Michael Iguanti and First Lady Terri Pettinato.



From left: Michael Iguanti, Vinnie DeCesare, Chair and Coach Justin.



Rutherford members prepare traditional olive branches for Palm Sunday. From left: Shirley Tokarz, Patty Hirsh, Lyndhurst Chapter President and Dolores Gennaro.



From left: Patrick O'Boyle, Chair and Bishop Tom Donato.



From left: Joan Tidona, National Scholarship Chair and Bob Donato, Event Chair.

## SECAUCUS, NJ

At Secaucus UNICO's "St. Joseph meets St. Patrick's Day Dance" Kerri Smith and her Irish dancers entertained the crowd with a recital of Irish Dancing. Thank you girls for a spectacular performance!!



From left: Julianna Peters, Sophia Vogel, Helen Grewe, Shannon Smith and Kerri Smith.

## "V" FOUNDATION



### "HELP FIND A CURE" Frank Paolercio

Thanks to an outstanding fund raising event on March 3, 2012 in Kansas City, Missouri, which was hosted by the Varsalona Family. Our 10th \$50,000 grant given in the name of Dorothy Varsalona has been completely funded. This grant is a milestone reached by UNICO bringing our total donations to \$500,000 to "Help Find a Cure".

This has been the quickest amount of time to reach our goal of \$50,000 per year. Special appreciation and thanks to the Varsalona Family, Paula and Joe Marino, and the National Office in their assistance in completion of its funding. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Kevin Pistilli and the entire staff of the Kansas City Downtown Marriott for their generous support and assistance during the event.

Now on to our 2013 grant. This grant will honor "Big Joe" Grisanti of the Memphis Chapter who passed away due to cancer. The grant will be funded to the St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee for Pediatrics Cancer Research.

Our National Convention is upon us. Marco Island, Florida is a wonderful resort to get the work of UNICO done. Again I am asking members, Chapters and Districts to support cancer research. Please be generous to "Help Find a Cure" and to help fund our 11th \$50,000 grant for pediatric cancer research.

Please keep the faith and excitement going for cancer research and to "Help Find a Cure" for all cancers.

## UNICO NATIONAL DIRECTORY

In our ongoing efforts to keep our records up to date, please contact the National Office if you notice any discrepancies with the UNICO National Directory. We also request that if your contact information changes you notify the National Office. You may do so by submitting a Membership Change form, or e-mailing us at [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org).

Remember, you can find the Directory on the UNICO website in the Members Section. You can also contact the UNICO National Office.



Receiving duplicate issues to your home? Would you rather read ComUNICO online? Call the UNICO National Office to get your name removed from the mailing list - we can always add it back should you change your mind in the future!



# CANCER UPDATE FROM JOHNS HOPKINS

**AFTER YEARS OF TELLING PEOPLE CHEMOTHERAPY IS THE ONLY WAY TO TRY ('TRY', BEING THE KEY WORD) TO ELIMINATE CANCER, JOHNS HOPKINS IS FINALLY STARTING TO TELL YOU THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE WAY .**

1. Every person has cancer cells in the body. These cancer cells do not show up in the standard tests until they have multiplied to a few billion. When doctors tell cancer patients that there are no more cancer cells in their bodies after treatment, it just means the tests are unable to detect the cancer cells because they have not reached the detectable size.
2. Cancer cells occur between 6 to more than 10 times in a person's lifetime.
3. When the person's immune system is strong the cancer cells will be destroyed and prevented from multiplying and forming tumors.
4. When a person has cancer it indicates the person has nutritional deficiencies. These could be due to genetic, but also to environmental, food and lifestyle factors.
5. To overcome the multiple nutritional deficiencies, changing diet to eat more adequately and healthy, 4-5 times/day and by including supplements will strengthen the immune system.
6. Chemotherapy involves poisoning the rapidly-growing cancer cells and also destroys rapidly-growing healthy cells in the bone marrow, gastrointestinal tract etc., and can cause organ damage, like liver, kidneys, heart, lungs etc.
7. Radiation while destroying cancer cells also burns, scars and damages healthy cells, tissues and organs.
8. Initial treatment with chemotherapy and radiation will often reduce tumor size. However prolonged use of chemotherapy and radiation do not result in more tumor destruction.
9. When the body has too much toxic burden from chemotherapy and radiation the immune system is either compromised or destroyed, hence the person can succumb to various kinds of infections and complications.
10. Chemotherapy and radiation can cause cancer cells to mutate and become resistant and difficult to destroy. Surgery can also cause cancer cells to spread to other sites.
11. An effective way to battle cancer is to starve the cancer cells by not feeding it with the foods it needs to multiply.

**\*CANCER CELLS FEED ON:**

- a. Sugar substitutes like NutraSweet, Equal, Spoonful, etc. are made with Aspartame and it is harmful. A better natural substitute would be Manuka honey or molasses, but only in very small amounts. Table salt has a chemical added to make it white in color. Better alternative is Bragg's aminos or sea salt.
- b. Milk causes the body to produce mucus, especially in the gastro-intestinal tract. Cancer feeds on mucus. By cutting off milk and substituting with unsweetened soy milk cancer cells are being starved.
- c. Cancer cells thrive in an acid environment. A meat-based diet is acidic and it is best to

eat fish, and a little other meat, like chicken. Meat also contains livestock antibiotics, growth hormones and parasites, which are all harmful, especially to people with cancer.

d. A diet made of 80% fresh vegetables and juice, whole grains, seeds, nuts and a little fruits help put the body into an alkaline environment. About 20% can be from cooked food including beans. Fresh vegetable juices provide live enzymes that are easily absorbed and reach down to cellular levels within 15 minutes to nourish and enhance growth of healthy cells. To obtain live enzymes for building healthy cells try and drink fresh vegetable juice (most vegetables including bean sprouts) and eat some raw vegetables 2 or 3 times a day. Enzymes are destroyed at temperatures of 104 degrees F (40 degrees C).

e. Avoid coffee, tea, and chocolate, which have high caffeine. Green tea is a better alternative and has cancer fighting properties. Water-best to drink purified water, or filtered, to avoid known toxins and heavy metals in tap water. Distilled water is acidic, avoid it.

12. Meat protein is difficult to digest and requires a lot of digestive enzymes. Undigested meat remaining in the intestines becomes putrefied and leads to more toxic buildup.

13. Cancer cell walls have a tough protein covering. By refraining from or eating less meat it frees more enzymes to attack the protein walls of cancer cells and allows the body's killer cells to destroy the cancer cells.

14. Some supplements build up the immune system (IP6, Flor-ssence, Essiac, anti-oxidants, vitamins, minerals, EFAs etc.) to enable the body's own killer cells to destroy cancer cells. Other supplements like vitamin E are known to cause apoptosis, or programmed cell death, the body's normal method of disposing of damaged, unwanted, or unneeded cells.

15. Cancer is a disease of the mind, body, and spirit. A proactive and positive spirit will help the cancer warrior be a survivor. Anger, unforgiveness and bitterness put the body into a stressful and acidic environment. Learn to have a loving and forgiving spirit. Learn to relax and enjoy life.

16. Cancer cells cannot thrive in an oxygenated environment. Exercising daily, and deep breathing help to get more oxygen down to the cellular level. Oxygen therapy is another means employed to destroy cancer cells.

1. No plastic containers in microwave.
2. No water bottles in freezer.
3. No plastic wrap in microwave.

Johns Hopkins has recently sent this out in its newsletters. This information is being circulated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as well. Dioxin chemicals cause cancer, especially breast cancer. Dioxins are highly poisonous to the cells of our bodies. Don't freeze your plastic bottles with water in them as this releases dioxins from the plastic. Recently, Dr Edward Fujimoto, Wellness Program Manager at Castle Hospital, was on a TV program to explain this health hazard. He talked about dioxins and how bad they are for us. He said that we should not be heating our food in the microwave using plastic containers. This especially applies to foods that contain fat. He said that the combination of fat, high heat, and plastics releases dioxin into the food and ultimately into the cells of

the body. Instead, he recommends using glass, such as Corning Ware, Pyrex or ceramic containers for heating food. You get the same results, only without the dioxin. So such things as TV dinners, instant ramen and soups, etc., should be removed from the container and heated in something else. Paper isn't bad but you don't know what is in the paper. It's just safer to use tempered glass, Corning Ware, etc. He reminded us that a while ago some of the fast food restaurants moved away from the foam containers to paper. The dioxin problem is one of the reasons.

Also, he pointed out that plastic wrap, such as Saran, is just as dangerous when placed over foods to be cooked in the microwave. As the food is nuked, the high heat causes poisonous toxins to actually melt out of the plastic wrap and drip into the food. Cover food with a paper towel instead.

**Submitted for publication by Frank Paolercio  
"V" Foundation Chair.**

## FOUNDATION TRUSTEE



**Paula  
Varsalona  
Marino**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, in conjunction with the UNICO National Foundation, I held a cancer gala in Kansas City, Missouri, honoring my mother, Dorothy Varsalona. The proceeds went to The "V" Foundation to complete the 10<sup>th</sup>, \$50,000 grant for lung cancer at the Siteman Clinic at Washington University School of Medicine.

The gala was well attended, with a Silent Auction and Tricky Tray to raise funds. Kansas City UNICANs, businesses and patrons were very generous with their donations and the evening was a huge success.

I would like to give thanks to the UNICO National Office staff, Steve Pelonero, Frank Paolercio and John DiNapoli. Special thanks to Montville Chapter and New Jersey District XI for the \$5,000 donated in September at the Bocce Tournament. I would be remiss, not to mention Kevin Pistilli at the Downtown Marriott. His staff was exemplary and Mr. Tim Gibbons was a blessing. Mr. Pistilli not only supported the gala personally, but was very generous with all the amenities that the hotel could offer.

Thank you to all UNICANs who donated to this cause.





# UNICO NATIONAL COMMITTEES

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

By David Donnini Executive Vice President

Dedicated members who are interested in serving on national committees of UNICO should notify me at this time. I am in the process of assigning committee members and would like to know to which committees you would be interested in serving on.

To facilitate this process please return this form by JUNE 30th to:

UNICO National  
Attn: David Donnini  
271 U.S. Hwy 46 West  
Suite A-108  
Fairfield, NJ 07004

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

Yes, I am interested in becoming a committee member!

NAME: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

1. Committee \_\_\_\_\_

2. Committee \_\_\_\_\_

3. Committee \_\_\_\_\_

4. Committee \_\_\_\_\_

## OUR STORY

### The Garden

As a new Charter Member of Keystone Chapter, of Dunmore, Pennsylvania, I am excited and would like to share with you a memory of my childhood. My family lived with my grandfather Camillo Terzoni he who had this large garden. It was a block long. In the Italian tradition, this garden was the main source of our food. As Marcella Hazan noted, such gardens preserved the linkage between the table and the soil—a linkage which made eating also a celebration of the bounty of nature.

Nonno started planting early in spring, as soon as the soil could be worked. Early vegetables were lettuce, radishes, carrots, broccoli, cabbage, onions, and Swiss chard. Later it was cucumbers, green beans on tall poles, with seeds from Italy. We can't forget the Fava beans and zucchini. Our herb garden had sage bushes, dill, rosemary, parsley and mint. Garlic was planted every October. These were special bulbs that were handed down from generation to generation. I now plant enough garlic to last most of the year. My sister Terri and her husband Glenn Pettinato, your current President, plant a crop of this same garlic every year. Home canning was a yearly event. The bounty from the garden was used throughout the year. Ciao!

Lenore Latarewicz

## REHOBOTH AREA, DE

### Happy Hour Rehoboth Style

Did you ever go to a "Happy Hour" and have a fantastic time by just "drinking" the joy of life and bringing "Happy-ness" to others? Members of the Rehoboth Area Chapter spent their Community Service Day on Tuesday, March 20, by sharing beautiful music, song, laughter and a fun Congo line dance with the clients of Beebe Medical Center's Gull House Adult Activities Center. The clients are diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer disease.

Grazie Mille to Charlie Tumini who played the accordion, Bob Palese on drums, Frank Cilea on maracas, lead singers John Boraski and Don Cintavey, and roving photographer, Joe Polinski. Terry Palumbo is a volunteer at the Gull House and brought us this opportunity, with the help of Bernie Polinski who organized the event.



Many members came together to make this year's Community Service Day a success: Joan and John Boraski, Josie and Frank Cilea, Don Cintavey, Mary Jane and Tom Deets, Mary Teresa Morrison, Bob and Aline Palese, Andy and Terry Palumbo, Rose Marie Patin, Bernie and Joe Polinski, Jackie Rifenbergh, Charlie Tumini and Monica Viana.

### Breast Cancer Awareness Lap Quilt & Pillow Donation:

Vita Mule, a Charter member of the Rehoboth Area Chapter, is an artisan who creates quilts for donation. Vita is very passionate about providing quilts to the less fortunate and was excited to create a lap quilt and pillow, using the "pink ribbon" fabric which symbolizes Breast Cancer Awareness. These two hand made items were donated on February 24 to the Beebe Medical Center's Tunnell Cancer Center for inclusion in their March 24 fund raiser. Proceeds from the fund raiser are being used to assist their cancer patients with financial support should the need arise, due to the high patient cost for cancer therapy.

Vita's hope was that her hand made creations would bring some joy and financial support to a Survivor's group family. Vita's quilt and pillow raised \$140 during the silent auction.



From left: UNICO Member Bernie Polinski, Mary Jane Deets, Chapter President; Bevann Kabula, Vita Mule, Joan Boraski and Mary Teresa Morrison, Maryland District I Governor.



# IN MEMORIAM

## Daniel L. Capozzi

### Bridgeport UNICO

Daniel L. Capozzi, age 90, of Bridgeport, retired Vice President of Brew Printing Company, was born into eternal rest on Sunday, April 22, 2012 in St. Vincent Medical Center. Born in Bridgeport on April 1, 1922, he was a son of the late Rocco and Theresa Marconi Capozzi and attended Harding High, Bullard Havens, the Citadel in South Carolina and Georgia Tech. Mr. Capozzi was a WWII U.S. Army Veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart while serving in the 100th Infantry Division. He was a former Trustee of Holy Rosary Church and chairman of the St. Anthony Feast for 10 years. Dan had been appointed a Knight of St. Gregory by former Bishop Egan. He was Past President of the Bridgeport UNICO Chapter and Past District Governor of the Connecticut I District of UNICO National. He was a Past President of the Mill River Country Club. He was an original commissioner on the Commission on Aging and had served on the Board of Purchases for the City of Bridgeport. In lieu of flowers contributions in his memory may be made to the scholarship fund of UNICO National Bridgeport Chapter, P. O. Box 346, Stratford, Connecticut 06615.



## Charles Greenwald

To: All National Officers, Chapter President's and Past National Presidents

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Charles "Chuck" Greenwald. His fight against the insidious dystrophic illness MS was compounded by a stroke. His battle to prevail was a testimony to his courage, strength and belief in the Almighty.

Chuck was a Charter Member of the Glastonbury Chapter that was Chartered in 1977. From 1982 to 2005 he was fixture at UNICO Conventions. He served the Chapter, District and National Level with great distinction. He was Chapter, Secretary, President, Delegate, UNICAN of the Year, CT III District Governor, Eastern Regional District Governor Rep, National Legal Counsel and National Scholarship Director.

In 2005 Chuck was our Vastola Recipient, a fitting honor that he did not seek and was so very proud of. He accepted this prestigious award at our 83rd National Convention. At that point in his life the ravages of his illness made it difficult for him to travel and he was no longer able to serve in any other capacity. However, with the end of the Glastonbury Chapter he transferred to Newington where he remained a member until his demise.

A highly accomplished individual Chuck was a graduate of Nebraska University and for three years a member of the varsity Football team. He earned a BS Degree in Business and upon graduation was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in United States Marine Corps.

In the Marine Corps he rose to the rank of Captain and served with the 3rd Marine Division. Upon his separation from active duty Chuck matriculated at the University of Connecticut and, earned a Master's Degree in Business. He also attended the University Law School and graduated with a LLD. He was accepted to the Bar before the State of Connecticut in 1974.

Aside from his participation in UNICO he was a member of the Glastonbury Town Planning and Zoning Committee, member of the Board of Education, Coach of the Women's Swim Team and a long-time member of the Glastonbury Art Guild. In addition he served as Legal Counsel for the city of Hartford and as a Hearing Officer for the Connecticut Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Chuck is survived by his loving wife Rose (Angelini) and had a devoted family comprised of 3 children and 7 grandchildren. He had the look of a stoic German but the heart and soul of a Southern Italian. To this day his children think of themselves as "totally" Italian and have been very proud of the manner in which he embraced his wife's ethnicity. I recalled when he became our National Legal Counsel and a fellow member exclaimed, "That is exactly what UNICO needs, a good Jewish lawyer." He was very much a Catholic and had a good laugh when I told him.

He was my friend, one of my mentors and I will miss him for the rest of my life. May God Bless him and allow him to rest in peace. He deserved a better fate and nobody should have had to suffer the way he did. He was above all else a good and decent man. UNICO is a better organization because of his service and we are all better for having known him. Please remember him in your prayers.

Yours in UNICO,

Frank Cannata

## UNICO FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Three sets of raffle tickets have been mailed to: Chapter Presidents, District Governors, Foundation Trustees, Executive Committee, Past National Presidents, and Immediate Past District Governors. If you are interested in selling tickets please contact the National Office!

This is a HUGE fund raiser for the UNICO Foundation. The winners will be selected at the National Convention in Marco Island on Saturday, August 11, 2012. You do not need to be present to win.

### The 50/50 Cash Raffle winners will receive the following:

- 1st Prize - 50% of Available Prize Money*
- 2nd Prize - 30% of Available Prize Money*
- 3rd Prize - 15% of Available Prize Money*
- 4th Prize - 5% of Available Prize Money*



Donations are \$20 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$100.

**Charitable donations to  
UNICO Charities are tax  
deductible!**

**Send your check made out  
to UNICO Foundation:**

**UNICO Foundation  
271 US Highway 46 West  
Suite A-108  
Fairfield, NJ 07004**



## PITTSFIELD, MA

### Pittsfield ACES

Recently our Chapter formed an ACES group under the direction and guidance of Chapter members Tess Sorrentino, Vin Marinaro, Past Chapter President and Annie Sorrentino. The group already has 14 members and has been assisting the Chapter with various fund raising activities. The group meets once a month to plan their upcoming projects as well as learn something of their Italian heritage. They are now planning a food drive for various food pantries in the community as well as a three on three basketball tournament to raise funds for their Christmas project, "Toys for Tots." This group of fine, young people is the pride of our Chapter.



Front row from left: Ty Bramer, Grace Guachione, Peyton Steinman, Quinn Matthews and Jack Quatrochi. Back row from left: Annie Sorrentino, Trey McNinch, Peyton Schiff, John Tagliaferro, Tess Sorrentino and Vin Marinaro.

### Celebrity Bartender Night

The Pittsfield Chapter held its Third Annual Celebrity Bartender Night (Grande Salute) on Thursday, March 16th, at the Olde Heritage Tavern in Lenox, Massachusetts. Volunteers from the Chapter worked in shifts of three, for 45 minutes tending bar starting from 6:00 pm and ending at 11:00pm. The bartenders invited their friends in during their shifts to buy a drink from them. The tips received by each shift were donated by those bartenders to the Chapter's General Fund which supports scholarships and charity donations.

As far as our Chapter's internal fund raisers go, this is probably the most enjoyable one.



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

### New Members

Three new members were installed into the Pittsfield Chapter at the March business-supper meeting. The new members were sworn in and welcomed by Chapter President Kevin Dondi.



New members from left: Gloria Powers, Father Mike Romano and Kathie Penna.

### Wine Tasting

On Friday, March 30, the Pittsfield Chapter held its Fifth Annual Wine Tasting at the Berkshire Hills Country Club and was attended by over 300 people. The proceeds from this event will benefit the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. Chapter members Anthony Gamberoni, Mike Quadrozzi and John Ciepiela headed up the event and were supported by a great staff of Chapter volunteers. Forty different wine types were offered as well as an assortment of beers and liqueurs. A great variety of food was also provided that included, pasta, meatballs, polenta, many different cheeses, Italian cold cuts, fruit platters, vegetable platters and bread. Background and dancing music was provided by D.J. Mike Wilk who is also a Chapter member. There was also both a silent and Chinese auction available to attendees with many great prizes (88) that included watches and dinner for two.

It was a very successful night for the Pittsfield Chapter and a very entertaining night for all that attended.



Chapter wine tasting committee from left: Mike Quadrozzi, John Ciepiela and Anthony Gamberoni.

America  
A beautiful  
Italian name!

## RARITAN VALLEY, NJ

### Deacon John R. Pacifico

Deacon John R. Pacifico is a lifelong resident of the Borough of Raritan where he has been an active member of his community and his church. On May 6, 2012 Deacon John will be honored with a mass at St. Ann's Church for his 35 years of service as a Deacon there.

He has been a member of the John Basilone Parade Committee for more than 29 years and is currently serving his 25th year as Chairman.

Pacifico served in the United States Army of Occupation in Germany and France in 1951 and 1952 and from 1971 to 1973 served as the Commander of VFW Post 1748 in Raritan.

His honors in 2005 include the UNICO National Americanism Award in recognition for organizing annual parades for Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Marine Sergeant John Basilone and a Joint Legislative Resolution unanimously adopted by the New Jersey Senate and General Assembly commending and congratulating him for his exceptional endeavors in honoring Basilone.

In 2007, he received the Borough of Raritan's first "Volunteer of the Year" award. In 2009, he was elected the first President of the Raritan Chapter of UNICO National, and in 2010, he was presented with a proclamation and a bronze replica of the famous Iwo Jima Statue from Governor Chris Christie for his 23 years of service as Chairman of the Annual John Basilone Memorial Parade, for his commitment to honoring those who have fought to defend our freedoms and preserve our way of life, and for his many years of civil and public service to the residents of the Garden State.

Dorothy, his wife of 54 years, is the Social Ministry Coordinator for St. Ann Church. His son John is a Marketing Supervisor for Trans World Marketing in East Rutherford, and his daughter Jean, is a teacher at Franklin Township High School.

Pacifico continues his conscientious work as a Deacon at St. Ann Church and as Chairman of the John Basilone Parade Committee.





## PORTLAND, OR



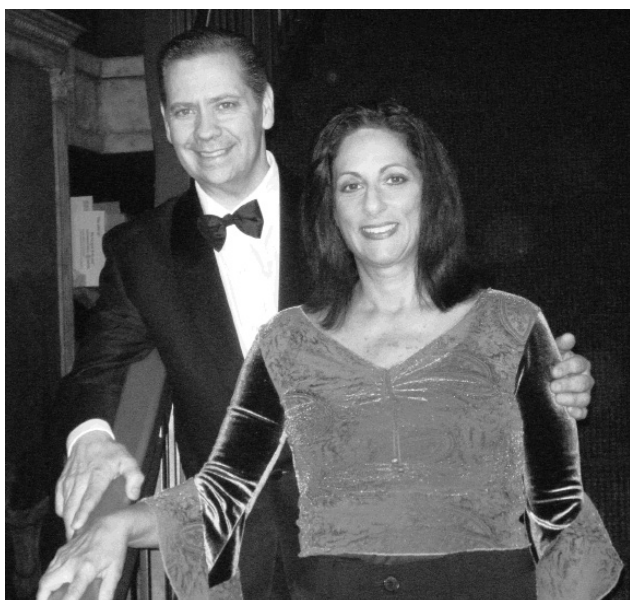
Member Lisa Leonardo is pictured with her daughter, Mia - the Chapter's "youngest" member.



New member, Maria Petruzelli de Sanchez, gives a big smile and a thumbs-up to helping out the Oregon Food Bank.



From left: Rob Aldisert, Mary Nava, Jo Ann Gallo, Walter Pozarycki and Claude Laviano share a fun moment at the Oregon Food Bank.



President Jo Ann Gallo with member and special guest John English, the "Voice" of Frank Sinatra, on the set of her Show, "SALUTE!".

## MEMPHIS, TN

As most Italian's like to cook, the UNICO Memphis Chapter had a very enjoyable opportunity to attend the L'ECOLE Culinaire Cooking Class and learn a thing or two. We were taught by Chef Instructor, John Ferraro and we participated in cooking 2 of the items that their team of student chefs had already prepared for us for dinner. We made "Fresh Pappardelle" (Pasta) and "Crema Di Ricotta Alle Frutta Fresca" (Ricotta Cream with Fresh Fruit). The menu also included "Filetto di Sogliole Picatta" (Filet of Sole with Picatta Sauce), Panzanella (Salad) with Vinaigrette and "Ragu Di Cinghiale" (Sauce with Wild Boar). We had a raffle to raise a little extra for UNICO local charities. Everyone that attended really said this was a wonderful exciting event. Sounds like something we will do again.



Lori and Tony Harrington, Nick and Sherry Spano.



Chrisann Schiro-Geist and Jack Conway.



Michael and Nick Spano with Chef Instructor John Ferraro.



Members of the Memphis Chapter and the night's Chefs.



Regina Giometti, Melvin and Betty Greth.



Jean Hamilton and friends.

The UNICO Memphis Chapter partnered with the University of Memphis Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures for our Second Annual Italian Film Festival. Dr. Cosetta Gaudenzi hosted each night. There were 3 interesting films shown on 3 separate nights, first was "Into Paradiso", "Scialla!", and last "Tatanka". Each night averaged 100 attendees. Everyone enjoyed the films and the snacks afterwards. We appreciate the following local UNICO members assisting at these events: Nick Spano, Chapter President; Ron and Regina Giometti, Ann Barnett, Mike Vanelli, Robert Raiteri, Michael and Linda Spano.



Chapter President Nick Spano enjoys some refreshments with guests attending the event.



Regina and Ron Giometti.



## WATERBURY, CT



UNICANS Linda Lanza and Bob Gerace take a break from the serving.



Event Chair Francine Nido, Connie Lanza, UNICAN Linda Lanza, her daughters Valerie and Alexis and her grandson Anthony congratulate drawing winner Richard Lanza.



Event "regulars" Julius and Carol Nido, parents of UNICO National Secretary Francine Nido, Christopher Nido and John Couture smile after dining with 50 of their friends.



From left: Donna Mancuso, Valerie Marino, Dorene Rinaldi and Alexis Draskinis are "doing their part" to keep the line moving.



UNICANS Dr. Joanne D'Angelo and Toni Beccia help sell the assorted zeppole.



Teresa LaBabera, morning traffic reporter and host of Connecticut-Style on WTNH-8 helped serve the hungry crowd.



Maria and Larry Vigliotti enjoy the meal with friends and family.

## Too Much ComUNICO? You can opt out.

UNICO National would like to announce that members can now opt out of receiving ComUNICO.

We have heard from several members that they were receiving multiple copies of ComUNICO to their address. This happens when we have married members or multiple family members living at one address.

We have successfully implemented a process that now allows members to 'opt out' of receiving multiple copies. **If you would like to stop receiving multiple copies at your address, please contact the National Office at 973-808-0035 or Lisa Adubato at [ladubato@unico.org](mailto:ladubato@unico.org)**

Members who receive only one copy and still want to opt out can also reach out to National Office or Lisa Adubato and your name will be removed.

Remember that you can ALWAYS view the latest issue (and past issues) of ComUNICO at any time by visiting the UNICO website – [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)

## NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP

### Surprise Ceremony Coccia Institute's Italian Language and Culture Day 2012

Dr. Mary Ann Re, Director of the Coccia Institute for the Italian Experience in America at Montclair State University, was conferred the honor of "Cavaliere, Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana" in a surprise presentation during the Coccia Institute's signature spring collaboration with ITANJ (Italian Teachers Association of New Jersey), Italian Language and Culture Day 2012: "Un giorno nella vita di..."



From left: Consul of Italy in Newark, Andrea Barbaria, Cavaliere Uff. Joseph Sciamè, Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations and Vice President, St. John's University; Cavaliere Mary Ann Re, Min. Plen. Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy in New York and Coccia Foundation Vice President Elisa Coccia. Consul General Quintavalle is the first woman to be appointed to this significant post, having arrived in New York in September 2011, succeeding Consul General Francesco Maria Talo'.



From left: Andrea Barbaria, Consul of Italy in Newark; Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy in New York; Dott. Antonio Benetti, Director of Education, Consulate General of Italy in New York and Past National President of UNICO Joseph Agresti.





## WETHERSFIELD, CT

### Service Award Dinner

What started out to be a plan for a dinner, dance party for at least the members of the Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO at the Wethersfield Country Club, matured into Service Award Dinner for not only Wethersfield UNICANs but also for others of adjacent communities.

With the encouragement of Wethersfield UNICO's President Pelino Sylvestri, a substantial committee worked for nearly two months to define and refine this new Service Award Dinner. Included were UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan, designated event chairperson Luciano DiBacco, supplier Paul Angelico, organizer Concetina Marzano, Sal LaRosa and numerous others.

Following both the US National Anthem and Italian National Anthem, a UNICO prayer was offered by Father Frederick Anniello. Filomena Marinelli then provided the 200 guests with the numerous highlights and credits of the guest of honor, "Nina" DiMascio. She had come to America in 1971. Following marriage to Erminio DiMascia and starting a family, she obtained a high school diploma, a college degree in Italian studies with honors, graduating cum laude. Her life pursuit became the promotion of the Italian language and culture. She founded the "Italian Friendship Club, the Italian Culture Center of Education, established La Giovane Italia Scholarship Fund, an Italian book award at Wethersfield High School, and the organization of a folk group called Cuor D'Italia Gruppo Folcloristico. Nina presently teaches young children the Italian language, songs, and poems. She is the proud mother of two boys and two granddaughters.

Luciano DiBacco, Tom Vaughan and Pelino Sylvestri and Wethersfield UNICO presented Nina with a plaque of honor, a medallion to acknowledge her accomplishments and a check in the amount of \$500 to the Italian Culture Center of Education. With a wonderful composure and a bright smile, she accepted all of this and the festivities began in earnest.

All the hard work of selecting such a very talented guest of honor and the organization of the dinner dance was obviously time well spent. The dinner was succulent, along with the wine, desserts and the cordiality of all of the guests. With the services of DJ Tony Petrella, lively dancing went on for hours and was enjoyed by all. Wethersfield UNICO members agreed that this cross community event was a success and felt that this was surely the first annual service award event.



*Chapter President Pelino Sylvestri.*



*Event Chairman Luciano DiBacco.*



*Guest of Honor Antonia Veneziano DiMascio.*



*From left: Luciano DiBacco, Nina DiMascio and Pelino Sylvestri.*

## PLAINFIELDS, NJ

### Plainfields Chapter of UNICO with UNICO Marconi Science Award Winner at Midyear Meeting

Officers of the Plainfields Chapter had the honor of being part of the UNICO National ceremony bestowing the prestigious "UNICO National Marconi Science Award 2012 to Dr. Victor F. Greco. Dr. Greco helped develop the first Heart-Lung Machine which allowed surgeons to break the last barrier that remained...the ability to perform surgery on the heart in the early 1950's. Dr. Greco was a member of the medical team that performed the first successful open heart surgery in 1953 upon a 15 year old female who was dying from an inter-atrial septal heart defect and who went on to live a productive 50 years of additional life because of that breakthrough procedure. The Plainfields Chapter of UNICO was part of Award Dinner in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the Annual Mid-Year Board Meeting on Saturday March 24th. The Plainfields Chapter board member and Past President Anthony Bengivenga, Plainfields Chapter Past President Dr. Ann Walko and Plainfields Chapter Vice President Michael Colucci were on hand for this prestigious Award Ceremony.



*From left: Anthony Bengivenga, Past President Plainfields UNICO Chapter; Dr. Victor F. Greco, recipient of UNICO National Marconi Science Award 2012; Dr. Ann Walko, Past President Plainfields Chapter and Michael Colucci, Vice President Plainfields Chapter UNICO.*

Inherent in the Italian philosophy of life, is an unmistakable acceptance of human difficulties, along with a firm conviction that no matter what befalls us, we will always get by. L'arte d'arrangiarsi is about knowing that you already have what it takes to turn your life's "lemons into Limoncello". The "art" of getting by is about changing perspective. It is about reframing our problems, so that they are no longer "problems", but rather challenges, that make us more creative, more resourceful, and even more spiritual as human beings.





## REHOBOTH AREA, DE

### The Tiger and The Snow

The cold month of January ushered in a great theatrical setting for many of the Rehoboth Area Chapter members and their guests to venture out on January 24 to enjoy an evening of Italian culture. The Movies at Midway in Lewes, Delaware provided a warm and comfortable setting for a private screening of "The Tiger and The Snow" (La Tigre e La Neve). This is a romantic movie with Roberto Benigni as a Rome-based, love-struck poet and lecturer who travels to Baghdad when he learns that the woman he loves has been injured in an explosion. The film is in Italian with English subtitles and runs for 110 minutes.

Members brought their favorite non-alcoholic beverages and snacks to enjoy during the movie as they laughed and cried watching this beautiful love story unfold.

### Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

Some of our Chapter members were so sure they held the winning lottery ticket in the recent \$640 million drawing; but alas, it just wasn't to be! So, instead Ed Mason, Charter Chapter member, created a fun evening at our April 3 monthly Dinner Meeting giving members another chance to be a "Millionaire". Following the dinner and business portion of the meeting, Ed hosted "Who Wants to be a Millionaire—Italian style". All the questions and answers were based on Italian heroes, cities, foods, etc. Members were placed in four teams and competition was fierce. It came down to three different tie-breaker questions between two teams and finally the winning "Millionaire" team received scratch-off lottery tickets as their prize. One lucky "winner" scratched off to win \$1. What a fun way to share Italian culture and heritage!



Ed Manson hosts Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

### Italian Cooking Demonstration & Wine Tasting, with Slots for Dessert

The Rehoboth Area Chapter's Event Committee organized a tasty treat for its members and guests. An Italian cooking demonstration was held at Frankie's Restaurant at Dover Downs on March 21. Following the demonstration on how to prepare and cook Pollo alla Limone and Penne con Broccoli di Rabe, participants enjoyed the meal along with wines that complemented the food. At the end of the two hour event, the slot machine served up a fabulous dessert for two of our lucky members.

### Vita's Generosity Continues

Each month when the Rehoboth Area Chapter members gather for their Dinner Meeting, everyone is anxious to see the rainbow of colors and patterns of Vita Mule's quilts that she brings for donation to La Esperanza. Vita's donation is always a highlight each month. All of the beautiful quilts are displayed during the dinner and are then taken by Joan and John Boraski to Sister Rosa of La Esperanza in Georgetown, Delaware. Sister Rosa is responsible for the Pre and Post Natal Program. La Esperanza collaborates with local and state health programs to provide direct services to low-income pregnant Hispanic women and their babies in Sussex County. Language, cultural, and economic barriers, as well as the lack of formal education, transportation and rural isolation tend to exacerbate the problem of unequal opportunity for good health.

The members of the Rehoboth Area Chapter are so proud of Vita's passion, generosity and talent.



From left: Joan Boraski, Bernie Polinski and Vita Mule.

## SCRANTON, PA

UNICO National Scranton Chapter recently assisted Chapter Members Pat and Maureen McNichols with their Betty Welby Foundation Diaper Drive to benefit the Baby Pantry at St. Joseph's Center. Receiving close to 300 requests annually, St. Joseph's Center Baby Pantry provides baby items to area families in need. For more information about St. Joseph's Center please visit their website at [www.stjosephcenter.org](http://www.stjosephcenter.org).



UNICO Scranton Chapter assists with the Betty Welby Foundation Diaper Drive. From left: Pat and Maureen McNichols, Betty Welby Foundation; Palma Yanni, President of UNICO Scranton Chapter and Jo Ann Verduce, St. Joseph's Center.

UNICO National Scranton Chapter Annual Charity Ball was held Saturday, February 4, 2012 at Fiorelli's in Peckville. At the event, UNICO

Scranton Chapter honored Jack DeLeo as UNICAN of the Year. This is the largest fund raiser the Chapter has for the year and all proceeds go to local charities.



Standing from left: Sal Benvenuti, National Legal Counsel Frank Blasi, UNICO Past National Presidents, Frank Tidona, Andre' DiMino and Joseph Agresti, National Treasurer Sam Prudente, Bernie Brutto and UNICO Past National President Chris DiMattio. Seated are National Scholarship Director Joan Tidona, Co-Chair Diane Alberigi, Chapter President Palma Yanni, UNICAN of the Year Jack DeLeo, UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato, First Lady Terri Pettinato and Scranton Chapter 2nd Vice President and Co-Chair Dave Bieri.



Jack DeLeo receives the UNICAN of the Year Award from Past National President Chris DiMattio, Past UNICAN of the Year Frank Gervasi.



Scranton Chapter volunteers spend a day at St. Joseph's Children's Center. From left: Chapter President Palma Yanni, Marie Waerhouse, Chairperson JoAnn Verduce, Jack DeLeo, Bill Waerhouse, Pat Yanni, Rose Ann Gaetano, Past Chapter President Jack Brunetti, Linda Malinoski and Angela Policichio. Also pictured are some of our precious children at St Joseph's.



Scranton Chapter Volunteers Hosted a Bingo/Ice Cream Social at Gino Merli Veteran Center. Standing from left: Chapter President Palma Yanni, Barbara DeLeo, Gayle DeAntona, Pat Yanni, Ann Reilly, Paul Panzera, Bill Waerhouse, Mary Ann Healy, Jim Soranno, Eileen Soranno and Fran Small. Seated are: Chairperson Marie Waerhouse and Gail Cicerini.



# NJ DISTRICT VII CARNEVALE CELEBRATION

New Jersey District VII honored King Jim Herd, Immediate Past District Governor and his lovely wife Sally at a joyous Carnevale Celebration. After a wonderful night of revelry, members were well prepared to face the Lenten season.



*Elyse Buonomo pins honoree Jimmy Herd.*



*Sally and Jimmy Herd*



*Carnevale Chairman Frank Tidona*



*Joe Paci, Lou Pandolfi, Joan Tidona, John Cook, Carl Esposito, Anthony Stassi, Joe Coccia, Mike D'Arminio, Sal Mangano, Joe Ruggiero and Dominick Nicastro.*



*New Jersey District VII Governor Ralph Contini*



*The King and Queen are crowned!*

## Giovanni the Italian Teddy Bear

It's never too early for a child to know his or her heritage. And by simply holding close this cuddly bear, let the adventure begin.

Press his furry paw, and in Italian he greets you, inviting you to respond. Join him when he counts to ten and when he sings, "Giro, Giro, Tondo," and "La Bella Lavanderina." Listen while Giovanni teaches you "goodnight" and "goodbye" with the promise of seeing you again.

Giovanni speaks only Italian and comes with a translation guide. Giovanni's sweater bears the Italian colors, the bottom of his left foot, a miniature Italian flag. This cuddly 15" bear is a must for only...



**\$34.95**  
+ S&H

Order Giovanni & other Italian children's products online at  
**www.ItalianChildrensMarket.com**

**310.427.2700**

call for a free catalog!

**Vincent Losavio is a charter member of the Scotch Plains/Fanwood, NJ Chapter. Vincent, along with his son and brother are owners of John's Meat Market.**

***Bring in this ad to receive 10% off your purchase!***

All of Our Meat is Shipped Daily  
& Cut Fresh On Premises  
New Jersey Family Business of the Year  
USDA Prime Meat

**John's**  
**MEAT MARKET**  
Ask about our delivery service



**Our 72nd Year**  
**YOU WILL BE TREATED LIKE FAMILY**

**Prime Roast Rib**  
(1st cut, aged to perfection)  
**Fresh Turkey, Geese, Capons, Duck**  
(grand champion, no additives)  
**Prime Filet Mignon** (de-fatted)  
**Smoked Hams**  
(skinless, shankless, low salt, no fat)  
**Homemade Kielbasa**  
**Free Range Organic Poultry**  
(delivered daily)  
**Beef, Lamb, Veal, Pork**  
(western fed)  
**Elegant Crown Roast** (Pork or Lamb)  
**Fresh Ground Beef**  
(cut & ground on premises)  
**100% Grass Fed Beef**  
**Homemade Dinners & Soups**  
(individually prepared)  
**WE specialize in TURDUKIN**

**Serving Satisfied Customers Since 1939**

389 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains

908-322-7126

johnsmarket.com

**JRZ-PROUD**  
New Jersey Monthly



# UNICO NATIONAL MID YEAR BOARD MEETING



*Prepping for the meeting.*



*Jim DeSpenna, Joe and Patsy Monaco, Gloria Cerullo and Ron Giometti.*



*Mike Spano, Tony Fornelli and Guest, Joe and Gloria Cerullo and Angela and John DiNapoli.*



*Francine Nido, Frank Greco, Joe Agresti, Mike D'Arminio and Sal Mangano.*



*Bob Appaluccio, Debbie Benvenuti, Sal Benvenuti and Pat Pelonero.*



*Mark and Michele McDade, Vinnie Laborim, Geri Lipari and Barbara Laborim.*



*Nina Held, Lou DiRico, John Alati, Mike Veselka and Paul Domico.*



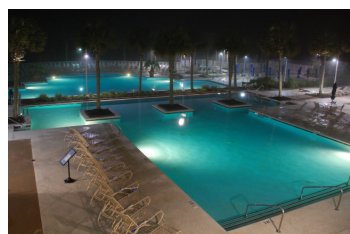
*Vinnie Laborim, Fr. Wolfie and Roseann and Gerry Heytink.*



*Rick D'Arminio, Judy Tork, Don Piccolo, 1st Lady Terri and President Glenn.*



*Joan and Frank Tidona.*







*Joe Agresti, John Alati, Dave Donnini and Ralph Torracco.*



*Foundation Meeting*



*President Glenn presents a check to John DiNapoli for a \$150,000 donation to the 21st Century Fund.*



*General Business Meeting Saturday morning.*



*President Glenn and Frank Blasi display a poster from Johns Hopkins pertaining to the Mental Health Grant.*



*President Glenn*



*PNPs Andre' DiMino and Mike Spano.*



*Sam Prudente-Treasurer*



*Dave Donnini-EVP*



*Father Wolfie*



*Mike Veselka-1st VP*



*Rick D'Arminio-2nd VP*



*Chip Calabro-ERDG*



*Paul Domico-MWRDG*



*Jim DeSpensa-WRDG*



*Mike Spano-PNP*



*Gerry Heytink*





# ALL THINGS SICILIAN

Online Specialty Food Store



## Imported Italian Food

Sicilian Olive Oil  
Italian Olive Oil  
Balsamic Vinegar  
Sea Salt from Sicily  
All Natural Italian Pasta  
Sicilian Sauce  
Sicilian Clam Sauce  
Basil Pesto  
Bruschetta  
Sicilian Anchovies  
Sicilian Tuna

Sicilian Honey  
Sicilian Jam  
Sicilian Marmalade  
Biscotti  
Panettone  
Dolce  
Sicilian Nut Cream  
Italian Candy  
Torrone  
Italian Espresso

**HOLIDAY GIFT  
BASKETS**

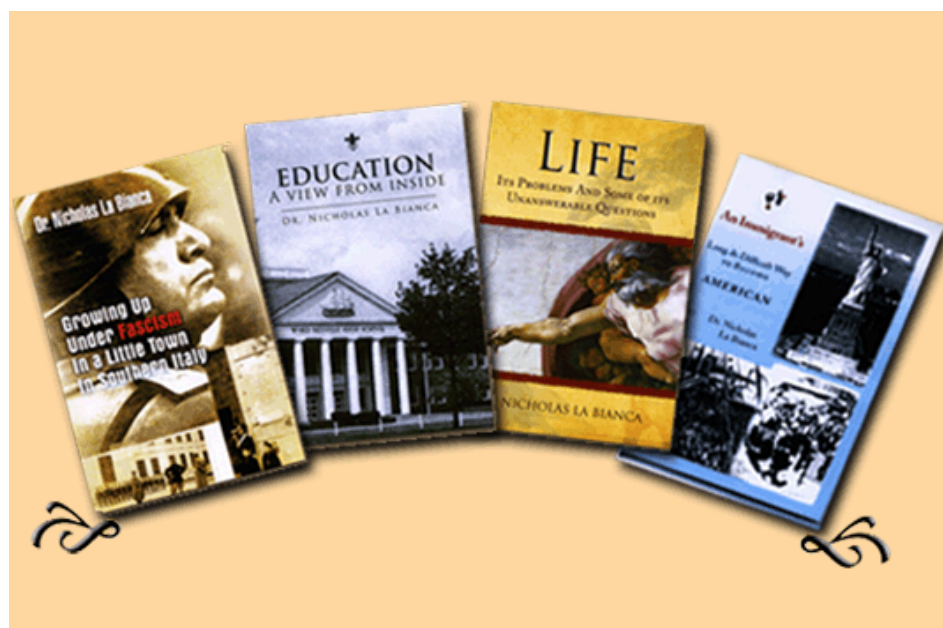


[www.allthingssicilian.com](http://www.allthingssicilian.com)  
1-607-748-0692

## LIFE: Its Problems and Some of Its Unanswerable Questions-

By Dr. Nicholas La Bianca

Most of the people go through life trying to cope with the immediate physical needs that the everyday life presents and very rarely try to explain to themselves in a rational way the reason for being on this earth. Religion for the most of them answers all the questions that may come to their mind, and each one comes up with a personal explanation for them. Since different religions usually have different answers, many try to find out in a rational way what are the correct answers, and how people should live in order to better fulfill their destiny as human beings. This book tries to raise some of these questions and when possible tries to bring forth feasible solutions to bring all people to strive for the common good.



For more information visit: [www.drnicklabs.com](http://www.drnicklabs.com)


**Order Your Books Today**

Visit [www.xlibris.com](http://www.xlibris.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com),

[www.Barnes&Noble.com](http://www.Barnes&Noble.com)

Or call 888-795-4874 ext. 7878





# UNICO NATIONAL

## 90th ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2012

**The dates for the Convention are:**  
**Wednesday, August 8th through Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT  
BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB & SPA  
400 South Collier Boulevard, Marco Island, Florida 34145  
(239)-394-2511

TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION AT THE  
MARRIOTT MARCO ISLAND

YOU CAN CONTACT THE HOTEL **DIRECTLY** BETWEEN 8 AM & 5 PM (EST)  
BY CALLING: **1-800-GET-HERE (438-4373)**

- IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS BEING PART OF THE UNICO GROUP
- GIVE THE AGENT YOUR ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DATES

**It's just that easy!**


**UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE IS ONLY \$159.00 PER NIGHT**  
(Subject to State & local tax and hotel service charge)

All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Record your confirmation number or ask to have it sent to you by providing your E-mail address.

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

**Next** - fill out your convention registration form and mail it along with your payment to:

**UNICO National**  
**271 US hwy 46 west, Suite A-108 Fairfield, NJ 07004-2458**  
Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail - [unicoconational@unico.org](mailto:unicoconational@unico.org)



# 2012 UNICO NATIONAL

## 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

### REGISTRATION FORM

MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT BEACH RESORT, GOLF CLUB AND SPA  
400 South Collier Boulevard Marco Island, Florida 34145  
August 8<sup>th</sup> - August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's name, if attending \_\_\_\_\_ (if spouse is a member, please complete a separate form)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Children Attending - name(s) and age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Office held \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., National Officer, District Governor, Chapter President, Delegate, Trustee)

	UNICO MEMBERS	NON - MEMBERS	CHILDREN 11 TO 16	ATTENDEES NOT RESERVING THEIR ROOMS FROM THE "UNICO ROOM BLOCK"
<b>FEES AND CHARGES</b>				
Meals included in this charge:	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$125.00	\$450.00
3 FULL BUFFET BREAKFASTS				
ICEBREAKER				
AWARDS LUNCHEON				
INAUGURAL BALL				
CHILDREN 10 AND UNDER FREE				
Registration (UNICO Members only)	\$ 125.00	N/A		\$125.00
Golf (starting at 7:30 am Wednesday)	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 90.00
Total with registration:				
Total amount of check enclosed or to be charged:	\$			

Make check payable to: "UNICO NATIONAL Convention 2012" 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Discover \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print name \_\_\_\_\_  
Amex. Express \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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  
Phone: 973-808-0043 or e-mail to: [unicoconational@unico.org](mailto:unicoconational@unico.org)  
[www.2012UNICOConvention.org](http://www.2012UNICOConvention.org)

2012 UNICO National Convention Registration Information



# CONVENTION 2012 KARAOKE NIGHT



*Andre' DiMino acts as DJ for the night.*



*Chef Steve Pelonero prepares a hot dog for a guest.*



*From left: Jenny DiMino, Joan Tidona and Pat Pelonero*



*From left; Linda Gail Alati, John Alati, Mary Berger and Nicki Carpinelli.*



*Frank Tidona and Ron Biscardi.*



*From left: Debbie and Sal Benvenuti, Vinnie Laborim and Arlene Agresti.*



*Barbara Laborim and Geraldine Lipari.*



*From left: John Barbieri, Frank Tidona, Sal Benvenuti, Perry Russo, Sal Mangano, John Alati and Frank Greco.*



*From left: Peter Trusio, Tom Cifelli and Andre' DiMino*



*From left: Celeste Pandolfi, Angela Scaffedi, Ron Biscardi, Jane Biscardi and Frank and Joan Tidona.*



*From left: Debbie Benvenuti, Criss Mangano, Sal Mangano, Joyce O'Hara, Sal Benvenuti, Pat Pelonero, Frank Greco and John Barbieri.*



*John Barbieri sings his heart out.*



*Mary Hirsch*



*Joe Agresti presents a door prize.*



*Janet and Mark Fiume*



*Tom Cifelli aka Tommy Tunes!*



# ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NEW YORK AMBASCIATORE AWARDS

On Sunday, March 11, 2012 the Italian American Museum of New York sponsored the 2012 Ambasciatore Awards Ceremony and Dinner at The Venetian in Garfield, New Jersey. This prestigious award honors outstanding Italian Americans and their organizations. Among the many distinguished guests and honorees were officers and members of UNICO National and various Chapters, Italian One Voice Coalition, New Jersey Italian American Heritage Commission, The Coccia Foundation, the Italian American Association of Monmouth County and the Consuls of New York and New Jersey.



*Award winners Chris DiMattio and Andre' DiMino.*



*All the Italian American Museum Ambasciatore Award winners.*



*Award winner Michael Corradino and Nina Corradino.*



*The Saddle Brook table with winner Sal Mangano.*



*From left: Michael Ricatto, John Alati, Natalia Quintavalle, Joseph Scelsa and Andrea Barbaria.*



*The Passaic Valley table with winner Joe Agresti.*



*The Verona table with winner Linda Gail Alati.*



*The Woodcliff Lake Chapter and winner Andre' DiMino.*



*The Rutherford table with winner Father Bob Wolfee.*



*The Passaic/Clifton table with winner Michael Corradino.*



*The Orange/West Orange table and winner Frank Cannata.*



*The Scranton Chapter with winner Chris DiMattio.*



*From left: Andrea Barbaria, Italian Vice Consul in Newark, New Jersey; Natalia Qunitavalle, Italian Consul General in New York City, New York and UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato.*



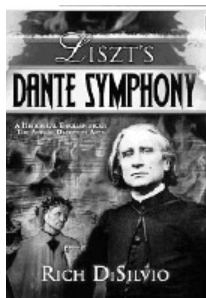
*Award winner Benito Catanzariti and wife Rita.*



*Award winner Manny Alfano is joined by his wife Patricia.*



## BOOK REVIEW



### Liszt's Dante Symphony

By: Rich Di Silvio

Reviewed by:  
Fran DePalma-Iozzi

Composer and pianist Franz Liszt (1811-1866) wrote The Dante Symphony, based on Dante Alighieri's The Divine Comedy and this music is the leitmotif in Rich Di Silvio's historical novel Liszt's Dante Symphony. With a plot that hints at such works as The DaVinci Code, Di Silvio presents historical and fictional characters trying to decipher a code that was supposedly embedded in Liszt's musical score. The book moves easily between the 1800's of Liszt and the 1930's of Einstein just before the rise of Hitler's regime.

If I was to suggest an age group for this book based on the writing, it would be late middle school, early high school. However, there are several problems with recommending the book for this group:

First, his portrayals of women are often demeaning. Our hero laments "It amazes me how women fawn over pretty works ... (of art), but they have no clue about the history of the men that truly shaped our world."

Here I would like to point out that the New York Times (March 27, 2012), discusses Amalie Noether, a scientist whose theorem is considered as important as Einstein's, but whose name is practically unknown. Einstein called her the "most significant and creative" mathematician of all time. Although I am not at all faulting the author for not including her, I do find the demeaning images of women distasteful.

Second, unpleasant stereotypes are reinforced unnecessarily. One overweight character is described as having "a fat, sweaty neck", "a fat, meaty hand", and "fat little shoulders". His tendency toward unusual analogies is sometimes amusing. When our hero and Mildred begin to connect with each other, he writes that "miraculously, the two were bonding, just like the resin and hardener that Angelo's lab was experimenting with to produce the new wonder adhesive, "epoxy."

Liszt's Dante Symphony is a quick read, and the reader will hopefully be inclined to investigate some of the historical character, incidents, and music presented in the novel...as I think the author intended.

(The symphony can be heard on YouTube)

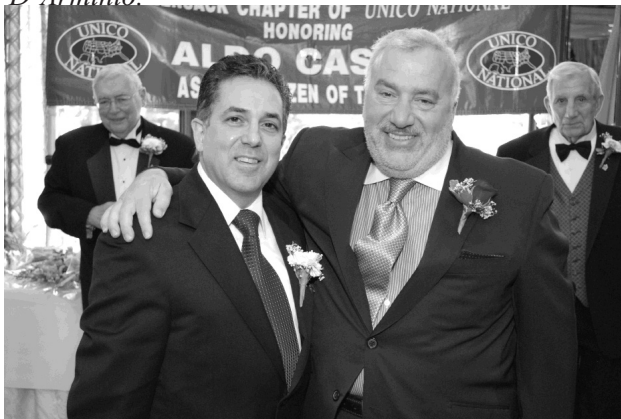


## HACKENSACK, NJ

The Hackensack Chapter of UNICO honored Aldo Cascio at their Citizen of the Year Dinner held at The Seasons.



From left: Joe Ruggiero, Aldo Cascio, Pat Ruggiero and Past National President Mike D'Arminio.



National President Glenn Pettinato congratulates Aldo Cascio.



Joe Ruggiero presents Aldo Cascio his award.



From left: Joe Ruggiero, Past National President Mike Mariniello, Carl Ricca, Aldo Cascio and Past National President Mike D'Arminio.

*Has your Chapter filed  
the IRS form 990 yet?*



From left: First Lady Terri Pettinato, Aldo Cascio and National President Glenn Pettinato.



From left: Joe and Pat Ruggiero, National President Glenn Pettinato, Aldo Cascio and Past National Presidents Mike D'Arminio and Mike Mariniello.

## CALL TO CONVENTION

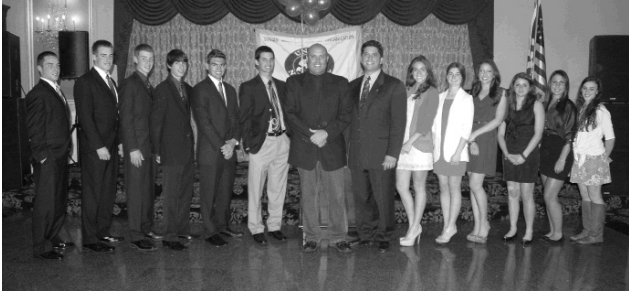
**TO BE HELD  
WEDNESDAY  
AUGUST 8th THROUGH  
SUNDAY AUGUST 12,  
2012**

**MARRIOTT MARCO  
ISLAND BEACH  
RESORT, GOLF CLUB  
AND SPA  
400 SOUTH COLLIER  
BLVD. MARCO ISLAND,  
FLORIDA 34145**



## NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IX

New Jersey District IX held its Brian Piccolo Scholarship Dinner to honor their award winning students. The dinner was held at the Florentine Gardens in Rivervale, New Jersey.



*District Award winners are pictured with New York Giant Sean Landeta.*



*New Jersey District IX Governor Frank Putrino.*



*From left: Pat Pelonero, Frank Putrino, Vincent Tedeschi, Rick D'Arminio, Al DiDonato and Gerry Heytink.*



*Sean Landeta of the New York Giant's signs his jersey to be raffled.*



*From left: Joseph DelGrego, Louis LaVigna, Al DiDonato, Sean Landeta, Frank Putrino, Vincent Scappaticcio, Ralph Spataro and Donna Brown.*



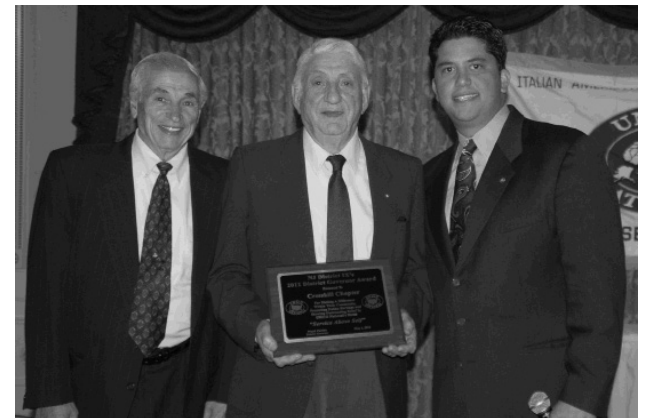
*UNICO National Second Vice President Rick D'Arminio.*



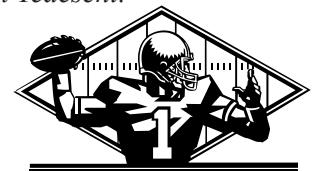
*From left: Al DiDonato, Rick D'Arminio, Gerry Heytink, Steve and Laurie Weker.*



*Attendees at the New Jersey District IX Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner.*



*The Cresskill Chapter was honored by the District for its outstanding service to the community. Accepting the award presented by District Governor Frank Putrino are Cresskill members Al DiDonato and Vincent Tedeschi.*



## The UNICO National Italy Photo Contest



You have probably seen the absolutely beautiful photos of Italy that are in UNICO's Italian and Italian American Heritage Calendar each year. Well, did you know that these have all been provided by our own member, Passaic Valley, New Jersey Chapter President, and UNICO National photographer Steve Pelonero? Yes, they were and they have been just perfect for our calendar.

But, now here is your chance to help us produce our new calendar for 2013 with your own photos of Italy.

We are launching a photo contest to see who can provide us with their own photos of Italy to be chosen for our 2013 calendar. We know that many of our members enjoy trips to Italy and take some terrific shots of the land of our heritage. Well, why not share them with the world by submitting them to this contest.

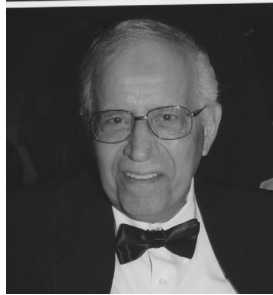
Photos will be reviewed and the winning photos will be published in the 2013 calendar. Please submit all photos in electronic format (jpg, etc.) in the best resolution possible. Winning entries will be notified in advance of publication and will receive credit in the calendar for their published photos.

Please submit your photos as e-mail attachments to [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org) and include your name and phone number in the e-mail. Also please provide a description of the photo which includes where it was taken (town, region, etc.) names or descriptions of buildings, or other prominent subjects in the photo as well as when it was taken. You can submit as many photos as you like!

We look forward to seeing all the great photos of Italy from our members and to finding out who will win this contest!



## BOOK REVIEW



**The Innocent**  
**By: David Baldacci**  
**Reviewed by:**  
**Dr. Tony Arabia**

This perennial New York Times Best Selling author of 18 thrilling novels has done it again with "The Innocent." If you are an ardent Italian American reader (and wouldn't you be if you are reading this column?) and haven't read his novels, now is the time to do it!

The "hero" Will Robie is an assassin/spy for The US government in an operation for two people to be killed. As the premier assassin for this work, his assignment is to kill a lady and her child. He is upset about it and can't do it; a secondary sniper completes the task.

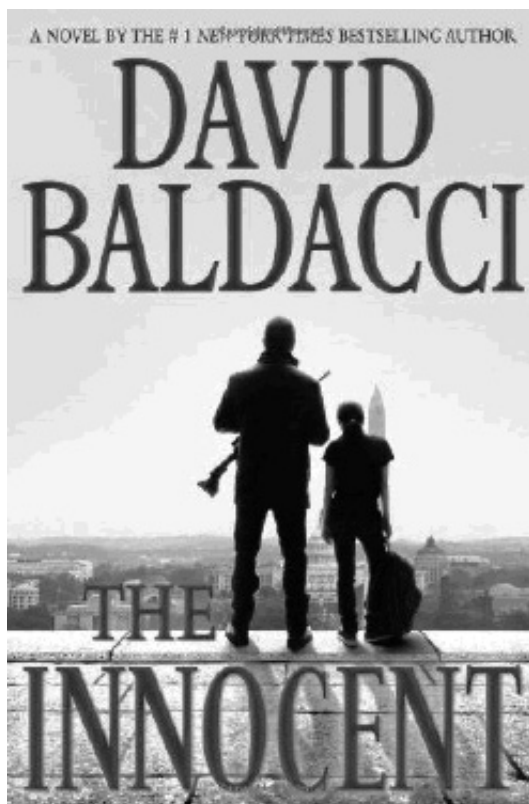
He knows now that in failing, he has to flee and is a target himself. Escaping, he rescues a girl who is evading threats to kill her. The author calls it "a vast cover-up" that encircles them and goes beyond to the highest levels.

America's ruthless enemies have made us use methods and means that have shocked us, and Baldacci has, in fiction, illuminated a variety of possibilities in several of his novels. Robie's humanity blossoms -- his forty year-old life is in jeopardy, but he is driven to protect a 14 year-old foster home runaway.

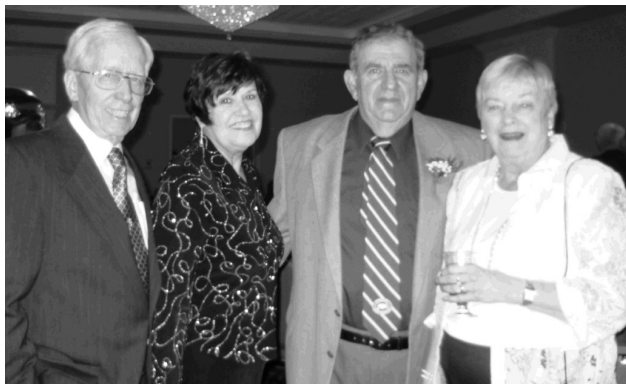
If you enjoy thrilling fiction, you will be find this page-turner-masterpiece to be one of the most exciting and REVEALING books to give you the satisfaction you seek! Through its twists and turns, Baldacci's efforts shine in a work that will remind you of the joy of finding the kick of living on the edge of uncertainty!

Its ISBN is 10 1455516155. \$ 11.25 paper UK David Baldacci is an extraordinary author; we are very proud to remind everyone of his Italian American heritage!

ENJOY!



## KEYSTONE, PA



*From left: New Keystone Charter Members Ed and Lenore Latarewicz and 1959 Carbondale Charter Member Luke Pollits and wife JoAnne.*



*From left: Carbondale Vice President Yvonne Gatto, Pennsylvania II District Governor Tom Gatto, Patty Calabro and Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro.*



*From left: Maggie Pettinato, Rose Heytink, First Lady Terri and Manuela D'Arminio.*



*Charter Members are sworn in as members of the Keystone Chapter.*



*Seated from left: Frank Cannata, Gerry Heytink, Chip Calabro, National President Glenn Pettinato, First Lady Terri Pettinato and Mike D'Arminio. Standing from left: Frank Castellano, Thomas Gretzula, Joe Cerullo, Chapter President Mark McDade, Peter Noto, Rick D'Arminio and Tom Vaughan.*



*From left: Past National President Mike D'Arminio, Gerard Heytink, President Glenn and Past National President Frank Cannata.*



*From left: President Glenn, Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro, 2012 Vastola Winner Gerard Heytink and Foundation Secretary Dr. Peter Pettinato.*

## EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

### Guidelines for all articles and/or photos for ComUNICO:

- All submissions shall be e-mailed to **comunico@unico.org**.
- All articles should be submitted in **WORD** and should not be more than **300 words**.
- Articles submitted by UNICO National Officers should be in **WORD** and no more than **500 words**.
- Articles must be submitted on a timely and pertinent basis.
- Only digital photos in .jpg(\*) format will be accepted. Cell phone photos or hard copy photos will not be accepted for publication.
- Photos must be accompanied by captions and all people in the photo must be identified. Photos not including this information will be returned to the Chapter for clarification.
- No more than six to eight photos per Chapter shall be submitted per issue. The Chapter must prioritize the order of submission.
- All submissions must be received by the National Office by 5:00 PM Eastern on the day of the deadline.
- Deadlines are hard and fast and no exceptions shall be made.

\* .jpg - is a commonly used method of compression for photographic images.

If you have any questions or concerns with regards to these guidelines, please contact the National Office at 973-808-0035.





## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR SALVATORE BENVENUTI

### NATIONAL OFFICE HAPPENINGS

**Staffing:** One of our key employees, Patrizia Trento left UNICO in early April to pursue a full time career with a major company. Patrizia had been with us for three and a half years and was instrumental with our website and ComUNICO publication. We were very fortunate to have Lisa Aduato on the staff and she has been taking over those functions. We are currently looking to replace Patrizia with a part time position.

**Dues Billing:** The Chapter dues billing went out the first week of May and every Chapter should have them by now. When you receive the package, please read all the instructions. Every year many of the Chapters submit the incorrect amount of dues for their Chapters. If you have any questions about the proper amount of dues that your Chapter owes, please call our Bookkeeper, Joyce O'Hara, our Office Manager, Pat Pelonero, or myself and we will be glad to review your statement.

Remember that your first half dues are payable by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. In addition, in the dues billing package was an election form which lists all your Chapter officers for the next fiscal year. This form is very important and is used to determine who can vote at the convention. Without this form, no delegates are allowed to vote. Please take the time to complete and submit the election form.

**Tax Compliance:** New for this year, we have included a question on your Chapter election form about your filing with the IRS. This is intended to aid your Chapter in meeting their filing requirements. Again, if you have any questions or need some assistance with the filing of your Federal 990, please contact me and I will be glad to assist your Chapter. Recently, we have had at least 8-10 Chapters lose their tax exempt status due to non filing for three consecutive years. Don't throw away your tax exempt status!

**Visitations:** Over the past few months the Office Manager and myself have visited a number of Chapters and Districts including Pittsfield, Massachusetts, New Jersey District X, and New Jersey District IV. If any Chapter or District would like a visitation from the National Office, please contact us and we will be glad to accommodate your request.

**Dues Questions:** Why does the Chapter have to pay dues for its members to UNICO National? This is the most frequently asked question wherever I go. Membership dues is the only source of revenue for UNICO National and is used exclusively to run the National Office. The dues covers all our administrative costs including salaries, rent, utilities, phones, equipment, postage etc. In addition, the costs for the ComUNICO publication, National Awards, and National Identity programs also comes from the dues.

UNICO National also provides all the administrative support for the UNICO Foundation. The Foundation does not pay or reimburse UNICO National for any of these administrative expenses. This means that every dollar donated to the Foundation charities goes for that purpose. Thus, by paying your National dues you are in substance supporting and subsidizing the Foundation charities.

**Constitutional Amendments:** Your Chapter will be receiving proposed Constitutional Amendments that will be discussed and voted on at the National Convention in August. Please make sure that your delegates are familiar with the proposed Amendments and be prepared to vote in accordance with your Chapter's position on the Amendment.

**UNICO National Budget:** New this year, included in the President's package will be a copy of the National budget for fiscal year 2012 – 2013. Again, since many Chapters and or members have questions about the income and expenses, the budget should show very clearly all our revenue and expenses.



*Chapter President Dan DeMelfi presents Dr. Greco with his award.*

### HAZLETON, PA

At a meeting held April 17 at Stagecoach Inn the Hazleton Chapter held a special dinner meeting, of members and guests, to honor Dr. Victor Greco as the 2012 UNICO NATIONAL Marconi Science Award winner. The Hazleton Chapter, nominated Dr. Greco for the award and was overwhelmed and very happy to have Dr. Greco selected for this prestigious award.



*From left: Joe Cerullo, Jean Greco, Dr. Victor Greco, Dan DeMelfi and Francis Defazio.*





# UNICO NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY

The UNICO National Service Day was held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Chapters from around the country participated in events in their local communities.



Clark UNICO selected the McAuley School for Special Children for Service Day. Past UNICO District Governor Bill Hearon shows off his dancing ability with Kateem.



Clark UNICO members and children.



The Keystone Chapter participated in Community Service Day with a visit to the Gino Merli Veteran's Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Seated from left: Mary Mack, Chairpersons Theresa and Ray Tropeano, and James Mack. Standing from left: Mary DePalma, Margie DelVecchio, Marie Scaringi, Marilyn Vitali, Nettie Wormuth, Michele McDade and Chapter President Mark E. McDade.



The San Antonio Chapter prepared meals for the Haven for Hope Foundation for Community Service Day. From left: Rose Arabia, Patsy Monaco, Chapter President Bill Kelly, Tony Arabia, Joe Monaco and guest Noah Monaco.



From left: Joe, Patsy and Noah Monaco, Rose and Tony Arabia and Bill Kelly.



The Miami Chapter once again partnered with Miami Habitat's Women Build, this time located in Liberty City.



UNICANS who helped to set up and clean up the luncheon include Barbara and Phil Ludovici, Ann and Nick Salce and President, Joe Martucci and his wife, Maria.



The Passaic Valley Chapter assisted with the spring clean up at the North Jersey Developmental Center. From left: Joe Agresti, Joyce O'Hara, Steve Pelonero, John Barbieri, Sal Nocella, Rich Polizzi, Pat Ferro, Vicki Ferro and Lorraine Polizzi. Kneeling: Bob Appaluccio, Kathy Masone and John Morano.



From left: Bob Appaluccio, Rich Polizzi, John Morano and Sal Nocella.



Members of the Raritan Valley Chapter gather after cleaning up the river banks of the Raritan River.



In addition members of Raritan Valley erected a new sign in honor of Sergeant John Basilone.



Members of the St. Louis Chapter volunteered their help and services to the Sacred Heart Villa on the Hill. Seated from left: Joseph Palazzo, Norman Marzorati, Frances Regalia and Theresa Monteleone. Standing from left: Marianne Perisack, Mayflower, John Mandala, Margaret, Kay Marzorati, Sister Jude, Kaye Quentin, Al Quentin and Nancy Null.



The Philadelphia Chapter volunteered for Huddle Up for Autism held at the Lincoln Financial Field. From left: Chapter President John Ferrara, Ben Ferrara and Mike Iannuzzi.



## OUR STORY

### ***HEY, AUNT MAGGIE, I CAN SMELL YOUR GRAVY!***

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, Margaret Corino Luglio went home to her eternal reward. Shortly thereafter, her friends and family were streaming to Wildwood, New Jersey, to escort this special lady to her peaceful resting place.

They flew in from West Palm Beach and drove down from Boston. Her old neighborhoods in Belleville and Nutley emptied onto the Garden State Parkway. If you could look closely at the faces of these respectful travelers, you would have noticed a special phenomenon—they were all shedding a tear, ... and smiling at the same time.

***“Hey, Aunt Maggie, I can smell your gravy!”***

Margaret Corino was the first of eight children of Carmine and Maria (Capalbo) Corino. Her parents survived the trip from the shores of Calabria in Southern Italy to settle in Belleville, New Jersey. Grandpa Corino and his sons and neighbors built the houses in which the Corinos would raise their families. They were right on the Belleville-Nutley line—some of their bedrooms in Nutley, the rest in Belleville.

“Where ya from?” “Belleville-Nutley line—Big Tree section.”

Those were Aunt Margaret’s roots. She quickly became the proverbial big sister, but as time would pass, Aunt Maggie became a second mother to her seven siblings, their best friend, a confidant, a business advisor, ... and eventually the matriarch of the Corino’s from the Big Tree section of Belleville. To so many of us—her nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends, Margaret Corino became that daring beauty who would be the first to leave her town for the “opportunities” at the Jersey Shore. Her handsome husband, Bob Luglio, from across the river in Lyndhurst, encouraged her to take that tough step. She would courageously leave the warm blue collar cocoon of King Street, St. Mary’s Place, Carmer Avenue, and the connecting roads to Holy Family and St. Mary’s Churches in Nutley. It wasn’t nearly as tough as when her brothers had to go off to war.

So, enterprising Aunt Maggie was off to a new world. But she’d never forget—the scadaul and beans (escarole and beans), eggs in the gravy with peas, pasta, Zinacola bread, tripe, potato and eggs, and the many other depression meals she cooked with her mother and sisters during the tough years of her youth when her father and brothers were building an excavation business.

Yes, she left the neighborhood, but the neighborhood never left her heart.

***“Hey, Aunt Maggie, I can smell your gravy!”***

It was in Wildwood where Margaret bloomed. Her two wonderful daughters, Judy and Barbara, blessed her and Uncle Bob with respect and youthful beauty as they assisted in building the family motel business. And it wasn’t long before some of the other transplants from the Italian American enclaves of New York City and Northern Jersey got to know their new Wildwood neighbor. How could they not notice her? Her businesses were growing, her home was always open to them, and every day she was in the kitchen preparing food, ... even for strangers. And when it was time

to celebrate, no one was more grateful than “Aunt Maggie Jiggs.”

“Jiggs”? Yep, she’d always be dancing with her husband, her sisters, her daughters, strangers... not just a Jig or two, but also the donandell (tarantella). Food, drink, and a big hug would always welcome you to her home—no matter who you were.

My first memory of my Aunt Maggie, my wife’s eldest aunt? I was invited to stay “overnight” in one of her motels back in the early sixties. Yea, I’d have to share the mattresses on the kitchen floor with my future brother-in-law and his double cousins (sisters married brothers). No complaints from me, ... it was my first overnight at the Jersey Shore—my father’s take home pay and my mother’s check from the grave yard shift assured great summer days in our backyard in Belleville, but not an overnight at the Shore.

And so I saw the legend of Aunt Maggie unfold. It’s still so real in my heart right now—her love for her family, her appreciation for the moment, her ability to listen, her generosity, ... and her spiritual and personal strength—yea, she reminded me of my mother a bit, but she was ever so unique.

***“Hey, Aunt Maggie, I can smell your gravy!”***

Every year my wife Maria would make sure Wildwood would be a destination for me and our daughters. Judy married Police Chief Bob Davenport, and Barbara wed accountant Nick Terenik. Aunt Maggie’s grandkids came—Patrick, Michelle, and Michael for Judy, and Thea, a blessing for Barbara. So, lots of reasons to head to Wildwood, but none better than to just be with Aunt Maggie.

Well, she and her husband build a mini-motel dynasty in the Wildwoods, sharing it with her children and grandchildren, showing them how to gain wealth, and teaching them about their roots. The depression meals would sometimes be featured in her home to remind us all where we came from. But in spite of the circumstance, Aunt Maggie would be smiling, laughing, serving, listening, ... and dancing.

And we were all learning from her just how to live. She stayed humble—she learned that in her Catholic Church, and she thrilled to see her daughters come to know the Lord in a personal way, just like her.

In the end, her spirit lives on. Her son-in-law, Bobbie, a noble veteran of Vietnam, respected former Top Cop in Wildwood, just smiles when he thinks of her. His first grandson, Gavin, is exceptional. When Bob calls him at home in Wildwood from his stately winter home in Marisol in Palm Beach Gardens, it has gone like this: “Hi, Gavin, it’s Poppie.” “Hi, Poppie.” “What are you doing, Gavin?” “Poppie, I’m talking to YOU!” Yea, I can smell Maggie’s gravy—her great grandson, focusing on the moment with his hero of a grandfather, nothing else mattering at the time... just like his great grandma Maggie! For Aunt Maggie, it was all about the joy of the moment... no matter what!

Margaret Corino Luglio took a little trip a couple of years before she died. Alzheimer’s arrived, and she strolled off to another place. The visits for all of us continued to Wildwood, but all beach

activities had to wait until we saw Aunt Maggie at her nursing home. She looked great—we laughed with her, she ate our chocolates, the sparkle was still in her eyes. Oh, some things had changed, ... but it seemed they were always making gravy at that nursing home... Aunt Maggie’s gravy!?

One time when we visited, Judy reintroduced us—me, my wife Maria, and my father-in-law Angelo Corino (Maggie’s brother). When asked how she was, she replied, “I feel like I’m lost and can’t find my way home.” Later that visit she informed us she speaks with Sally, my mother-in-law, who had passed on. We laughed and cried with her.

On Tuesday, February 26, 2008 the call came down to Judy and Barbara in Florida that they best return to Wildwood quickly. They did. But as they were in flight, Patrick Davenport, Margaret’s oldest grandchild, was at her side. She was just outside the Gates of Heaven. Time was quickly approaching.

Patrick encouraged her to hang in: “The girls are coming, Judy and Barbara, just wait for them, Nanny.” He wasn’t pleading. He was respectfully suggesting. He was confidant she would not leave just yet.

Well, Aunt Maggie waited. The girls arrived. They sang and danced around her. Moments later, their devoted mother finally found her way home... to the arms of a loving and smiling Creator. He finally had one of His greatest of creations all to himself. And I bet Aunt Maggie convinced Him ... to dance!!

And so, if you are so fortunate to have known Margaret Corino Luglio, next time you’re in Wildwood or the Crest, and it’s Sunday afternoon, and you’re making your way off the beach, ... stop. Get into the moment, ... at first you’ll hear the cawing of the seagulls, then the clickity sound of the roller coaster, the menagerie of voices from the thousands on the beach, the aroma of sausage and peppers wafting in from the boardwalk, maybe popcorn, cotton candy, ... the yelps of the barkers at the board games. Your senses will be assaulted. But, if you really get into that moment with the sun beating down on you, take another whiff of the Jersey Shore air. You won’t inhale the salt from the ocean, or one of the many boardwalk offerings, ... you’ll smell Aunt Maggie’s Sunday gravy. It’s waiting for you, just as her example of how to live, love, and pass on this blessing of life to others. I’m down in West Palm Beach right now, ... and ya know what?

***“Hey, Aunt Maggie, I can smell your gravy!”***

One final note, God has a sense of humor and a perfect plan: Patrick and his beautiful wife Jennifer brought a healthy baby girl into the world, just as his grandmother left it. Her name is Maggie. So, Maggie’s back in town. Yea, Maggie’s back in town, never to leave, no matter where we or she is. Rest in peace, Aunt Maggie, but keep on dancing, ... we’ll see you when the Lord picks the time. In the meantime, ... I can still smell your gravy!

Story submitted by Joseph Cervasio  
Nutley Chapter



# CONVENTION 2012 MT. AIRY ART AUCTION



*From left: Bernie Brutto, Gloria Cerullo, Debbie and Sal Benvenuti and Joe Cerullo.*



*The Artwork to be Auctioned.*



*Joe Cerullo emcees the day's event.*



*From left: Tanya Brutto, Sal Benvenuti, Pat Pelonero and Debbie Benvenuti.*



*The Wine Tasting Table.*



*UNICO members getting to place bids on their favorite pieces of artwork.*



*From left: Donna Brown, Rick D'Arminio, Joe Paci and Robert Brown.*



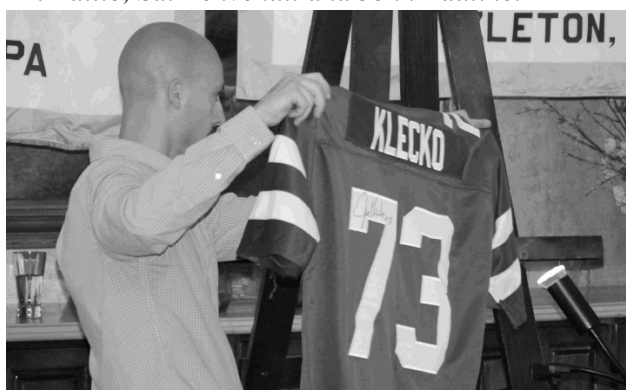
*Enjoying the wine tasting are members Chris DiMattio, Sal Benvenuti and John Pauline.*



*From left: Joe Paci, Rick and Manuela D'Arminio and friends of the D'Arminio's.*



*From left: Gene and Marie Antonio, Pat Pelonero, Sal Benvenuti, Manny Alfano, Frank Blasi and Tanya Brutto.*



*New York Jets signed jersey being displayed for auction.*



*From left: Dan DeMelfi, Frank De Frank, John Pauline and Mike DeCosmo.*

On Sunday, April 22nd the Convention 2012 Committee in conjunction with several Pennsylvania Chapters held an Art Auction and Wine Tasting Event at the Mount Airy Casino Resort in the Poconos. Proceeds raised from the event will be used to offset costs for the Convention in Marco Island, Florida. Guests were also treated to a buffet dinner and a gambling stipend to be used in the casino. Many pictures and items were auctioned for a successful day. A good time was had by all.

*From left: Linda De Frank, Chris DiMattio, Frank Blasi, and Maggie and Sam Prudente prepared to bid on an item. As you can see the room was filled with UNICO members supporting Convention 2012.*





## What are YOU looking for in a Leader?

As we begin to prepare for another election- we need to look at what the membership might be looking for in a future leader.

If you are looking for a candidate who is a visionary and has a plan of action to move the UNICO organization into the 21st century-then you are looking for-**ANN WALKO**, candidate for Third Vice President.

If you are looking for a candidate who has a proven track record of leadership, who is a problem-solver, and a decision-maker, then you are looking for **Ann Walko**.

If you are looking for a team player, a leader of leaders, who exhibits attention to detail, has a sense of humor and a sense of self, then you are looking for **Ann Walko**.

If you are looking for someone who has patience, good listening skills, is a mentor to others, who is an innovator, exhibits integrity, maintains a professional demeanor- then you are looking for  
**Ann Walko!**

**VOTE FOR ANN WALKO FOR THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT~UNICO NATIONAL. SHE IS WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IN A FUTURE LEADER!!**

## SEARCHING FOR PARADISE? IT'S CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

**AT THE BEAUTIFUL and LUXURIOUS  
MARCO ISLAND MARRIOTT**

**RESORT, GOLF CLUB & SPA**

**JOIN US FOR**

**UNICO CONVENTION 2012**

**AUGUST 8 -12, 2012**

*Marco Island Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa*  
*The ultimate in unique outdoor dining experiences*

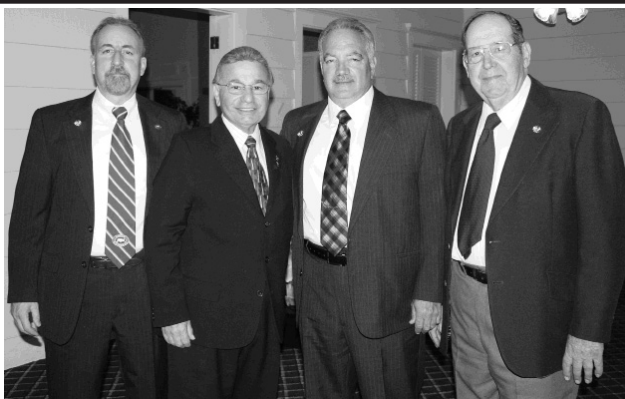


**WE CAN'T WAIT TO HOST YOU  
THE 2012 CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

## ROSETO, PA



*From left: Frank De Frank, Joe Danubio, Dan Martino, Cathy Capozzolo, Carmella Carrescia and Glenn Pettinato.*



*From left: Frank De Frank, Frank Paolercio, Joe Danubio and Dan Martino.*



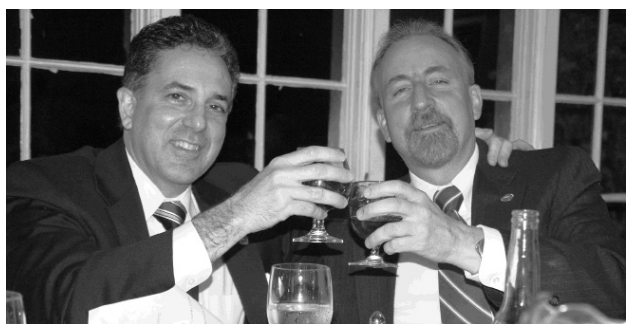
*From left: Rick D'Arminio, Frank De Frank, Linda De Frank, Pat Pelonero, Terri Pettinato, Glenn Pettinato and Frank Paolercio.*



*Cathy Capozzolo and Carmella Carrescia raffle off home made cookies.*



*Member Phil DeRea entertains the crowd.*



*UNICO National President Glenn Pettinato toasts Chapter President Frank De Frank.*

On April 28, 2012 The Roseto Chapter of UNICO National held its annual Spring Gala at Water Gap Country Club, Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania. Honored guests were UNICO National President, Glenn Pettinato and his wife Terri, UNICO National Second Vice President Rick D'Arminio, Pat Pelonero, Office Manager, and Frank Paolercio, UNICO National Chairman for the "V" Foundation for Cancer Research. On behalf of the members of the Roseto Chapter, Dr. Frank De Frank, president, presented a check for \$1,000 to Mr. Paolercio.



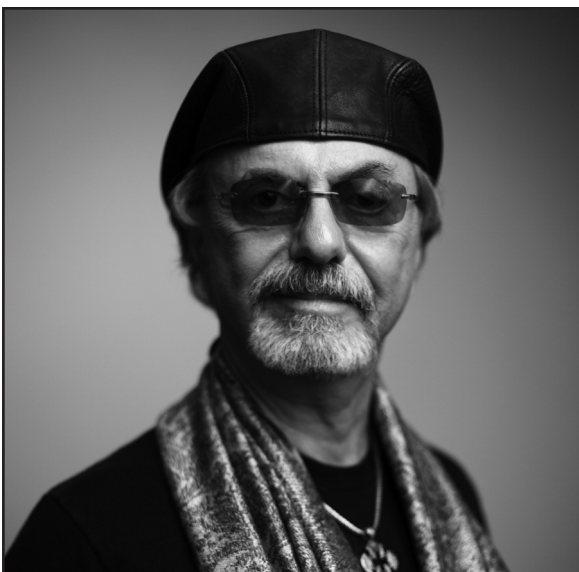


Visit us at:  
[usa.campagnabrand.com](http://usa.campagnabrand.com)

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| ■ PASTA      | ■ RICE        |
| ■ VEGETABLES | ■ MUSHROOMS   |
| ■ FRUIT      | ■ ANTIPASTI   |
| ■ TOMATOES   | ■ PASTA SAUCE |
| ■ PESTO      | ■ OLIVE OIL   |
| ■ VINEGAR    |               |

Distributed by Fancy Foods Inc. 718-617-3000 ext. 224.  
355 Food Center Drive • Building B-12 • Hunts Point Cooperative Market • Bronx, NY 10474





**DION DIMUCCI:** The Frank Sinatra of early rock 'n' roll, he influenced generations of pop stars with his two-fisted tunes and bad-boy persona.

## LOU&A

by Louis R. Carlozo

### Born to wander

Just as Frank Sinatra summed up cool and class in the '30s and '40s, Dion DiMucci embodied the same for rock 'n' roll's first acolytes — but with a more dangerous edge. Long before Bob Dylan injected rock with political consciousness, Dion brought the drama. He sang about characters — whether in “The Wanderer” or “Runaround Sue” — who were menacing, conflicted and impossible to pin down. That's much like the man himself, who matured from teen idol to the force behind one of the 1960s most moving Civil Rights ballads, “Abraham, Martin & John.”

Make no mistake: Dion is the boss that Bruce Springsteen looks up to, and is cited by Lou Reed and Paul Simon as a prime influence. We're talking a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame here, yet Dion remains as humble as they come. He's never forgotten his Bronx roots, and as a practicing Roman Catholic, he pursues a prison ministry and reaches out to men going through addiction recovery.

(See Lou&A on Page 52)

## NEWSMAKERS

### Working class hero

by Jim Distasio

The Boss is back, and this time he's swinging a wrecking ball.

Arguably New Jersey's second most famous Italian-American singer, Bruce Springsteen will be playing to sold-out stadiums across Europe this summer as part of his massive Wrecking Ball tour in support of his recent album of the same name.

Springsteen, along with the E Street Band, toured the States from March through April, but skipped over Chicago on the initial leg. Rumor has it the Boss and Co. will land in Wrigley Field in late summer for a rare concert at the Friendly Confines. However, as of press time, nothing has been officially announced.

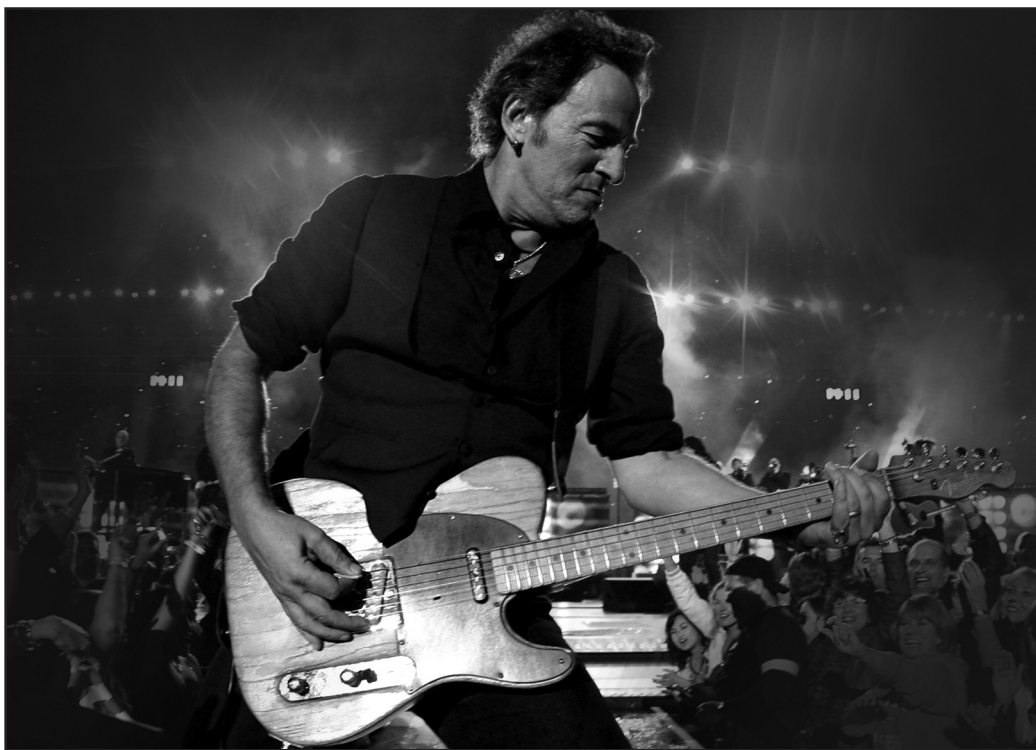
As for “Wrecking Ball,” the record debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts and

has received near universal critical acclaim. Not bad for a 62-year-old rocker on his 17th studio album at a time when mainstream success in the YouTube/iTunes era eludes many of his contemporaries.

But these are the “glory days” of 2012. (Forgive the pun. It was too good to pass up.) Last year was far more tumultuous for Springsteen, with the death of longtime E Street Band saxophonist Clarence Clemons following a stroke at age 69. Clemons played alongside Springsteen for more than 40 years, and his passing has left a hole in the heart of the storied band.

“Losing Clarence is like losing something elemental. It's like losing the rain or air. And that's part of life,” the press-shy

(See Newsmakers on Page 52)



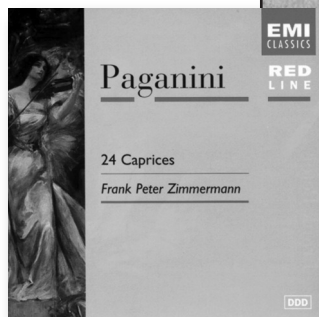
**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN:** With a world tour on the horizon and a new album debuting at No. 1 on the charts, the New Jersey-born Italian American is celebrating a return to the glory days.

## REVIEW Violin magician

by Arielle Basile

Nicolò Paganini (1782-1840) stands out as the most famous violin virtuoso of his time, but it wasn't just his playing that etched his name in musical history. Paganini's compositions not only set the standard for modern violin technique, but also influenced future generations of composers seeking to emulate his equally virtuosic writing for the instrument.

Born in Genoa, Paganini received his first musical instruction on the mandolin and violin from his father, an amateur musician. He progressed rapidly, earning numerous scholarships to study violin and composition with several other teachers in Genoa. By the age of 12, Paganini had already composed an inventive set of variations for violin and guitar and was holding private and public performances locally. At a benefit concert he held to raise funds to study with Alessandro Rolla in Parma, Rolla was so impressed that he recommended Paganini to a different teacher,



claiming he “could teach him nothing.”

In 1801, Paganini found a new home in the musical city of Lucca. He soon gained a reputation as an outstanding virtuoso and was appointed first violin of the republican orchestra. When Lucca was annexed by Napoleonic France in 1805, and Napoleon's sister, Elisa Baciocchi, was placed in charge of the region, Paganini became a court violinist. Paganini conducted the new orchestra and taught private lessons to Prince Felice until 1810, when he decided to strike out on his own as a freelance performer. Paganini toured locally until he received his big break in 1813, when Alessandro Rolla invited him to play at La Scala. The success of his Milanese concerts attracted the attention of musicians throughout Europe and launched his career. Paganini toured and composed across Italy, Austria, Germany, France and Great Britain.

Paganini's technical prowess astounded audiences, though few of his compositions were actually published during his lifetime.

(See Review on Page 52)



# LIBRI Bennett redefined

by Fred Gardaphe

Tony Bennett has long attracted the attention of entertainment critics, journalists and historians, so you'd think by now we'd have heard it all. He's even told his own story in 1998 in "The Good Life," but despite all the ink that's been spilled on his life, something different happens in the hands of seasoned biographer David Evanier. The former editor of the Paris Review is a top fiction writer and author of biographies of Jimmy Roselli and Bobby Darin. His "All the Things You Are: The Life of Tony Bennett" is a careful composition about the making of an artist and the personal and public obstacles he overcame to achieve iconic status in American popular culture. Evanier covers the shadows as well as the highlights of Bennett's life to paint a fuller portrait of the singer and the man than we've ever seen.

Not many know that during World War II, Bennett witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust first hand when his unit liberated a Bavarian concentration camp in Landsberg, or that he once entered an Army mess hall with a black friend who was denied entry — an act for which Bennett was demoted on the spot when a sergeant cut off his corporal stripes. These early experiences shaped Bennett's social conscience, leading to his anti-war stance and his support of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s.

Born Anthony Benedetto in 1926 in Queens, N.Y., to children of Calabrian immigrants, Tony Bennett sees his poor upbringing as a plus, something that has given him a solid foundation not just in his career as one of America's top crooners, but in life itself. Starting out as a singing waiter with the stage name Joe Bari, Bennett appeared on "Talent



Scouts," a precursor of contemporary shows like "American Idol," where he came in second to Rosemary Clooney. From there he went on to a career that included traveling to Italy with Count Basie, where he was booed and "barely got out of the town alive."

Loyal to family, friends and fans, Bennett maintained a close relationship with Frank Sinatra, his mentor in many ways, and built a New

York school for the arts in Sinatra's name. He once made a phone call to get a friend's mother into Villa Scalabrini, a suburban Chicago home for the aged for which he, like Sinatra, did benefit concerts.

What's most amazing is that Bennett continued to sell out concerts and produce classic songs throughout the rise of rock 'n' roll, the British Invasion, disco and more, without caving into pressure to follow the trends. With the help of his sons, Danny and Daegal, he has been able to connect to the MTV generation and maintain a public presence like no other musical artist. Beyond his singing, he has become a serious artist who has produced works that are exhibited and hang in museums and private collections throughout the world.

Evanier artfully captures the essence of Bennett as "a transcendent singer ... an entertainer, a painter, an educator, a troubadour, a messenger of hope and optimism, and a loyal and faithful servant to the regular guy on the street. He is our street singer, our true democratic spirit, our messenger of hope."

**All the Things You Are:  
The Life of Tony Bennett**  
by David Evanier

- ◆ Pages: 346
- ◆ Cost: \$26.95, hardcover
- ◆ ISBN: 978-0-470-52065-9
- ◆ [www.davidevanier.com](http://www.davidevanier.com)



Looking to rediscover your history?  
Looking to help your community?  
JOIN the Organization of Choice!

***The Largest Italian American Service  
Organization in the United States***

Join our Nationwide ranks supporting charitable efforts like:

Mental Health Cooley's Anemia  
Scholarships Cancer Research  
Local Community Needs

1-800-877-1492 • [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)  
Visit our website at [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)

***Did you see your  
Chapter's News  
in this issue?***  
If not, contact us today!

**Call: 973-808-0035**  
**E-mail: [UNICONational@UNICO.org](mailto:UNICONational@UNICO.org)**

## Italian Tribune

**The Premier Italian American Weekly Newspaper Since 1931**



The Italian Tribune serves the needs of the Italian American community by preserving and promoting Italian and Italian American heritage.

The Italian Tribune and UNICO National formed a partnership aimed at fostering unity among our people. The Italian Tribune regularly prints news and photos from the many active chapters of UNICO.

In exchange, UNICO National encourages its members to subscribe to the Italian Tribune at the specially discounted rate of \$22 per year (must be a member of UNICO to qualify).

Call (973) 485-6000 to subscribe now.  
[www.ItalianTribune.com](http://www.ItalianTribune.com)



# SPORTS Queen of the links

by Elena Ferrarin

In the 23 years since she retired from professional golf, Donna Caponi says she doesn't so much miss playing competitively as she does playing well. Caponi lives with her husband, attorney Ted Byrnes, in Orlando, Fla., where she plays golf recreationally a couple of times a week.

"At this stage, I practice for five minutes before I go out to play. My whole life I never missed five minutes in a year," says Caponi, 67. "Playing professionally is like any sport, you have to constantly do it over and over. It's constant practice."

How much practice exactly? "You wake up in the morning, go to the driving range for two hours. Then you play 18 holes, then another two hours at the driving range, another hour chipping and putting, and by that time it's dinner time. You do that every day."

Caponi is one of women's golf's most recognizable names, with 24 championship wins from 1969 to 1981, followed by a career as a TV golf commentator and analyst. She retired from professional golf in 1989.

Nowadays, there is much more golf on TV, tournament prizes are heftier, and there are a lot more corporate sponsors, she says. "When I won the U.S. Women's Open (in 1969) the prize was \$5,000. Now, it's \$500,000. Moneywise it's changed," she says. "A lot of the tournaments then were sponsored by local people in each town, now it's more major companies getting involved. Kraft Nabisco, Zurich Financial Services, lots of them."

Caponi says she was saddened when her 15-year gig with the Golf Channel came to an end last year. "They decided not to rehire me. I was in shock, kind of. My fans were too," she says. "There's a generation of people that don't know me as a golfer but know me as a TV commenta-

tor."

Caponi began playing golf around age 5 in her native Detroit, following in the footsteps of her father, Harry Caponi. "He played golf every Saturday with a group of guys. I used to pull his pull cart around the golf course. I got hooked watching him. He cut a club off in half, put a grip on it so I could use it," she recalls.

She developed a real passion for golf around age 10, and by age 19 she turned professional. "I

focused all my energies on playing golf and the thought of making it professionally," she says. "My mother [the late Dolly Caponi] and father were the most influential in my career. They worked two jobs each to save money so when I decided to turn pro, they gave me X thousands of dollars. My first year, I paid them back. I was pretty proud of that."

Caponi says it's hard to point out her proudest moment in her career, which has earned her inductions in the World Golf Hall of Fame and the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame. But for sure, her second tournament win in 1970 was a defining moment, she says. "The first win is a great thing, but the second win solidifies it," she says.

There were plenty of bad moments in her career, she says. "All athletes will say there are highs and lows. You're successful, you win a couple tournaments, then ... bam! You don't play as well, you don't make as much money," she says. "You never own this game. Every day is a learning process. I don't care how long you've been playing golf, every day you learn something new."

Caponi says she always preferred older, more traditional golf courses like Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., Butler's Golf Course in Elizabeth, Pa., and Cog Hill Golf and Country Club in Lemont. "You have to use your mind so much. It's called golf course management — managing your way around the golf course," she says.

Caponi says her next goal is to get back into corporate tent work, as a hostess and expert guide for guests who attend tournaments at the invite of corporations. "We walk along the course, watch golf and I give them insight, an insider's perspective into the sport of golf," she said. "I really enjoy that."



**DONNA CAPONI:** With 24 championships and a 15-year Golf Channel gig under her belt, she loves the game as much as she did when she first swung a club at the age of 5.



45 AMERICA

MAY 2012

COMMUNICO





**SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM!**

*Join us Today!*

UNICO National is the largest Italian-American Service Organization in America. With 140 local chapters in 20 states, with more being formed right now, we have an unparalleled track record of giving that dates back to 1922.

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

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

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

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

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

To find out more,  
call 973-808-0035  
or visit [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)





by Nicola Orichuia



## Stripped bare

The pristine facade of one of Italy's most powerful political parties was shattered in early April because of a greedy fish, a song about naked behinds, and a truckload of illegal practices. Although the first two sound amusing, it is the latter that has jeopardized the future of the Lega Nord, as it is called in Italy.

On April 3, police investigators stormed the party's headquarters in Milan in search of evidence against the Northern League's treasurer Francesco Belsito. The allegations against Belsito included embezzlement, fraud and money laundering. Rumors of money being transferred to the party's founder, Umberto Bossi, spread like wildfire. In less than 24 hours, the party was turned upside down, with Bossi resigning after 23 years at the helm while others fought for their political lives.

It turned out some of the party's public funds did indeed end up in the hands of a Bossi, only it wasn't Umberto, but his son Renzo ... the greedy fish. Known as "Il Trota" (The Trout), the 24-year-old heir to the Northern League throne was caught on tape by a former Northern League chauffeur as he took several hundred euros belonging to the party. The chauffeur explained how it all worked: He would ask the party for reimbursements for gas and other maintenance costs, only to hand the money over to Renzo whenever he needed it. After putting up a feeble fight, the young politician resigned from his post as one of Lombardy's regional councilmen — a posted he was handed as a reward for repeating his senior year of high school twice and finally graduating in 2009, at the age of 21.

(See *Circo Italia* on Page 53)

## PERSONAGGI Something to say

by Nicola Orichuia

When it comes to contemporary music, most artists are easy enough to categorize. In the case of Neapolitan singer-songwriter Pino Daniele, the task is much harder. The 57-year-old guitar virtuoso has been plying his unique amalgam of blues, rock and melodious tunes for the past 35 years, daring to chart a musical course that strays far from the pop mainstream. The gamble has paid off, making Pino Daniele one of the most distinctive singers and musicians on the Italian scene today.

Although he has been around for a long time, Daniele isn't afraid of a new challenge: going solo. After more than 20 studio albums with a host of major record labels,

his latest recording, "La Grande Madre" (The Great Mother), is an entrepreneurial first for the Neapolitan rocker, who has joined the independent label Blue Drag. It is, in his own words, "the first step as an independent." In an exclusive interview with Fra Noi, Daniele talks about his new album, the changing music market and his upcoming tour of the United States.

Now that Daniele has left behind the creative constraints of a major record label, he has chosen to explore an earthier approach to music, introducing African and South American elements to "La Grande Madre" that give the album an incredibly

(See *Personaggi* on Page 52)



**PINO DANIELE:** While many of his contemporaries stick to tried-and-true pop strategies, he continues to push the edge of the musical envelope in search of a meaningful dialog with his fans.

## CINEMA Down-to-earth royalty

by Jeannine Guilyard

"Fiery," "volcanic" and "fearless" are just a few of the words used by critics to describe her performances. The iconic Anna Magnani earned those adjectives by bringing her deeply felt personal passion and pain to each and every role she played. She is one of the most revered actresses in the history of cinema, and her memory lives on in some of the most influential films of all time.

Although she became a highly respected, Academy Award-winning actress, her beginnings were anything but glamorous. Anna Magnani was born in Rome in 1908 and grew up in poverty. Raised by her grandmother, she never met her father and hardly knew her mother, who abandoned her at an early age.

It was clear from early on that Magnani was a natural born performer, and she pursued her craft with an unwavering commitment. As industrious as she was talented, she worked her way through Rome's Academy of Dramatic Art by singing in clubs in Rome and its countryside.

She landed her first role in a 1920s silent film, but it was Vittorio De Sica's 1941 film



**ANNA MAGNANI:** Born into poverty, she ascended to cinematic heights while never losing touch with her humble origins.

"Teresa Venerdi" that earned her first critical acclaim. Four years later, her breakout role came in Roberto Rossellini's 1945 classic, "Rome, Open City." The movie itself broke new ground, being the first of the Neorealist era, and it simultaneously launched a prolific career for Magnani — one that would last right up until her death in 1973.

After the success of "Rome, Open City," Magnani went on to make landmark films on both sides of the Atlantic. Adored by fans and critics and respected by her peers, she worked with the most talented Italian filmmakers of her era, including Pier Paolo Pasolini, Federico Fellini, Roberto Rossellini, Eduardo De Filippo, Luchino Visconti and Vittorio De Sica.

Stateside, she worked with marquee filmmakers like Sidney Lumet and held her own on screen with some of the legends of American cinema. Life magazine saw fit to proclaim her "one of the most impressive actresses since Garbo." Not long after that

(See *Cinema* on Page 53)



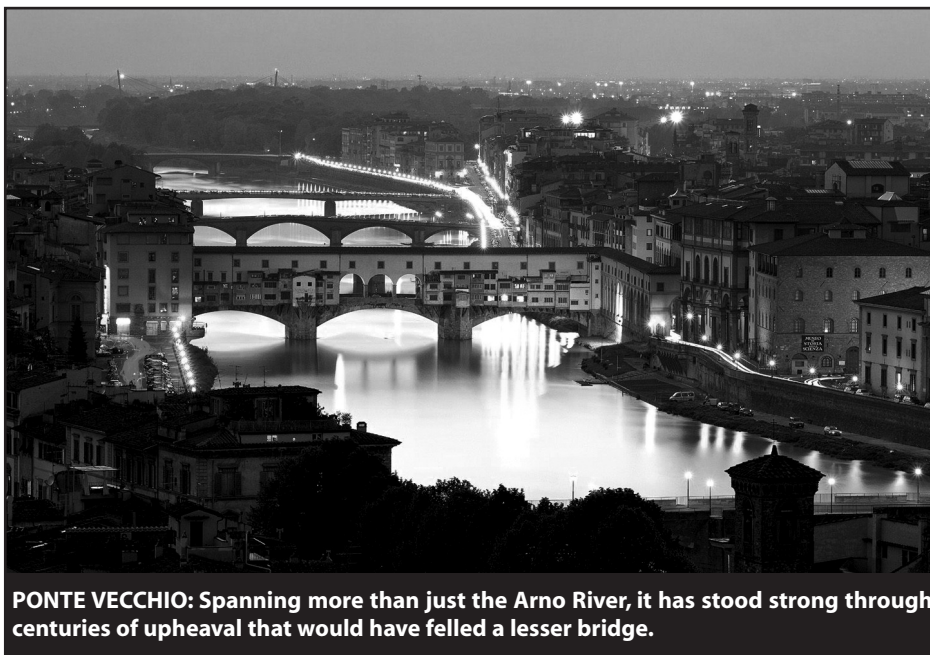
# VIAGGIO Witness to history

by Judith Anne Testa

For most travelers to Florence, the first thing the name Ponte Vecchio brings to mind is jewelry. To walk across this famous bridge is to enter a world full of gleaming and glittering treasures ranging from rings, earrings and pendants to heavy brooches and elaborate necklaces, all created from the finest quality gold and many of them set with coral, semi-precious or precious stones. No mass-produced knock-offs from China here! Each shop is individually owned, and no two offer identical wares. Craftsmanship is uniformly high, as are the prices, since today's jewelers are the inheritors of a proud, centuries-old Florentine tradition of exquisite goldsmith work. During the 1400s, the work of Florentine goldsmiths became renowned throughout Europe, and some of Florence's greatest artists began their careers as goldsmiths, among them Brunelleschi, builder of the cathedral dome, and the sculptors Donatello and Ghiberti. And let's not forget another Florentine, Benvenuto Cellini — perhaps the greatest goldsmith who ever lived. His statue, in the form of a bust portrait, was set up in 1900 at the center of the bridge — an honor that tireless self-promoter would have loved.

But don't let today's setting fool you — this bridge is a lot more than bling. The Ponte Vecchio we see today wasn't always so elegant or its shops so geared to the affluent. Its sturdy span has witnessed violent and tragic episodes of Florentine history, some brought about by people, and others by the forces of nature. It's called the Ponte Vecchio (old bridge) because it's the oldest of the bridges that cross the Arno River in Florence, and until 1218 it was the only one. The first bridge on the site was an ancient Roman construction, built at an uncertain date at the river's narrowest point, and allowing the via Cassia to cross the Arno on its way from Rome to Lutetia Parisiorum in Gaul (today's Paris, France.) This bridge was still in use in 996, when it's mentioned in a document, but the whole thing was finally swept away by a flood in 1117. Although it was reconstructed in 1333, it was once more destroyed by a violent flood, leaving behind only its two central stone piers.

The late 1200s and up through the middle of the 1300s was a period of prosperity and intense building activity in Florence. The city reconstructed its walls in 1295, began its new cathedral in 1296 and a new town hall (the Palazzo della Signoria) in 1299.



**PONTE VECCHIO:** Spanning more than just the Arno River, it has stood strong through centuries of upheaval that would have felled a lesser bridge.

The great monastic churches of S. Croce and S. Maria Novella also date from this era. The flurry of activity continued in the 1330s, when the bell tower of the cathedral was constructed, as well as the multi-purpose shrine and grain market known as Orsanmichele. When the Ponte Vecchio fell victim to another flood in 1333, rebuilding commenced immediately.

Who the architect was is uncertain; we have only the word of Giorgio Vasari, the 16th-century biographer of Italian artists, that it was Taddeo Gaddi (1300-66), who was much better known as a painter. Nonetheless, Vasari tells us, Gaddi received the commission to produce a model and drawings for the new bridge, a commission the type of which every aspiring architect dreams: He was told to "shun neither cost nor effort and to build it with mighty piers and splendid arches." Vasari further notes that the bridge carried a total of 44 shops, 22 on each side, adding that this was of great benefit to the city, which received an annual rent from each shop.

Whoever it was who designed the bridge, that individual did excellent work. The Ponte Vecchio consists of three thick, shallow arches that span the 325-foot-wide river. This type of bridge was previously unknown in Europe, and there's a remote possibility that the architect knew of the similar, 7th-century An Ji Bridge in China, since some of his Florentine contemporaries maintained close trade relations with the Chinese rulers of the Yüan dynasty. Vasari praised the beauty, stability and usefulness of the bridge, pointing out that

it had survived a great flood in 1557. More than 400 years later, it survived the worst flood in Florentine history, the deluge of biblical proportions that occurred in 1966. That flood swept away the shops on the bridge, but the bridge itself held firm.

In the year 1215, the earlier version of the Ponte Vecchio was the site of a particularly bloody deed, one that would have repercussions for centuries afterward: the murder of a bridegroom of the Buondelmonte family on his way to his wedding. His family had originally contracted a marriage of convenience for him with a woman of the Amidei clan, traditional enemies of the Buondelmonte. But this susceptible youth fell in love with a woman of the Donati family, broke off his previous Amidei engagement, and instead planned to marry his Donati sweetheart. As the wedding party moved across the Ponte Vecchio, a band of Amidei men armed with daggers attacked the bridegroom, stabbed him repeatedly through his white wedding robes, and left him to bleed to death.

With their wedding festivities abruptly turned into a funeral, the Buondelmonte and Donati families somehow soldiered on. They arranged the groom's body on a makeshift bier, with his bloodied head on the lap of his dazed bride, and with the merry wedding music replaced by a mournful dirge, the procession continued to the church where the wedding was to have taken place. The incident provoked a seemingly endless cycle of revenge and bloodshed. It's supposed to have been the event that began the centuries of bitter conflict between Guelphs (supporters of the Church) and Ghibellines (supporters of the emperors.) Almost a century after the murder, it was still so notorious that Dante — who had little patience with earthly romances — mentions it in his "Divine Comedy," where he blames the victim:

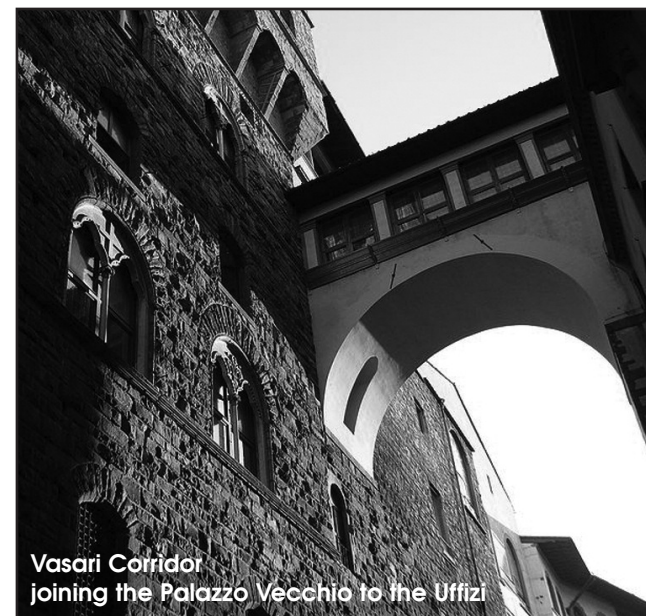
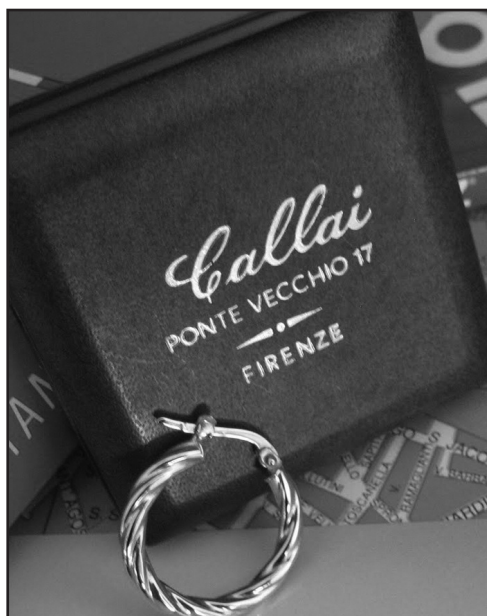
With their wedding festivities abruptly turned into a funeral, the Buondelmonte and Donati families somehow soldiered on. They arranged the groom's body on a makeshift bier, with his bloodied head on the lap of his dazed bride, and with the merry wedding music replaced by a mournful dirge, the procession continued to the church where the wedding was to have taken place. The incident provoked a seemingly endless cycle of revenge and bloodshed. It's supposed to have been the event that began the centuries of bitter conflict between Guelphs (supporters of the Church) and Ghibellines (supporters of the emperors.) Almost a century after the murder, it was still so notorious that Dante — who had little patience with earthly romances — mentions it in his "Divine Comedy," where he blames the victim:

*"O Buondelmonte, what ill luck that you fled  
Your own betrothal when another beckoned;  
Many more would be happy who now are sad  
If God had let you drown. ..."*

Although the Ponte Vecchio has always been lined with shops, the original ones were a far cry from today's elegant goldsmiths and jewelers.



Passage from Dante's "Divine Comedy"



Vasari Corridor  
joining the Palazzo Vecchio to the Uffizi



Beginning in the 1100s, the ramshackle structures that crowded onto the bridge housed a variety of crafts and trades, among them butchers, fishmongers, blacksmiths and tanners, as well as sellers of fruits and vegetables. Most of the trades practiced on the bridge produced either a racket or a terrible stench, and sometimes both. Itinerant fortunetellers and people peddling herbal remedies or magic charms and potions shouted and plied their trades among the booths. Prostitutes (who were supposed to stay in their own neighborhood, near the Old Market), also lurked around looking for customers; hired assassins kept their eyes peeled for their assigned victims, and pickpockets did a brisk business of their own. (Of those trades, only the pickpockets remain — the Ponte Vecchio is a place where you should keep especially close track of your wallet or purse.)

It's said that the concept of bankruptcy originated on the Ponte Vecchio, and it wasn't due to women overspending on jewelry. If a merchant or artisan couldn't pay his debts or the rent on his premises, the table, or "banco," in front of his shop, from which he displayed and sold his wares, would be broken ("rotto") by members of the city police, leaving him with no place from which to conduct his business. He would therefore be declared "bancorotto," or bankrupt.

The transformation of the Ponte Vecchio from a center for ordinary trades to an exclusive preserve for goldsmiths and jewelers began in 1565. In that year, Duke Cosimo I de' Medici ordered Vasari to build an enclosed corridor across the Ponte Vecchio that ran above the shops and connected the Palazzo Pitti, which had recently become the duke's new residence, with the administrative center of his regime, the Uffizi. But even the Corridoio Vasariano, as it's now called, wasn't sufficient to isolate subsequent Medici dukes from the smells and noises of the trades taking place on the bridge below.

In 1593, on orders from Grand Duke Fernando I de' Medici, every last tradesman and artisan was evicted from the bridge. Evidently, despite the enclosed corridor, the ducal nose was still offended by the stinks emanating from the tanneries, fishmongers and butcher shops, and his ears continued to be insulted by the bangs and clangs of the blacksmiths. The duke wasn't too happy about the other forms of rough trade going on there, either. After the run-down shops had been cleared away, the duke invited the city's best goldsmiths and jewelers to set up their shops on the bridge, at twice the rents the previous tenants had paid, and they've been there ever since.

The Ponte Vecchio had a close call with destruction during World War II. When the German army entered Florence in early August of

1944, the Allied troops weren't far behind, so the Germans decided to slow their enemy's advance by blowing up all six of Florence's bridges. They actually did blow up five of them, but they left the Ponte Vecchio intact. There are two explanations for why the Ponte Vecchio wasn't bombed. One claims that Hitler, who had visited Florence and had a sentimental attachment to the bridge, ordered it saved. But a more practical reason may have been that the German commander in Florence realized that destroying the bridge would also mean destroying the dense clusters of buildings on it, plus the superstructure of the Corridoio Vasariano running above, which would have created a huge pile of debris in the river. Since it was August and the river very low, the rubble would have made a convenient causeway for the Allies. Whatever their motives, the Germans instead blew up several acres of ancient buildings at either end of the bridge in order to block its approaches. They at least had the decency to order civilians evacuated first. Perhaps Florence's renowned artistic and humanistic culture had an effect at this terrible juncture in Italian history.

As the reverberations from the repeated explosions died away, Ugo Procacci, the head of Florence's Superintendency of Fine Arts, was in the Palazzo Pitti, where he'd taken refuge with his family. He climbed to the top floor and peered out a window, from which he surveyed the devastation below — what Procacci, in his memoirs, called "the massacre of my Florence." When he spotted two partisans coming out from behind a wing of the Pitti, he opened the window and shouted down to them, asking where the Germans were. They responded that the Germans were gone. Procacci then asked about the bridges, and the men told him they'd all been blown to bits, except for the Ponte Vecchio. "Viva l'Italia!" cried one of the partisans. In tears, Procacci nonetheless shouted back: "VIVA L'ITALIA!"

The areas near the bridge that the German destroyed were rebuilt after the war, in a style more or less consistent with the buildings that had been there before. A committee of distinguished citizens appointed by the city government firmly vetoed the proposals of a group of contemporary architects to erect buildings there in a modern style, and today few people even notice that the buildings are new. The shops on the bridge, which the Germans had looted and booby-trapped, have also been rebuilt. The most charming feature of the present-day Ponte Vecchio is the way the shop fronts are designed: all of them are fitted with wooden shutters that, when pulled down, make the shops look like treasure chests, which — come to think of it — they are.

## TRAVEL TIPS

Piazza della Signoria



### WHERE IS IT?

The Ponte Vecchio is the bridge closest to central Florence. When you're in Piazza della Signoria, walk past the Palazzo Vecchio and through the long courtyard that separates the two wings of the Galleria degli Uffizi, Florence's greatest art museum. When you come to the Lungarno, the road at the edge of the river, turn right, and after a short walk you'll see the Ponte Vecchio on your left.

### WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

If you continue across the bridge from the city center, you'll be in the area known as the "Oltrarno," or the across-the-Arno part of town. The shoppers' paradise continues on via Guicciardini, with businesses selling fine leather goods and still more jewelers, some of them slightly less pricey than the places on the Ponte Vecchio.

A small, unpromising-looking piazza on your left, just after leaving the Ponte Vecchio, holds the church of S. Felicita, which also looks gloomy. But it contains one of the most beautiful altarpieces in Florence, still in its original location in the Capponi Chapel, just to the right of the entrance: Pontorno's "Descent from the Cross," painted around 1525. This weird but somehow ethereal and moving work is the perfect antidote to the unbridled materialism of the shops on the bridge.

Further along via Guicciardini, set up on a slight hill on the left, is the gigantic Palazzo Pitti, which contains the Galleria Palatina, a collection of paintings second only to the Uffizi.

Arno River and Ponte Vecchio (1910)





*Support*  
**UNICO FOUNDATION'S**  
**21st Century Campaign**  
*Send your pledge in today!*

\$300 over 3 years for individuals  
 \$3,000 over 3 years for chapters

Call the National Office for a pledge form:  
**973-808-0035**



**Joseph Paci**  
 Owner

435 East Main Street, Denville, NJ 07834  
 Phone: 973-625-ICAP (4227) x202 Fax: 973-625-6931  
 E-mail: jpaci@icapdelivery.com Member of NJPA

*Advertise in* **ComUNICO!**



Contact us today,  
**1-800-877-1492 or uniconational@unico.org**



UNICO National Exclusive Offer Codes to be used when booking your air travel to the 2012 UNICO National Convention:

American Airlines-Discount of 5% off published fares [www.aa.com/group](http://www.aa.com/group) Promotion Code 9682BN

Delta Airlines-Discount of 5% off published fares [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com) Select Meeting Event Code and enter meeting code-NM9X9 in the box provided on the Search Flight Page

United Airlines-Discount of 5% off published fares (8% off Business & 13% off First Class) [www.united.com](http://www.united.com) Offer code ZMNX360955

**AVIS**



**AVIS Rent a Car**  
**DISCOUNT AVAILABLE**

Corporate Account # - V652167  
 Comp membership in Preferred Service  
[www.avisawards.com](http://www.avisawards.com)

This discount plan is not only for UNICO meetings but is available throughout the year for members and non-members alike.

- FIRE DAMAGE REPAIR
  - FURNITURE TOPS
  - PLEXIGLAS
  - SKYLIGHTS
  - WINDOWS
  - MIRRORS
  - PLATES
  - SASHES
- Tel. (718) 452-4451  
 Sam Mendolia, Prop.



*Glass of Every Description*

245 WILSON AVENUE • BROOKLYN, NY 11237  
 (Corner of Myrtle Avenue)



Visit [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)

**"WE SOLVE YOUR TAX PROBLEMS"**

**The TaxADVOCATE GROUP**

Salvatore P. Candela, EA, RFC, ABA, ATA  
 Tax Specialist Tax Preparation & Representation

75-16 Metropolitan Ave., Middle Village, NY 11379  
 Phone: 877.TAX.1040 Fax: 718.894.4476

E-mail: [scandela@thetaxadvocategroup.com](mailto:scandela@thetaxadvocategroup.com)  
 Website: [www.thetaxadvocategroup.com](http://www.thetaxadvocategroup.com)

**Did you see your**  
**Chapter's News**  
**in this issue?**  
**If not, contact us today!**

**973-808-0035**  
**UNICOnational@UNICO.org**



**UNICO Foundation Raffle**

Donations are \$20 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$100

The 50/50 Raffle winners will receive the following:

- 1st Prize-50% of Available Prize Money
- 2nd Prize -30% of Available Prize Money
- 3rd Prize-15% of Available Prize Money
- 4th Prize-5% of Available Prize Money

**LOUIS J. SERAFINI**  
 — ATTORNEY AT LAW —

**SERAFINI & SERAFINI**  
 A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

269 Hamburg Turnpike  
 P.O. Box 2040  
 Wayne, New Jersey 07474-2040

Phone: (973) 595-9500 Fax: (973) 595-7442

*Advertise in* **ComUNICO!**



Contact us today,  
**1-800-877-1492 or uniconational@unico.org**

**JOSEPH J. SERAFINI**  
 — ATTORNEY AT LAW —

**SERAFINI & SERAFINI**  
 A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

269 Hamburg Turnpike  
 P.O. Box 2040  
 Wayne, New Jersey 07474-2040

Phone: (973) 595-9500 Fax: (973) 595-7442

*Support*  
**UNICO FOUNDATION'S**  
**21st Century Campaign**  
*Send your pledge in today!*

\$300 over 3 years for individuals  
 \$3,000 over 3 years for chapters

Call the National Office for a pledge form:  
**973-808-0035**



# RECIPES Culinary crossroads

by Dolores Sennebogen

Nestled in the northeast corner of the Italian peninsula, Friuli-Venezia Giulia is a melting pot of cultures and cuisines. It faces the Adriatic Sea to the south and its nearest western neighbor is Veneto, but it also shares borders with Austria and Slovenia. Since geography is destiny, legions of conquerors have claimed the land over the centuries, leaving behind evidence of Roman, Venetian, Austrian, Hungarian, Slovenian and Croatian influences in everything from language to politics. Goulash, strudel, sauerkraut and dumplings are culinary confirmation of this diverse history. Seasonings such as dill and horseradish also create flavors not traditionally expected in Italian cooking. More typical dishes such as beans, pasta and polenta are also popular in home cooking. The prosciutto produced in San Daniele has a unique flavor and is highly regarded, as are the delicious white wines of Friuli. These include Malvasia Istriana, Tocai Friulano and Ribolla Gialla. Since the 1970s, local distillers have also elevated grappa, once considered a poor man's firewater, into artisanal liqueurs flavored with cherry, pear, apricot and peach.

## FRICO CROCCANTE (Montasio Cheese Crisps)

Olive oil  
4 cups aged Montasio  
cheese, coarsely grated

Use a very sparing amount of oil to grease an 8-inch nonstick skillet before beginning. Heat the pan over medium-high heat for 3 minutes. Sprinkle in one quarter of the cheese, completely covering the skillet in an even layer. Cook until the edges begin to turn golden brown, about 5 minutes. Cooking time will vary depending on the precise temperature of the pan. Once the frico is relatively firm and the bottom is golden, gently turn it over and heat the other side, pressing down to release some of the fat from the pan. Remove from the heat and allow the frico to cool for just a few seconds. Gently remove it from the pan and drape over an upside down glass or small bowl. In less than one minute it will harden into a basket shape. Remove it from the mold. Tip out any excess fat from the pan and repeat with the remaining cheese. Present the baskets of cheese as an edible container for mixed greens.

VARIATION: Frico may also be made in small 2-inch rounds and served as crispy appetizer wafers.

— adapted from Elisabeth Antoine Crawford  
"Flavors of Friuli"

## CAPUZI IN UMIDO (Braised Cabbage)

1 small head cabbage, about 2 pounds  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 small sweet onion, thinly sliced  
Salt and pepper to taste  
1 cup low-sodium chicken broth

Discard any spoiled outer leaves from the cabbage. Wash and pat dry. Remove the core. Shred the cabbage coarsely into 1/4-inch strips and set aside. Heat the oil and butter in a large skillet and sauté the onion for about 5 minutes. Add the shredded cabbage and a generous amount of salt and pepper. Toss well to coat all of the cabbage and sauté, stirring occasionally, for about 8 minutes over medium heat. Stir the broth into the pan and increase the heat to medium high. When the broth comes to a boil, stir again and reduce to a simmer. Cover and continue cooking for about 15 minutes, checking occasionally. Uncover and cook over medium heat until all of the liquid is absorbed and the cabbage is

3 pounds mussels, scrubbed, rinsed  
and drained  
1/2 cup white wine  
1/4 cup dry bread crumbs, or as needed  
3 tablespoons fresh Italian parsley, chopped

Pour 6 tablespoons of the olive oil in the saucepan, drop in the crushed garlic and set over medium heat. When the garlic is fragrant and sizzling, stir in the onion slices, bay leaves, salt and red pepper flakes. Cook for a couple of minutes, tossing and stirring, just until the onions begin to wilt but still have some crunch. Pour in the wine and bring to a boil. Immediately dump all the mussels into the pan, tumble them over quickly, cover tightly, and turn the heat up. Steam the mussels for 3 minutes, frequently shaking the covered pan, and then toss them over, with a wire spider or wide slotted spoon. If the mussel shells have already opened (or almost all are open) leave the pan uncovered; otherwise, replace the cover and steam a bit longer. (If any mussels refuse to open, discard them.) As soon as the mussels have steamed open, sprinkle 1/4 cup bread crumbs all over the pan. Quickly tumble the mussels over and over, still on high heat, so their liquor and the crumbs fall into the bubbling pan juices and create a sauce. (If the pan sauce is still thin after a minute of bubbling, sprinkle in more bread crumbs.) Finally, drizzle 2 more tablespoons olive oil and sprinkle the chopped parsley on top and toss briefly to distribute the seasonings. Turn off the heat, set the pan



completely wilted and very tender. Taste and add more salt and pepper if needed.

VARIATIONS: You may substitute 2 ounces of rendered pancetta for the butter. Savoy cabbage may be prepared in the same way.

— Dolores Sennebogen

## COZZE ALLA TRIESTINA (Steamed Mussels, Trieste Style)

8 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil, divided  
4 garlic cloves, crushed and peeled  
2 onions cut in 1/4-inch slices  
3 bay leaves, preferably fresh  
1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt  
1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes, or to taste

in the center of the table and let everyone scoop mussels and sauce into their own warm soup bowls. Serve with grilled country bread and remember to put out extra bowls for the shells.

— adapted from Lidia Bastianich  
"Lidia's Italy"

## GÒLAS (Goulash)

Olive oil  
2-1/4 pounds yellow onions  
2-1/4 pounds stewing beef, cut in chunks  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon rose paprika  
1 small sprig fresh rosemary

(See Recipes on Page 53)



## LOU&A

(Continued from Page 43)

He also has a new album out, “Tankful of Blues,” that’s a winner and a stunner; who knew that Dion had the blues? In a convincing style that marries Bronx soul with Delta sweat, Dion proves that he’s just as vital and hungry an artist today as when he first rocked the airwaves. Fra Noi sat with this living legend to gather insight into how growing up Italian made him the man he is today — a creative spirit who refuses to rest on his laurels.

**Fra Noi: This new album, “Tankful of Blues,” is a shocker. You sound more like one of the long-lost Allman Brothers than an Italian rocker from the Bronx. How do you explain that?**

Dion DiMucci: Back in the 1950s, we turned blues into a major key and that was rock ‘n’ roll. I couldn’t imagine going to the Brooklyn Fox and the Alan Freed shows and imitating Howlin’ Wolf and Muddy Waters. Yet I didn’t realize how much a part of me the blues was. “The Wanderer” is a dark song: “I’m as happy as a clown, with my two fists of iron and I’m going nowhere.” But when you put it in a major key and pump it up, it almost sounds happy. A lot of those early rock records were blues songs disguised as rock ‘n’ roll. I wanted to go back to Robert Johnson, when he said, “If I had possession of judgment day, that little girl wouldn’t have the light to pray.” Boy, was he mad.

**FN: It’s amazing to me that you maintain ties to your boyhood neighborhood in the Bronx. Tell us about that.**

DD: I have an apartment in New York. I have to walk the streets. It’s me. So I get my fill in New York. But when I’m there, I’ll periodically go up to the Bronx and go to Rigoletto’s or Mario’s and talk to the boys. It’s fun to touch down and stay connected to where I came from. I have roots there although a lot has changed. I’m part of the mortar. Even though Atlantic City has changed a lot, when I go there and walk the Boardwalk, it evokes a lot of emotion. I played the Steel Pier, and it’s amazingly sweet. What can I tell you?

**FN: How did your Italian roots make you the artist and the man you are today?**

DD: I was honored by the National Italian American Foundation recently and President Obama spoke. I was five feet away from him for half an hour. Interesting guy. But the whole month before being honored, I thought of my grandfather Tony, who came from Bari — and that’s all I could think about. I was so grateful. He came here when he was 18, no money. He educated himself when he was here. I always remember him sitting and reading, and he brought me to see “Pagliacci” when I was 7. I saw “La Boheme,” “La Traviata,” but “Pagliacci” made it into “The Wanderer” later on: the clown image. And I spoke there and said, “I wouldn’t be here without him.” He brought me to the southern tip of Manhattan and pointed and said, “That’s the Statue of Liberty, and on the West Coast they should erect the Statue of Responsibility.” He was a hard worker.

**FN: What about the rest of your family?**

DD: My father’s father was a rough guy. My grandmother was a saint; she went to Mass every day. When I knocked on her door and she opened it, she’d look at me once and pray for five minutes before she’d look at me again: “OH, THANK HEAVEN FOR THIS LITTLE SAINT!” And then she’d feed me. We’re standing on their shoulders, you know.

**FN: You’re developing a play based on your life, and it seems that you have just as colorful a story to tell as the Four Seasons did in “Jersey Boys.” How is that project going?**

DD: I hope that we’re one iota as successful as “Jersey Boys.” But I thought I would put together a play with my love for Susan; we’ve been together 55 years. I love taking people on a trip, especially if it’s a good trip. [Playwright] Charles Messina is good, and he calls it “The Wanderer.” It’s a work in progress, but the reading was great, I loved it. It moved me, and I was like, “Wow.” It’s got

a Rocky Balboa ending.

**FN: You’ve become a mature man of faith over the years. How big a difference has it made to return to your Catholic roots?**

DD: It’s made a big difference. Number one, I’m 72 and I feel more relevant now than when I was in my 20s. Without God in my life, I doubt I would feel that. I doubt I would be as creative, or as healthy, or as grateful as I am. I’ll go anywhere to talk to a group of people, whether it’s a treatment center, or a recovery center, or a hospital. I come from that. I’m a graduate of those rooms. Someone passed the message to me back in 1968, and it changed my life. It brought me to faith. It kept my family together. And I don’t think I could ever pay it back. I love to talk to men, and to talk about relationships. Without relationships, all I’ve got is me, and that’s pretty boring.

**FN: You once wrote a book called “Chapters,” where you guide people through the process of writing down their life stories. If Dion’s got a chapter that we absolutely have to read, what would that be?**

DD: There’s meeting my wife and having my children. But the one day I keep close to my heart is when I came to faith, and the lights came on. All of a sudden everything made sense, in spite of all the cable channels [laughs] ... and in spite of situations, circumstances and conditions. It hurled me into another dimension. The church is like a visible sign pointing to a higher reality. All is fine in God’s world, and I saw how sacred life is. He’s the Author and Perfector.

## NEWSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 43)

Springsteen told journalists at a rare news conference in Paris. “The currents of life affect even the dream world of popular music — there’s no escape. And so that is just something that’s going to be missing.”

Clemons lives on within the new album, which was largely recorded before his death, and his synergy with Springsteen is most evident on the track “Land of Hope and Dreams.”

The album started out as a stripped-down solo project that the Boss recorded in his New Jersey hometown studio, with members of the E Street Band popping in for support on some tracks.

“We were in our own studio, and each one of the songs started off as kind of a folk song, with just me and the acoustic guitar,” Springsteen told journalists. “And then everything else got slipped on.”

The core of “Wrecking Ball,” like much of Springsteen’s discography, is a heartfelt lament of the continued challenges facing America’s “99-percenters.” With Italian blood on his mother’s side — her maiden name was Zirilli — Springsteen has long been plugged into the working class experience, which typified the lives of many Italian Americans and other urban ethnics.

In 2010, Springsteen, flanked by his mother and aunts, was honored with the Ellis Island Family Heritage Award that celebrates the contributions of immigrants and their descendants to the American experience. During his acceptance speech, Springsteen touched on how personal history has shaped his life and art.

“You can’t really know who you are and where you’re going unless you know where you came from,” he said.

Springsteen once again looked at America before heading into the studio for “Wrecking Ball,” and found himself enraged over the financial crisis that began in 2008 and whose effects are still powerfully felt.

“You can never go wrong pissed off in rock ‘n’ roll,” Springsteen told journalists about his state of mind as he began writing and recording.

Concerns over high unemployment, foreclosed homes and a notion that the

entire American system had cracked wide open fueled much of the album’s music, according to Springsteen.

“People lost their homes, and I had friends who were losing their homes, and nobody went to jail,” he told reporters in Paris. “Nobody was responsible. People lost enormous amounts of their net worth. Previous to Occupy Wall Street, there was no pushback. There was no movement, there was no voice that was saying, ‘How outrageous’ — that a basic theft had occurred that struck at the heart of what the entire American idea was about.”

Springsteen in man-of-the-people, Woody-Guthrie mode isn’t a groundbreaking change. But the album feels fresh because it’s not packed with empty musical calories — it’s soulful and disarmingly honest.

“My work has always been about judging the distance between American reality and the American dream — how far is that at any given moment,” Springsteen told reporters.

Albums such as “Darkness on the Edge of Town,” “The River” and especially “Born in the U.S.A.” are yardsticks Springsteen used to measure the gulf between the haves and the have-nots.

The title track to “Born in the U.S.A.” is perhaps one of the most misread songs in modern music history. What many interpreted as a patriotic rallying cry was actually an elegiac tribute to Springsteen’s friends who served during the Vietnam War and found themselves adrift and forgotten upon returning home. President Ronald Reagan famously cited the song’s upbeat-sounding chorus during his 1984 re-election campaign to the consternation of political rivals, music fans and Springsteen alike. It might have been “Morning in America” in some corners of the U.S., but Springsteen was singing for those still trapped in the cold gray of dawn.

Wrecking Ball’s first single, the political barn-burner “We Take Care of Our Own,” feels like the spiritual cousin to “Born in the U.S.A.” It’s got that expansive, merry-go-round E Street Band sound, but listen closely: Springsteen’s lyrics offer a challenge to Americans that cuts to the bone. Here’s a small sampling: “Where are the hearts that run over with mercy? Where’s the love that has not forsaken me? Where’s the promise from sea to shining sea?”

“That song, ‘We Take Care of Our Own,’ it asks the question that the rest of the record tries to answer. Which is, of course: Do we? Do we take care of our own? And we often don’t. We don’t provide an equal playing field for our citizens,” Springsteen says.

Springsteen may be viewed as an outspoken liberal in some quarters, and his opinions can rankle those on the opposite side of the aisle. Heck, that’s just politics in modern America. But in true Boss fashion, the most amazing aspect of the first single is that it’s never a “downer.” It’s a two-fisted, foot-stomping anthem that delivers a social gut punch. At his core, Springsteen isn’t singing like a bellicose partisan, but rather like an old-time gospel preacher with a Fender Esquire guitar slung over his back.

Even with enough opinions on politics and economic justice to fuel 100 campaigns, Springsteen says serving in elected office is no place for a musician.

“I generally believe an artist is supposed to be the canary in the coalmine, and you’re better off with a certain distance form the seat of power,” he told reporters.

## REVIEW

(Continued from Page 43)

While many accomplished violinists focused their energies on bowing and intonation, Paganini also focused on left-hand and bowing agility. Aided by his abnormally flexible fingers and the unusual way he held his violin, Paganini wrote his orchestral works with himself as the soloist, assuming he was the only person who could execute his “ricochet” bowing, left-hand pizzicato, and double-stop harmonics. The five opuses he did publish were only intended for private performance.

Along with fame, Paganini garnered a fair amount of criticism. In particular, many objected to his free interpretation of other composers’ works. Though Paganini often retorted that he was playing in the “Italian manner,” this practice did impact his career to a degree.

Paganini’s magnetic personality may have enhanced his stage presence, but it also led to rocky personal life. Falling in and out of love often, Paganini’s conquests led him not only to the jailhouse (charged with the abduction of a particularly young lover in 1814), but also the infirmary. Diagnosed with syphilis in 1822, Paganini was often in poor health, and even lost his ability to speak by 1838. Paganini did have a serious relationship with singer Antonia Bianchi, and though they were never married, they had one son, Achilles.

### REVIEW

#### “Paganini: 24 Caprices”

Label: EMI Classics

Artist: Frank Peter Zimmermann

Originally deemed unplayable by his contemporaries, Paganini’s Caprices, Op. 1, have emerged as a veritable bible of modern violin playing. While each caprice focused on individual skills, the final caprice, No. 24 in A minor, is best known for its difficulty, requiring a wide range of advanced techniques. Many famous violinists have recorded the 24 Caprices, but EMI’s recording of German violinist Frank Peter Zimmermann is particularly spectacular. Without sacrificing speed, Zimmermann remains strikingly clean and in tune throughout the entire CD. Minimal reverb helps accentuate the crispness of Zimmermann’s playing. Available as an mp3 download at [www.classicsonline.com](http://www.classicsonline.com).

## PERSONAGGI

(Continued from Page 47)

funky and catchy vibe. “For me, Africa is like a Great Mother,” he says. “Like my land, and the South — all the Souths, actually. It’s like the Mediterranean Sea, like volcanic rock and the sound of children’s voices. It’s the hope that something good is on the horizon.”

“La Grande Madre” comes with 11 original songs, enriched by a cover version of Eric Clapton’s “Wonderful Tonight.” “I had the pleasure of meeting Clapton in 2010, when he invited me to participate in the Crossroads Guitar Festival in Chicago,” Daniele recalls. “It was a great experience, and I got to know him better. I sent him my version of his song a while ago and he said he loved it.” The song follows the original Clapton melody, to which Daniele has added his own Italian lyrics.

After the album’s release at the beginning of the year, Pino Daniele’s schedule quickly filled up with tour dates. Starting out in Cesena on March 24, Daniele and his band of extraordinary musicians toured Italy’s major cities, with sold-out shows in huge venues like Naples’ Pala Partenope and Rome’s Parco della Musica. (Two separate shows were held in each city to accommodate the droves of Daniele’s fans.) “I was really happy to see people’s positive reaction,” says Daniele. “I was a little worried at first, given you’re on your own and have a smaller budget when you promote these shows as an independent. But people have come to expect a great musical show and they are confident it will be good. I try not to disappoint them.”

Given how well tickets have been selling in the United States, Daniele’s fan base clearly isn’t limited to the far side of the Atlantic. The singer will open his three-day North American tour with a performance at New York’s historic Apollo Theater on June 7, followed by a concert at Boston’s Berklee Performance Center on June 9. The last leg of the brief but intense trip will see the artist stop by Washington D.C.’s Jazz Festival on June 10. “The United States is a fascinating country,” says Daniele. “I’m really happy to

(Continued on the next page)





she collaborated, many of her films are easily acquired today, offering new generations the opportunity to enjoy her timeless and enormous talent.

## RECIPES

(Continued from Page 51)

- 1-1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 5 tablespoons triple-concentrate tomato paste

Cover the bottom of a 4-quart pot with a very thin layer of oil. Heat gently over low heat. Cut each onion into sixths and add to the pot, cooking very gently for 2 minutes. Place the beef chunks on top of the onions. Add the seasonings, through the oregano. Reduce the heat as low as possible and partially cover the pot. Simmer gently, checking the pot occasionally. The onions will fall apart and become the basis for your sauce. At about 90 minutes into the cooking add a little bit of water if the onions seem to be sticking. After 2-1/2 hours, dissolve the flour in 3 tablespoons very cold water. Add this along with the tomato paste and about ¾ cup cold water to the goulash. Slowly bring to a boil, stirring well to combine. Turn off the heat and remove the rosemary sprig. The goulash is ready to serve, but will be better reheated the next day. Good with polenta or boiled potatoes.

— adapted from Fred Plotkin  
“La Terra Fortunata”

## JOTA

(Bean and Sauerkraut Soup)

- 12 ounces pork shoulder, cubed
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 pound pork neck bones
- Olive oil, as needed
- 1 large onion, chopped

- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 ounces sherry
- 2 ounces grappa or cognac
- 1 cup beef stock
- 7 cups water, divided
- Chopped thyme, to taste
- Chopped rosemary, to taste
- 3 whole bay leaves, divided
- 8 ounces chopped pancetta
- 8 ounces sauerkraut, rinsed and drained
- 2 cups cooked or canned borlotti beans

Season the pork cubes with salt and pepper and brown them and the neck bones in a large pot in hot olive oil. Add the onion and sauté until soft. Add the garlic and sauté one additional minute. Deglaze the pan with the sherry and grappa. Add the beef stock, 6 cups of water, thyme, rosemary and two of the bay leaves and more salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil and then immediately reduce to a simmer. As needed, skim the surface to remove and fat and scum as needed. Meanwhile, in a separate pot sauté the pancetta until the fat is rendered. Add the sauerkraut, 1 cup of water, the last bay leaf, thyme, salt and pepper to taste. Simmer this sauerkraut mixture for 30 minutes. After the soup has been simmering for one and a half hours add the sauerkraut to the soup pot along with the beans. Simmer an additional 30 minutes.

— adapted from Mark Vogel

## STRUCCOLO DI RICOTTA

(Ricotta Strudel)

- 1 cup plus 1 tablespoon flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 extra-large egg
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1/4 cup golden raisins
- 3/4 pound fresh ricotta, well drained
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- Grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons fresh bread crumbs

Mix the flour and salt in a bowl. Work in the egg and 1 tablespoon of the butter until

(Continued on the next page)

be able to play in the country which so many of the musicians I grew up with are from. It's quite inspiring.”

Traces of American influences are everywhere in Daniele's music. From the smooth guitar and funky blues flavor of some of his greatest hits, he has set himself apart from his contemporaries, many of whom prefer to stick to well-traveled pop paths. His higher-pitched voice delivers songs with a wide range of tonalities that captivate the listener, as in his latest single “Melodramma,” where it seems to trail off into a horizon of pure emotions. “Poets and artists have always taught us to love all the simple, natural and essential things,” Daniele says. “For this album, I trusted my instinct, which took me on a journey to look for the Great Mother.”

In a way, the new album is Daniele's answer to an increasingly fast-paced world where, despite the hyper-connectivity of Facebook and other social media, we seem to be drifting away from the simple comfort of basic human relations. “This album is almost like an attempt to take some time off from a society that is falling into self-destruction,” says Daniele. “Look at the musical industry, for example. It is growingly harder to express yourself artistically. When I started in the '70s, music was a way of getting together and sharing an experience. Nowadays it is much more attached to the entertainment side of business. It's not all bad, though. Sure, we sell fewer albums than we used to, but I think the people who still buy the albums appreciate the music more. I used to tour so that people could buy my album. Now tours are to prove yourself to those who bought the album and decided you're worth the concert ticket.”

Throughout the years, Pino Daniele has made sure his concerts are worth every penny of the ticket price. He always surrounds himself with top musicians, like drummer Steve Gadd, pianist Chris Stainton and sax player Mel Collins. “The live show is very important to me,” says Daniele. “It's fundamental to play with the best, because you want to deliver something excellent. I think live performances are more important today than they were once, so it puts the artists on the spot. For me it's great. It's not as good for those who don't have much to say.” Daniele, on the contrary, has quite a bit to say, and he'll prove it once again as he comes to the East Coast this summer.

*Pino Daniele will perform live in New York (June 7, Apollo Theater), Boston (June 9, Berklee Performance Center) and Washington D.C. (June 10, D.C. Jazz Festival). Copies of his latest album, “La Grande Madre,” can be found on Amazon.com.*

## CIRCO ITALIA

(Continued from Page 47)

No one really knows what qualifications earned the Trout a position on Italy's most economically important regional council, but we do know where he got his nickname. That was handed to him by his father after being asked if Renzo was his “dolphin” (the name once given to French heirs to the throne). Umberto said his son was more like a trout, a fish commonly found in the river Po, which runs through the mythical northern Italian land of Padania — the territorial identity claimed by all Lega Nord voters. Ironically, Renzo was once asked on TV what his three most important values are. “Honesty,” he replied, before staring into the unknown, unable to come up with anything else. “I should never have let the kid into politics,” said Umberto Bossi just before his son's resignation. Apparently, his wife should have received the same treatment.

After Bossi suffered a debilitating stroke in 2004, Manuela Marrone restricted access to her husband, making it difficult for party notables to know what they could or should do in the absence of their supreme leader. Into the vacuum stepped Rosy Mauro, a close friend of Marrone's, who seized the inside track and moved quickly up the political ladder. From 2005 to 2008, Mauro went from city councilor to Senate vice-president, rising to TV stardom during a famous meltdown before Christmas 2010. Turning a

deaf ear to the opposition, Mauro began striking down amendments and approving laws without even checking to see how many votes were cast, all the while yelling wildly into her microphone.

As investigators looked into where the party's money went, Mauro's name came up several times. She allegedly received some 120,000 euros to complete her high school and university studies in Switzerland alongside her lover, Pier Moscagiuro. Better known as singer Pier Mosca, the man achieved middling fame in 2011 for his song “Kooly Noody” — Naked Butts. Turns out the song was quite prophetic, at least for Lega Nord voters, who could have predicted the future of their party if only they had listened carefully to its lyrics: “Promises aren't kept. Agreements aren't respected. They don't care about us. We're all left butt-naked.”

## CINEMA

(Continued from Page 47)

assessment was published, Magnani won an Academy Award for her role as Serafina Delle Rose, played opposite Burt Lancaster's Alvaro Mangiacavallo, in the screen adaptation of Tennessee Williams' “The Rose Tattoo.”

Pier Paolo Pasolini's 1962 film “Mamma Roma” features by far my favorite Anna Magnani performance. Filled with exquisite beauty and heartrending tragedy, the film documents the inexorable decline of a mother, portrayed by Magnani, who is trapped in a world of prostitution as she tries to protect her son and give him the things she never had.

Magnani takes over every scene, all of which are set against the chaotic social and economic landscape of Italy in the early '60s. You can't help but pull for her as she tries so desperately to escape circumstances that ceaselessly drag her back down. Her beloved son gets mixed up with the wrong crowd, reaching out to her at the end of the film only to discover that it's too late.

The outstanding performances by Magnani and Ettore Garofolo, who plays her son, will make you laugh one minute and cry the next. A true masterpiece in every sense of the word, this must-see film is rich with amazing writing, directing and acting.

Magnani was known for her realistic portraits of salt-of-the-earth characters who faced hard economic and social times in a post-war world. She lent strong, passionate personalities to each character that she portrayed, making each one come alive and light up the screen thanks to her vast talent and empathy.

Although she is considered cinematic royalty, she was never one to embrace the lifestyle of a movie star. She was quoted as saying, “I hate respectability. Give me the life of the streets, of common people.” Because of her international success and the success of the filmmakers with whom

Rediscover Your Italian Heritage

1-800-877-1492

www.unico.org





a dry dough forms, then add in 1/4 cup room temperature water. Turn out onto a counter and knead into a supple dough, adding flour as needed to prevent sticking. Knead for about 5 minutes, slamming the dough onto the counter a few times. Dust with a little additional flour, shape into a ball, wrap and let rest 30 minutes. Meanwhile, soak the raisins in warm water for 30 minutes. Drain them and blot dry. In a food processor or heavy-duty stand mixer, make the filling by mixing the ricotta, 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons of the sugar, and the lemon zest until smooth. Stir in the bread crumbs and raisins.

Roll out the rested dough on a lightly floured surface into a 10x14-inch rectangle. Draping the dough over the knuckled of your two hands, stretch it until it is almost transparent into a 17x25-inch rectangle. Don't panic if you make a hole, since the dough will be rolled over itself. Place the dough on a clean dry towel. Spoon on the filling, leaving a 1-inch border all around. Pull the edge of the towel up to roll the dough over the filling, forming a log. Gently transfer to an oiled 11x17-inch baking sheet, using the towel to help. Remove the towel and rotate the log so the seam faces down. Curve into a horseshoe shape. Brush the top of the log with the

remaining melted butter and sprinkle with the remaining sugar. Make 3 very shallow diagonal slashes with a sharp knife and bake the strudel in a preheated 375-degree oven for 35 minutes, or until the crust is golden and crisp. Serve warm or at room temperature.

This dough is also sufficient for an apple/raisin strudel using a filling made with about 1-1/2 pounds sliced peeled apples.

— adapted from Micol Negrin  
"Rustico"

#### COOK'S TIP:

When we purchase imported prosciutto, it is most likely prosciutto di Parma. In order to be labeled as such, the meat must be processed in a certain place and in a certain way, using pigs fed curds and whey leftover from making Parmigiana cheese. Prosciutto di San Daniele is darker and has a sweeter flavor, which Friulians attribute largely to the good air from the Alps combined with carefully controlled temperature and humidity. Both products are stamped to ensure their authenticity.



**Did you see your Chapter's News  
in this issue?**

**If not, contact us today!**

**Call: 973-808-0035**

**E-mail: UNICONational@UNICO.org**



Looking to rediscover  
your history?

Looking to help  
your community?

JOIN the Organization  
of Choice!

*The Largest Italian American  
Service Organization  
in the United States*

Join our Nationwide ranks supporting  
charitable efforts like:

Mental Health  
Cooley's Anemia  
Scholarships  
Cancer Research  
Local Community Needs

Call 1-800-877-1492

E-mail [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)

Visit our website at [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)



# JASPER'S RESTAURANT, KANSAS CITY, MO



When it comes to feeding my passion, I rarely turn down anything, whether it's enjoying a great dish of pasta at my cousin's home in Sicily, eating a cannoli in Rome with friends, or writing a cookbook.

The recipes that you'll enjoy from *Jasper's Kitchen Cookbook* are like members of my own family because they all represent so much of my heritage. My nana's sauce that I learned how to make at her knee as a boy, dishes that my father perfected from our travels together, and, of course, Mama, who, to this day, I still learn new things from. We like to think that the wonderful experiences our friends have in the restaurant are because our customers are extensions of our family. So much of our Mirabile history has revolved around Jasper's that our customers couldn't help but be part of our family! We're true Italians-we love life, and so much of it revolves around the table. My family and my restaurant are my life, my passion, my love.

I am involved locally with many groups, but my heart is with Slow Food Kansas City, a convivium I started in 2002. I live to support the local farmers and food artisans from the Midwest. To me, this is what it is all about-cooking and eating locally. We are fortunate to have some of the finest farmers, bakers, and artisans in the country. They fuel the creativity in my recipes and help me to continue the Italian tradition of eating what is in season and supporting local markets.

So, if you love Italian food, I hope you'll take these recipes and prepare them. But do not stop there. Continue on, add your favorite herb or cheese, take your time and experiment. For me, that is what it is all about! As you share these recipes with your friends and family, I wish you the best from all of us at Jasper's. And as my father would always say, *bere e mangiare bene*-drink and eat well! Salute!

Visit Jasper's Restaurant at [www.jasperkc.com](http://www.jasperkc.com) or on Facebook

## Pepperoni Don Salvatore

### Ingredients

8 oz Italian Canned Tuna  
6 Anchovy Fillets  
1 cup Olive Oil  
10 Capers, Drained  
Juice of 2 Lemons  
4 Cornichons, Drained  
8 oz fresh Italian Goat Cheese  
4 Roasted Red Bell Peppers, seeded and cut lengthwise into 4 pieces each  
Freshly cracked Black Pepper, for garnish

Put the tuna, anchovies olive oil, capers, cornichons, and lemon juice in a blender and blend for 1 minute. Add the goat cheese and blend until smooth. Place 1 to 2 teaspoons of the tuna mixture on each of roasted pepper. Garnish with cracked pepper.

## Pasta Con Melone e Prosciutto

### Ingredients

1 Medium Overripe Cantaloupe  
8 tablespoons Butter  
½ cup Diced Prosciutto  
1 ½ cups Heavy Cream  
1 pound Rigatoni, cooked  
1 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano Cheese

Peel and seed the cantaloupe and cut into ½ inch pieces. Melt the butter in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the cantaloupe and prosciutto and sauté until the melon is soft, 3 to 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, then add the cream and bring to a boil. Add the pasta and toss until the pasta is coated evenly. Sprinkle in the cheese and mix well. Serve immediately.

## Jasper III's Blood Orange Candy

### Ingredients

2 Blood Oranges  
1 cup Sugar

Slice the oranges paper thin. Dip the slices in sugar and place them on baking sheet. Bake for 20 minutes, until crisp. Remove the pan from the oven and place it on a rack to dry for at least 2 days before serving. The candy can be stored in an airtight container for several weeks.





# MARCONI DINNER



*Mike D'Arminio, Sal Mangano, Andre' DiMino, Lou Di Rico, Frank Cannata and Father Wolfee.*



*Paul Domico, Joe and Patsy Monaco and Mike Veselka.*



*Michael Collucci, Anthony Bengivenga and Ann Walko.*



*Joan and Frank Tidona, Father Wolfee and Sal Mangano*



*National President Glenn, Marconi Award Winner Dr. Victor Greco and Andre' DiMino.*



*President Glenn, Carol Cannata, Gerry and Roseann Heytink and Michele and Mark McDade.*



*David Campanile, Dave Donnini, Carmine Campanile and Michael Collucci.*



*Brian and Anne Guarco, President Glenn, First Lady Terri and Roseanne Buckleman.*



*Gerry Heytink and Mike D'Arminio.*



*Bernie Brutto, Joe Monaco, Paul Domico, Frank Blasi, Sam Prudente and Frank De Frank.*



*Frank Cannata, Francine Nido and Father Wolfee.*



*Joe Agresti, Bob Appaluccio, Debbie Benvenuti and John Alati.*



*Roseanne Heytink, First Lady Terri and Jenny DiMino.*



*Joe Agresti, Steve Pelonero, Bob Appaluccio, Pat Pelonero and Sal and Debbie Benvenuti.*



*President Glenn, Joan Tidona, Dr. Victor Greco, Jean Greco, Andre' DiMino and Joe Cerullo.*



*Carmine Campanile, Mary Berger, David Campanile, Gino and Patty LoIacono, Carol Cannata, President Glenn, Angela and John DiNapoli, Frank Cannata and John Alati.*

