

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

MAY 2013 • VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 04



UNICO *donates to* **LOCAL & NATIONAL CHARITIES**



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



**"Service
above *Self*"**



**POPE FRANCIS I
AND HIS
FAMILY HISTORY**
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**STAR TREK'S
ZACHARY QUINTO**
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**UNICO NATIONAL'S
91ST ANNUAL
CONVENTION**
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NORTH SHORE LONG ISLAND, NY

COOLEY'S ANEMIA GALA

The North Shore, Long Island Chapter held a Springtime Gala on April 12, 2013 at the Chateau Briand Caterers in Carle Place, New York benefitting the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. The 214 guests not only enjoyed the excellent cocktail hour and dinner, but also the entertainment of tenor Chris Macchio and vocalist Giada Valenti's wonderful voices and songs. Also present were Cooley's Anemia spokespersons, actors Chazz Palminteri and his lovely wife Gianna, who were presented with plaques for their tireless efforts in helping the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. They were later installed as honorary members of the North Shore Long Island Chapter. The Gala also featured many silent auction and raffle items culminating the night as a very successful event. A surprise Grant donation check for \$3,000 from the UNICO National Foundation was presented to Cooley's Anemia Foundation during the event, while another larger donation check from the Gala's proceeds will be presented to the Cooley's Anemia Foundation next month by the North Shore Long Island Chapter.

The North Shore Long Island Chapter would like to send a special Thank You to all our fellow UNICO members and Chapters for their donations and attendance. Our gratitude is also extended to our National Officers and the UNICO Foundation for their strong support.



Guests of the Gala were greeted upon entering with the warmth and grandeur of red, white and green scarves adorning their seats, emblazoned with North Shore, Long Island and UNICO National on them which also celebrated our Italian heritage and flag. The scarves were donated by members Rocco Marini and Gala Co-Chairman Ottavio Orologio of TR Knitting.



Chapter President Mauro Caputi honors Gianna and Chazz Palminteri for their Cooley's Anemia Foundation work and invited them into the Chapter as Honorary Members.



North Shore members standing from left: Joe Sclafani, Rocco Marini, Ottavio Orologio, Joe Lombardo, Fred Tenaglia, John Cassano, Ray Powers, Lou Di Rico, Al Crecco, Charles Bilello, Jason Nappi, Len Licata and Jerry Frusci. Seated from left: Sergeant-at-Arms Christine Lupo, Kathr Petritis, President Elect Ellen Leone, Christina Chillino, Domenico Caputi and missing in action President Mauro Caputi!



Past National President and Emcee for the evening Frank Cannata, commences the Gala along with Sergeant-at-Arms Christina Lupo.



UNICO National Foundation presented \$3,000 Grant money to Cooley's Anemia Foundation. Present were members of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation and UNICO National Foundation. From left: Cooley's Anemia Foundation member s Mr. & Mrs. Cenzoprano; UNICO Foundation President John Di Napoli; UNICO Foundation Trustee and Director of Scholarships of UNICO National Joan Tidona; Executive Director of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation Gina Cioffi; Past National President and Cooley's Anemia Foundation Trustee Frank Tidona; UNICO Foundation Trustee and Gala Co-Chair Lou Di Rico and Cooley's Anemia Foundation Spokespersons Gianna and Chazz Palminteri.



The huge success of the evening could not have been possible without the many hours of coordination and work of this committee!! Standing from left: Rocco Marini, Fred Tenaglia, Al Crecco, President Elect Ellen Leone, Joe Sclafani, Joe Lombardo and First Vice President Robert Di Rico. Seated from left: Co-Chair Ottavio Orologio, Co-Chair Lou Di Rico, President Mauro Caputi, Christina Chillino and Gino Parente.



Present also were Past National President and Cooley's Anemia Foundation Trustee Frank Tidona; Actor Chazz Palminteri and UNICO Foundation President John Di Napoli.



Officers and staff of UNICO National and New York District II present were from left: UNICO National Office Manager Pat Pelenero, Co-Chair Lou Di Rico, UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio; UNICO National Third Vice President, Dominick Nicastro; Chapter President Mauro Caputi and New York District II Governor Roseanne Buckleman.



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UNICO Foundation

John DiNapoli Foundation President
jdinapoli@unico.org

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**
Chris DiMattio
570-348-4921
chrisd@unico.org

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

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Send your check to the UNICO Foundation to:
271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F-103, Fairfield, NJ 07004

UNICO National Office Team

André DiMino.....Executive Administrator
Pat Pelonero.....Office Manager and ComUNICO Editor
Lisa Adubato.....Administrative Assistant
Sue Anzelmo.....Administrative Assistant
Stephanie Figurelli.....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

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COVER PHOTOS

MAIN Top: UNICO National Foundation presents \$3,000 to the Cooley's Anemia Foundation. From left: Cooley's Anemia Foundation members Mr. & Mrs. Cenziprano; UNICO Foundation President John Di Napoli; UNICO Foundation Trustee and Director of Scholarships of UNICO National Joan Tidona; Executive Director of the Cooley's Anemia Foundation Gina Cioffi; Past National President and Cooley's Anemia Foundation Trustee Frank Tidona; UNICO Foundation Trustee and Gala Co-Chair Lou Di Rico and Cooley's Anemia Foundation Spokespersons Gianna and Chazz Palminteri. (Page 2)

MAIN Bottom: The Philadelphia Chapter held its bowling event to raise money for local charities. From left: UNICO National President David Donnini, John Ferrara, Chapter President; Germain Demartini, Pennsylvania District III Governor and Ben Ferrara, Past Chapter President. (Page 16)

SIDE BAR Top: Pope Francis I and his family history are researched by My Italian Family. (Page 13)

SIDE BAR Bottom: UNICO National's 91st Annual Convention-Catch a Wave! (Page 28)

2012-2013 CALENDAR

Convention 2013

July 31- August 3, 2013

Marriott Harbor Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Eastern Regional Meeting

November 1-3, 2013

Villa Roma, Callicoon, New York

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A Message from National President David Donnini

Dear UNICANs,

The month of April brought us UNICO National Community Service Day. Many Chapters planned an extraordinary day of service. This day is very important to our organization. Over the years, I have seen all of the events UNICANs have done for this special day. Activities ranged from feeding the homeless, cleaning public parks, helping the elderly and donating food to local police and fire stations. This year was no exception. This is a great example of our motto, "Service Above Self". I am truly proud of each and every one of you for participating.

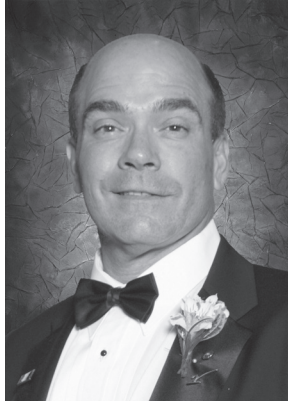
We have several new Chapters starting soon. On May 29th, the Rockaway, New Jersey Chapter will have its' Charter Night. Thank you to Tom Vaughan, Expansion Director and UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicaastro for getting this together. The Bay Ridge Brooklyn, New York Chapter will have its' Charter Night on June 3rd. If you'd like to attend, contact Pat at the National Office. We are looking forward to the chartering of the Manhattan, New York Chapter and the Montvale, New Jersey Chapter. Tom Vaughan is also following up on a lead to start a Chapter in Virginia.

This year as your President, has been flying by so fast. There are only a few months left in my term before Mike Veselka is sworn in as the new National President at the Convention. I urge each and every one of you to attend the Convention. Remember this is where all the UNICO business takes place. If you want to see change and progress, come to the Convention to give your insight on the various amendments that are going to be voted on and to vote for the new slate of UNICO National Officers.

In closing, I would like to thank each and everyone one of you for all you do for our great organization. In the upcoming months, I'll be traveling making visits to various Chapters. Before you know it, we will be in Fort Lauderdale. Please start making your hotel reservations and send in your registrations.

Yours in UNICO,
David

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Executive Vice President Mike Veselka

I would like to begin my column by letting everyone in UNICO know how proud I am of my Chapter, Chicago West Suburban. Prior to my deciding to seek a National Office, our Chapter had become complacent. When our members began to realize that my impending presidency was soon to be upon us, they sprung into action.

Our President, Edward Gesualdo took it upon himself to bring in new members to our Chapter. He felt our numbers were not sufficient for the Chapter of an incoming National President so he made his intentions known at our next Chapter meeting. One of our members, Pete Pavone said that at our next meeting he would bring five prospective new members. Well he did and they all ended up joining our Chapter and are all quality members. They were more than happy to join what they knew was once the most prominent Italian American Organization in the Chicago area.

After attending a few Chapter meetings, the new members decided to let us know what they could do to help the Chapter become prominent again. Paul Domico and I looked at each other and said, "Where did these guys come from, and why did we get so blessed?"

Led by new members Joe Mollica and new Chapter Secretary Mario Veltri, our Chapter is once again vibrant. We now have a Chicago West Suburban website at www.UNICOCWS.com.

They also took the responsibility of running our annual golf outing and are up to the challenge. They have been first in line to support, promote, and attend every fund-raiser we have held. True UNICANs, what can we do for you, not what can you do for me.

The moral of my story is don't give up, don't ever give up. It is the slogan of one of our favorite charities, the "V" Foundation. I suggest that our Chapters adopt that slogan and seek out new members. Quit saying that our members are getting old and there is no future. Do not let that happen, do not give up. Should you get new members, get them involved and listen to their suggestions. We did, and we are better than ever.

I will be spending the next few months

naming Committee Chairpersons. I will then ask them to seek out members for their Committees. I will then be able to have the Committees in place right after the Convention. I will be sending an e-mail to all the members of UNICO asking them to consider joining a National Committee that they can assist. Every District Governor will be named to at least one Committee because, as you all know, it is the duty of the District Governor to attend the UNICO National Meetings and that is where the Committees meet.

It is time for us to focus on the upcoming 2013 UNICO National Convention in Ft. Lauderdale. We need your help in order to have the successful event, which we plan on having.

Please register for your rooms as soon as possible. Thank you to Patty Hirsch for being the first to register, no wonder her District is so well run. Thank you to my all my fellow UNICANs who are helping with fund-raising and the ad journal. God bless and see you soon.

BRISTOL, CT



Theresa Pac administers the oath of office to the new Bristol, Connecticut Police Chief, and Bristol UNICO member, Thomas Grimaldi, with Mayor Arthur Ward on his left, on December 14, 2012. Mr. Grimaldi, is a city native and a 24 year veteran of the Bristol police force.



UNICO Celebrates Memorial Day by thanking all our Service Men and Women for the sacrifices they have made for our Country.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from First Vice President Rick D'Arminio

Now that the Mid Year Board Meeting is over, many of us will get ready for the National Convention. It is extremely important as a Chapter President and/or District Governor that you attend these meetings during your one or two year term. Many of us attend every meeting and have done so for the past 10+ years! As a National Officer, a Past National President, a District Governor, a Chapter President, a Committee Chair, and an active member it is vital to our organization that you are present. If you are a Delegate it is very important too that you attend and vote at the National Convention. If you wish to make a difference then you need to be there and express your concerns and opinions.

I am currently concentrating my efforts on re-building those areas that are either in need of a District Governor and/or need assistance. We are planning a visit to Massachusetts in June, and will see if we can help find a District Governor for Massachusetts II. We also hope to meet Massachusetts I and III to see if we can all work closely to strengthen all of the Chapters and the three Districts. My fellow Vice Presidents and some District Governors, Past District Governors, Past National Presidents, and fellow members from Connecticut have said they are willing to lend a hand. This is UNICO at work!

California I is also in need of a District Governor. California is a great State that should be thriving. We hope to charter our New York City Chapter by June as we have a great young group of ladies and gentlemen that appear ready to go. National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan and I have taken our time over the past year and hope to be up and running by the time this issue comes out. We are looking forward to working with the Italian American Museum and doing many things together. Perhaps we can also work with the Italian American Museum in California and strengthen our presence in Los Angeles and other areas.

I am also talking to some in New Jersey and other Districts in those states who have not had a new District Governor in quite some time. In order for us or any organization to succeed and change there needs to be new leadership and more members who may wish to step up! New Leadership brings in fresh ideas! Just as many of us have done in our quest to become Leaders and National Officers we are asking many of you to voice your interests in a leadership role whether it be as a National Committee Chair, and/or as a National Officer in Expansion, Membership and Retention, and a Vice President leading up to being National President.

I am also concentrating my Vice Presidential efforts on visiting some Chapters who I may not have in the past. I was honored to represent our National President David Donnini in

Marlboro, New York in April at their 25th Annual St. Joseph's Dinner, and 25 years in UNICO. Past National President Joe and Arlene Agresti, and my wife Manuela had a wonderful time.

I also had the pleasure of attending the North Shore, Long Island, New York Chapter's first big dinner dance in honor of raising funds for Cooley's anemia. I had the opportunity of attending their Charter in 2009 and under the great leadership of Past President Jason Nappi, Current President Mauro Caputi, and UNICO Foundation Trustee Lou DiRico, this fine Chapter has worked together and is doing an outstanding job. Again, this is UNICO at work!

I encourage all of you to work together and work as a team. Learn from one another. Encourage one another and let us re-energize our efforts and make UNICO the organization that people wish to join.

I will continue to reach out to all the District Governors and attend as many events as possible. I will strengthen my efforts in those areas that need help. But, just as many of us in National will do our best to reach out to you we ask the same in return. So, please communicate with us more, invite us to your events, and be in attendance at the upcoming National Convention so that we can all lead the way together.

EDITOR'S DESK



Editor's Comments: Pat Pelonero

With the end of the year getting closer the National Office is very busy. The staff, Scholarship Director Joan Tidona and her committee are busy finalizing all the scholarship applications for the judging process. There were a record number of applicants this year and UNICO National should be proud of the work it does to assist students in their endeavor to a higher education.

The staff has also prepared and mailed to all the Chapters their new rosters and dues billing statements for the 2013-2014 year. Included in that packet is the Election form for each Chapter that is also due to the National Office July 1st. I know that we send out much information, but if you would kindly skim through it you would see many of your questions are answered in those messages.

As all of you are aware the Convention 2013 at the Harbor Beach Marriott Fort Lauderdale, Florida is fast approaching I hope to see many of you there. Please review the information on the forms and make your Hotel reservations on or before June 28th, to receive the UNICO rate. The registration forms can be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or dropped off in person to the UNICO National Office. The Convention Ad Journal deadline is July 3rd. Please, if you are planning to attend, get these forms and payments in prior to the Convention as we need to

make plans for seating and accommodations based on the number of attendees. The Conventions are always a lot of fun and a great way to reunite with our UNICO families.

As always I hope you will enjoy this issue of the ComUNICO with its great stories and pictorials of our many Chapters and District events. You all do such a good job at getting us all your stories and pictures keep them coming, we look forward to seeing all you do.

I would like to personally thank the Men and Woman of our Country who give of themselves unselfishly to defend our freedom that we get to enjoy each and every day. God Bless all of you and I wish everyone a very safe and Happy Memorial Day.

VILLA VOSILLA

2013 is a Very Exciting Time for Villa Vosilla, an Intimate Italian Boutique Resort, Situated in the Heart of the Scenic Upper Great Northern Catskill Mountains in the Upper Hudson Valley Region.

The National Geographic Traveler named the Region **"ONE OF THE TOP 20 WORLD-CLASS BEST TRAVEL VACATION DESTINATIONS IN THE WORLD"**! Surrounded by Catskill Park's breathtaking views and clean fresh air in picturesque Tannersville, New York the Villa's pristine MOUNTAINTOP is celebrating its 200th ANNIVERSARY!

Villa Vosilla, last of the authentic Italian resorts of its style, is celebrating its **50th Golden ANNIVERSARY ~ "A Taste of Italy in the Catskills"**! This coincides with the Italian Government designating 2013 **"The Year of Italian Culture in America" ~ Anno Della Cultura Italiana!**

For 50 years, **Villa Vosilla**, 4 generations working-family owned/operated, has been a Celebration of Italian Food, Music and Song promoting the Italian Culture throughout its **"Taste of Italy in the Catskills" Social Season~An Italian Experience for Everyone**. Generations of guests continue traveling to this Italian institution for Comforting Italian Food and Italian Entertainment reflecting the **"Heart of Italy"**.

Italians arrived in America with an intense desire to be Americans. As many did not pass on the Italian customs, the culture slowly began to diminish. The 4th generation, giving the resort a very personal touch, continues Italian family traditions and keeps the heritage alive. Some establishments may incorporate an Italian special event to their themes or have retained an Italian name. But the Family Italian Resorts of the Villa Style, worked and owned by family members, are only a faded memory. Some resorts were not winterized; some families lost interest. Resorts, forced to sell, were replaced with commercial properties, time-shares, or non for profit groups.

The Family is doing something special to have survived. This unique gem attributes its success to its dedication to its guests and working hard together for the family legacy. With a circle of family and friends it is successfully flourishing, not many business in hospitality can say that.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Second Vice President Ann Walko

We are quickly approaching the end to a very active and fast-paced year. It has been a wonderful one for your Second Vice President who is looking forward to our next year as your First Vice President with enthusiasm and a sense of renewal.

The agenda set for the year is almost complete and I will be working feverishly to report out the successes accomplished on behalf of and with the membership. Making appearances and preparing speeches to outline where we are and where we need to go in the future has been the prime concern of all of the Vice Presidents.

We must continue to focus on increasing our membership. We must make sure that new members are nurtured and made to feel comfortable in our UNICO environment. We need to become the “**movers and shakers**” in the area of membership growth.

We need to become a movement of **ACTION**. Staying in a “holding pattern” is not good for any organization. Once we bring members into our cause, we must engage them in our variety of charitable and social events and programs. Once brought into our organization, we need to focus on **RETENTION**. We need to deliver on our UNICO promise. We must live and model our vision and mission for our membership. Our actions will determine whether or not UNICO is the organization of choice for others.

We must focus on **CHANGE**. We live in an ever changing world. We cannot function as we have in the past, but must react to change to bring us into the 21st century to sustain our viability. As we move forward, we must continue to look at how we are perceived by others. In the planning stage is an aggressive Public Relations program. UNICO is the best kept secret in the organization world. We need to turn this around so that we promote who we are and why we exist to a wider community.

Good communication is the life blood of any organization. That is why reporting is important and I want to congratulate the Chapters for the increase in reports to keep me apprised of all that you are doing in service to others. Social media is being employed to keep the flow of information on a consistent basis.

WE ARE ON THE MOVE. Keep up the good work that you are doing. I am extremely proud of all of the Chapters for the passion you exhibit in helping others. As I move around the Chapters, you are providing me with great ideas to explore. Continue to work with me as we lay out our blueprint for change. Remember, **YOU**, the members, are the backbone of our organization. Without your talent and expertise and willingness to serve, we would cease to exist. Let's keep the momentum going. Together. Progress for UNICO is on the horizon!

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT



A Message from Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro

This issue of ComUNICO will be arriving for the Memorial Day Holiday. I hope many of our UNICANs will be marching in their home town parades and participating in Memorial Services across the Country. There is no better way to say thank you than to take part in these festivities and show how proud we are of our Country and the Men and Women that put their lives on the line for us daily. I wish all of our Members a very Happy Memorial Day.

I think there needs to be changes in the near future with some new ideas on retaining and recruiting new members into the Chapters that we now have. When forming new Chapters we have to monitor them after they are started not Charter them and think they can make it on their own. We need to give them support and follow through with them so they become a successful Chapter and add to this great organization in a meaningful manner. If I am elected for Second Vice President, it will be my job next year to work with the Chapters to make them all stronger.

This year's Mid-Year Board Meeting was very successful. I want to personally thank Sal Benvenuti for his guidance and friendship that he shared with all of us in his term as Administrator for UNICO National. I wish you the best in everything you do and you will be missed. I also want to congratulate Past National President Andre' DiMino on his new position in UNICO National as our new Administrator. Andre' you were a great President and I know you will be a great Administrator, congratulations again.

At the Mid-Year, we covered many issues. Amendments will be brought forward by the Board of Directors at this year's Convention. We discussed in a meeting how to keep and retain members. This is a job for all of us to do. Keep the new member involved and active in committees. Make them feel as they are a part of the group. The Saturday night Marconi Award dinner was a huge success. Dr. DeFelice is a well deserving man for this award. Dinner was very good followed by an Elvis impersonator show that was a lot of fun. President Dave you did an excellent job on this meeting.

The Rockaway Township Chapter has 40 applications submitted to the National Office and is still being worked on. The Charter Night for the new Chapter will be held at the end of May. This Chapter has really taken off and the new Members are quite enthusiastic and cannot wait to get up and running.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the Chapters and Districts for all their invitations to their meetings and events. I would also like to thank everyone for all of your support this past year serving you as your Third Vice President and look forward to serving

you as your Second Vice President, if I am elected. A special thank you to my Garfield Chapter for all of their support. Everyone stay well and see you all in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

WESTFIELD, NJ



The Westfield Chapter officers greet the UNICO National 2013 Vastola Award winner, Stephen DeFelice, MD of Westfield, New Jersey at the UNICO National Mid-Year Board Meeting Gala cocktail hour. From left: Bob Tarte, Anthony Bengivenga, Ann Walko, UNICO National Second Vice President; Stephen DeFelice MD, 2013 Marconi Science Award Winner and Mike Colucci.



The Las Vegas Chapter officers welcome and greet the Westfield Chapter at the Mid-Year board meeting Gala Dinner from left: Anna Trifiletti Las Vegas Chapter; Anthony Bengivenga, Westfield Chapter; Michael Colucci, Westfield Chapter and Rose Falocco, Las Vegas Chapter President.



From left: Bob Tarte, Ann Walko UNICO National Second Vice President; “Elvis” and Ron Giometti at the Mid Year Gala.

SCHOLARSHIP



**UNICO National
Scholarship
Report:
Joan Tidona**

Unprecedented Interest

This year we have experienced an unprecedented interest in the UNICO National Scholarship program. The extraordinary response is likely fueled by many causes, including: the rapid expansion of our offerings, the state of the economy, outrageous tuitions, and discontinuance of some assistance programs. We have even received application requests from members of the military. Apparently, UNICO scholarship information has been picked up and distributed by many referral agencies; some unauthorized and possibly inaccurate. To say our grants are highly desired is putting it mildly.

Current procedure requires that applications must be submitted through UNICO Chapters. We thank all members who have participated in the nomination process. It requires great diligence to determine that applications have been properly prepared and all required documents are included. Your work is recognized and appreciated. Such commitment to assisting young students is the very essence of "Service Above Self."

However, requests for sponsorship have overwhelmed some Chapters, particularly those in single Chapter states. The demand, many have encountered, has become unmanageable. The Scholarship Committee will be taking a long, careful look at our rules of application, with serious consideration toward responsible modifications. It is our purpose to present recommendations that reflect the intentions of our membership. We welcome your input. While nominating candidates for National scholarships is considered a privilege, afforded our Chapters, we do not want a privilege to become a burden.

Applications are beginning to arrive at the National Office. By the time you read this, they will have been forwarded to judging committees in separate locations.

Great care is exercised to ensure the integrity of our awards. The judging committees, composed of non-UNICAN professionals, are each directed by a member of the National Scholarship Committee. The great majority of candidates are highly qualified and worthy of recognition. It is never easy to determine the best of the best. Our judges always perform this task admirably. The unprecedented interest, we have experienced this year, seems certain to make selection even more difficult. We anxiously anticipate the results.



MEMBERSHIP AND RETENTION



**Membership and
Retention
Director
Mark McDade**

This May issue of ComUNICO signals to us that our fiscal year is coming to a close. Now is the time for the Chapters to start collecting dues for the first installment of per capita to National. Do not wait to get your house in order. In order to participate in the National Convention's elections and to vote on other National decisions, your Chapter's paperwork and per capita should be in by July 1st.

Another item that should be in by July 1st is your Chapter's reimbursement request for any Italian Heritage and Membership Drive expenses incurred since July, 2012. These itemized requests should be mailed to your National Membership Director, Mark E. McDade, 102 Ridgeview Drive, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18504 or e-mailed to markemcdade@hotmail.com. All requests will be reviewed for partial reimbursement of expenditures. Your request should adhere to the deadline of July 1st also.

Have you ever wondered, "How many of our members actually READ ComUNICO?" How many read President Donnini's column? His was the first column in ComUNICO. As Membership Director, the paragraph that really caught my attention was the one on the "AMICI MEMBERSHIP". This is a subject that I am in favor of and had let it be known in a letter to the editor several years ago. Wow, did I ever get a lot of negative responses at the time. As David's column mentioned, "change is good!" Well, change is inevitable, if you are in favor of growth and retaining your Italian customs, traditions and heritage. This eventual Constitutional proposal has my vote and it will eventually pass. If not this year, it will eventually get approval, the same way that allowing women into UNICO National came about in 1997.

How many Chapters have held an event to bring in new members since the last ComUNICO went out in March? How many members have made an effort to bring in at least one new member? Well, it is never too late to build membership, unless your Chapter is among one of those on the verge of folding. And, that is exactly what can happen to your Chapter, if you neglect your Chapter's growth potential. Bringing in new members is like getting a blood transfusion. It will bring in new life via new ideas into your Chapter. GO FOR IT!

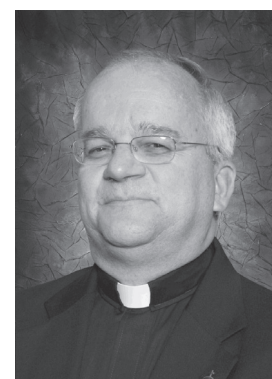
Did you see the guide on how to run a Heritage Night in the last issue on the New Member page? UNICO Chapters have done this and have gotten results. Start planning NOW for a fall event. Take advantage of October, our Italian Heritage and Culture month. If you want to do this type of program but are a little hesitant, just give Past National President Andre' DiMino a call for some tips. He will be only too glad to advise you. This tool can be viewed and downloaded from our National website

(www.UNICO.org.) in the Member Log-In Section under Tools. Also available there are the UNICO Video, applications, past ComUNICO issues and the UNICO Color Brochure. At your request, the office can send you any recruitment materials you would need for success. The UNICO Office Staff 973-808-0035 is there and ready to serve, as are ALL of the National Officers.

Remember, it is up to "YOU" to bring in new members. When was the last time you brought one in?

All you have to do is ask!

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE



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

George Frederick Handel's masterpiece, *The Messiah*, has inspired millions of people through the centuries. However, few people are aware that it was composed in only three weeks. What makes that even more remarkable is that Handel's eyesight was failing at the time and he was facing the possibility of being put in a debtor's prison because of large outstanding bills. While most people find it difficult to create when they are under stress, Handel did not. He credits the completion of his work to one thing: joy. He was quoted as saying that he felt as if his heart would burst with joy at what he was hearing in his mind and heart. This story reminds us that when joy is present, Jesus Christ is expressed.

The word of God is meant to bring joy into our lives. It provides instruction, challenge, and promise for all who believe. As we receive God's word, we must be open to all that it holds for us. It nourishes and strengthens our souls; it gives us meaning and value and reveals God's mercy and kindness to us. God's word brings healing and guides us through the joys and sufferings of this world as we journey toward eternal life. To embrace God's word is to embrace life.

When we allow God's word to penetrate our minds, hearts and souls, it will transform us. When we read or hear a Scripture passage, we should do so through the eyes and ears of the biblical people to feel their thoughts and to experience everything they experienced. When we listen to God's word with our heart, we allow it to enter our lives and to touch the very core of our being. Listening to God's word should cause us to ask ourselves, "Lord, what do I need to do to make my life reflect your word?"

As Christians, our goal is to conform our lives to God's plan for us. We should eagerly receive the joy of God's good news and we must be equally as eager to embrace the demands it makes on our lives. As members of Christ's body, each of us is given a special role in the mission of proclaiming his message of salvation. Through our words and actions, the word of God continues to touch the world, heal it and give it life.

God bless.

"V" FOUNDATION



**"V" Foundation
Chairman
Frank Paolercio**

Recently UNICO presented a check of \$50,000 to the "V" Foundation for our Memorial Grant in John Grisanti's name earmarked for The St. Jude Children's Hospital for Pediatric Cancer Research. This grant was presented at the "V" Foundation's Men's and Women's kick off of their Jimmy V Classic Basketball Games at Madison Square Garden, New York. The affair was a cocktail hour, dinner and silent auction at Pier 60 along the Hudson River, New York. There were nearly 400 persons in attendance which included members of the "V" Foundation, coaches, players, announcers and dignitaries. UNICO again was highly honored, the only donors to be acknowledged and making our presentation of our grant on the stage. Making the \$50,000 presentation to Nick Valvano, President and CEO of the "V" Foundation was Frank Paolercio, UNICO "V" Foundation Chairman and David Donnini, UNICO National President. Upon our completion of funding this grant it will bring UNICO's total to \$550,000 for Cancer Research to "Help Find a Cure".

We still need help to complete this grant. If your Chapter has not sent a check yet, please do it now. Earmarked for St. Jude Children's Hospital for Pediatric Cancer Research.

SAVE THE DATE: September 22, 2013 UNICO National Bocce Series for Cancer Research, Montville Community Park, Montville, New Jersey. Enter your Chapter or District four person teams. Previous winners include Pt. Pleasant UNICO, Scranton UNICO and defending champs, Orange-West Orange UNICO.

Thanks to all for your continued support for Cancer Research.



UNICO National presents the "V" Foundation with our annual \$50,000 grant. From left: UNICO "V" Foundation Chair Frank Paolercio, "V" Foundation President and CEO Nick Valvano and UNICO National President David Donnini.



EXPERIMENTAL PFIZER PILL DEEMED A BREAKTHROUGH

Pfizer announced its experimental pill for advanced, often deadly breast cancer has been designated as a breakthrough therapy by the Food and Drug Administration.

The breakthrough designation, created under legislation enacted last summer to fund and improve operations of the FDA, is meant to speed up development and review of experimental treatments that are seen as big advances over existing therapies for serious diseases. Pfizer is working with the agency to determine exactly what research results it will need to apply for approval of the drug. Palbociclib is being evaluated as an initial treatment for the biggest subgroup of postmenopausal women whose breast cancer is locally advanced or has spread elsewhere in the body.

EXPANSION



**Expansion
Director
Thomas Vaughan**

I have been so busy with Expansion duties I did not even have time to write a column for the last ComUNICO!

By the time you read this we should have a Charter Night date or have already chartered the new Bay Ridge Brooklyn Chapter. This Chapter is starting with eighteen members, thirteen of which are new members. UNICO congratulates the Bay Ridge Chapter and wishes them well.

We also have another Charter Night on the horizon thanks to the hard work of our Third National Vice President Dominick Nicastrò. Past National President Frank Cannata, Sal Benvenuti, Pat Pelonero and I spoke at a meeting in late February with an interested group in Rockaway. Since then Dominick has organized the Rockaway Township Chapter which should charter with close to 30 new members!

Past National President and current Executive Administrator Andre' DiMino and I are working on a Montvale Chapter. This was developed from a talk Andre' gave at the high school and may be an exciting new way for UNICO to expand.

The Manhattan group is having an organizational meeting which hopefully will put us over the top as some new people have been invited. First National Vice President Rick D'Arminio and I are so close!

Past National President Chris DiMattio gave us a great lead in Northern Virginia. A former National Officer with NIAF is very interested in starting a Chapter in the Washington D.C. area.

There are a few other leads I am following up with. As always, if you have one, e-mail me at unicotomv@gmail.com.

When you are a National Officer it does not mean that you stop being a District or Chapter member. I know all of us are very involved in our local area. I had the privilege of being on the

committee that awarded Wethersfield member Tony Santucci the "Medaglia di Servizio" Award. Tony is the first UNICAN to receive this award. He is a 36 year charter member and has chaired our golf committee for several years. Congratulations Tony!

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention the passing of Past National President Jim Melo of Newington, Connecticut. Jim was one of my mentors and always gave me his honest advice. He was a staple at our District meetings and was never afraid to tell you his opinion. Jim's perspective often led to some lively discussions, but he always made us think. Our meetings have not been the same without him. I would like to extend my condolences to his wife Terri, the Melo family, and to his great friend, Past National President Frank Cannata.

Ci vediamo il prossimo mese!

TORRINGTON, CT



Torrington Chapter of UNICO President Bob Summa presents a check to Deidre DiCara, Executive Director of Fish for the Veteran's Homeless Shelter during the April 10th meeting held at Bogey's.



Nancy Seiler being sworn in as new member of Torrington Chapter of UNICO National at the March meeting by President Bob Summa.



FOUNDATION



**Foundation
President
John DiNapoli**

On Friday, March 8, 2013, The Board of Trustees met in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Recently elected Trustees, James DeSpenza, Paul Domico, Nina Held, Francine Nido and Peter Pettinato were administered the Oath of Office by General Counsel Carmine Campanile.

At the 2012 Convention, Joseph Monaco of San Antonio, Texas, did not seek re-election to the Board of Trustees due to medical issues. The position has not yet been filled and Mr. Monaco would like to be reinstated as a Trustee. The Trustees voted to reinstate Mr. Monaco.

Treasurer, Michael Spano, reviewed the financial statements for the quarters ending September 30, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

The Trustees were notified that the National Office received a check for \$18,000 from the DiLoreto Family Trust. This represents a partial distribution of the funds that were left to the Foundation from his will. The funds were deposited in the UNICO Foundation account.

The Board approved the following Grants:

COOLEY'S ANEMIA	\$3,000
ITALIAN STUDIES	\$500
MENTAL HEALTH (3 Grants)	\$8,000

The Board approved an additional Grant for the St. Ignatius College Prep located in Chicago, Illinois. The Grant will establish a Tuition Assistance Scholarship for disadvantage students. The Scholarship would be in honor of UNICO Past National President Anthony Fornelli, who is one of their esteemed graduates. It will be paid in two installments of \$5,000 each. The first installment will be paid in 2013 and the second installment paid in 2014.

Since our last meeting, Ralph Torracco has established three additional Scholarships at \$125,000 each. He has also established a \$125,000 Grant for the FOOD BANK AND SHELTER FUND. The Board of Trustees again expressed their gratitude to Mr. Torracco for his generosity.

Our 2013 annual raffle tickets have been mailed to all the Chapters. The winners will be selected at the National Convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on Saturday, August 3, 2013. Since this is the only fund-raiser that we have, we are hoping that everyone will participate in purchasing raffle tickets.

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

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



BRIDGEPORT, CT

ONE VOICE Heard Loud and Clear by Bridgeport Chapter

The Bridgeport Chapter hosted the Connecticut District I dinner meeting on March 26 at Aldario's Restaurant in Milford, Connecticut. Joining the Connecticut District I UNICANs were Past National President Andre DiMino and ONE VOICE Officer Manny. We were enlightened about the many battles waged by ONE VOICE against mass media stereotyping and discrimination against Italian Americans. Most importantly we learned that it is incumbent upon all of us, Italian Americans, to protect our heritage and prevent new generations from being brain washed into believing all of the negative stereotypes associated with Italian Americans.

At this meeting the Bridgeport Chapter also approved donations to: St. Margaret's Shrine for a new "Presepio" on the grounds of this long time, Bridgeport area sanctuary and Port 5 Naval Veterans Car Show, to sponsor a blinded veteran's guide dog. Lastly, we were honored to have Fucsia Nissoli, who was recently elected to the Italian Chamber of Deputies in Rome to represent the Italian expatriate community in North America.



From left: Perry Vincenzi, Bridgeport Chapter President; Rosa DiCapua, Jenny and Andre DiMino, Fucsia Nissoli, Manny Alfano and Gene Antonio.



STAMFORD, CT



The Stamford Chapter of UNICO hosted special guest at their April meeting. They honored students from the Stamford - Greenwich High School that attend Italian language classes. They were treated to a Special "Italian" Dinner and presented with a certificate and a copy of the Italian American UNICO Calendar. Thanks to the cooperation of Lee Rizzuto, Chapter President, Stanley Esposito, Angelo Raus and Josie Costa Weller.

MARLBORO, NY

The Marlboro Chapter of UNICO National held the 25th Anniversary of their Annual St. Joseph's Day Feast. This year's event was attended by over 230 local residents. The Chapter was honored to have Past National President Joe Agresti and his wife Arlene and UNICO National First Vice President Rick D'Arminio and his wife Manuela in attendance. The menu included antipasto, hot peppers, fennel, pasta with sausage and meatballs, pork roast and asparagus, pastry and beverages. Music was provided by a local band playing traditional Italian music. This event supports many of the local charities that Marlboro Unico supports throughout the year. The Chapter's next event is our Annual Tomato Contest in August with plants available in May.



From left: Dickie Messina, Joe Agresti, Chris Cerone, Frank Lasussa, Joe Pesavento, Russ Parks, Joe Janerio, Frank Ricciardone, Jerry Amoroso and Rick D'Arminio.



From left: Dan Martuscello, District Governor Joe Pesavento, Chapter President Willie Biggin, Joe Agresti, Rick D'Arminio, Chris Cerone and Rich Gerentine.



From left: Rick D'Arminio, Chapter President Willie Biggin, District Governor Joe Pesavento and Joe Agresti.



ELIZABETH, NJ

ELIZABETH CHAPTER OF UNICO HOLDS ITALIAN CINEMA MATINEE

On March 3, 2013 the cafeteria at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Elizabeth was transformed into a movie theater as members of the Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO, and their families, gathered for an afternoon at the "Italian Cinema Matinee." With the aroma of freshly popped popcorn filling the air and the cafeteria darkened and transformed into a movie theatre setting, the ambiance was set as the audience enjoyed the misadventures of the lovable, Johnny Stecchino. As with any Italian gathering, food was on hand...this time in the form of pizza from the well known Santillo's.

The Elizabeth Chapter would like to thank event coordinator and Chapter Secretary, Andrew Marcantonio and Treasurer Sal Coppa for planning and executing the show. We would also like thank Domenico Caruso of Caruso's Cotton Candy for donating the popcorn and his time preparing the tasty snack which was a big hit. Truly a fun afternoon was had by all.

ELIZABETH CHAPTER WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Elizabeth Chapter of UNICO would like to welcome our newest members; Joe Renna, Paul Addressa and Carmine Giannetta. These are the newest members to join the Elizabeth Chapter. Paul and Carmine were sworn into the Chapter in January. We look forward to working with all three in UNICO's continued commitment to helping the community.



Chapter President Courtney Villani welcomes Carmine Giannetta.



New member Joe Renna and Courtney Villani.



New member Paul Addressa and Courtney Villani.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

As a Chapter we keep busy. Monthly we hold our meetings, dinner, business, and have a guest speaker. February we were given a presentation by Dr. Nina Versaggi. Dr. Versaggi is the director of the Public Archaeology Facility at Binghamton University. She talked about the research performed at the center and about the archaeology of our area. She captivated the room with her presentation. In February we also participated in the Rescue Mission's Homeless Walk as Team UNICO. Team UNICO was the number one fund-raiser for the Rescue Mission. March, we livened things up a little with "Una Serata con Nino". Nino Samiani played the guitar and sang songs in Italian and English. Members seemed to enjoy this evening, as many were caught singing and swaying to Nino's music and songs. This also was a special night, as only a few hours before, we were told that we had a new Pope. Of course we said a prayer in Italian to wish him success. April, Joe Titti opened the world of genealogy to our group. I am sure many went home to look at a vintage photo or perhaps try a genealogy search on the Internet.

But what has become apparent is the growth of family in our organization. As a Chapter we have grown together as a family. We share meals, laughs, tears, and struggles. We have many members who attend the meetings with their mother, father, sister, brother, or cousin. To help celebrate our Italian Culture and La Familia, we would like to highlight some of the members and their families.



From left: Grace Pezzuti, Anna Pezzuti, mother of Grace and Maria and Maria Pezzuti. Back row: Cousins Dennis and Linda Camarda.



Robert Stacconi and daughter Bonni Stacconi Phelps.



Geri Harris and mother Joanne Florini.



Diana Behlog and her parents Don and Joyce Gioia.



Tony and Rosanna Mucilli will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary in July 2013.



From left: Marianna DeLBrocco, Donna Carlini and Mother-in-law Camilla Carlini.

ORANGE/ WEST ORANGE, NJ

The Orange/West Orange Chapter held its 39th Annual Sports Award Breakfast on February 24, 2013. The event celebrates the unsung heroes by recognizing student athletes from the local high schools who display outstanding commitments to their teams. The keynote speaker was former Philadelphia Eagle, Vince Papale. Mr. Papale's speech captivated the audience. His message to live your dream and be "Invincible" was not only inspirational to the student athletes receiving awards but to all in attendance. Members participated by organizing the event, preparing breakfast and serving it to the approximately 300 people in attendance.



From left: Vincent Gonnella, Frank Gonnella and Joe Anzelone: our breakfast chefs.



Guest speaker Vince Papale and incoming President and Vastola Award Winner Frank DeMaio.



From left: Vince Papale, Ben Spinelli, Frank DeMaio and UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro.

CEDAR GROVE, NJ



Cedar Grove held its Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the community March 30. Pictured from left: Steve DeStefano, Amy Tufaro, June Brindisi, Lori Rivera, Dottie Ricciardi, Mike DeFrancisci, John Borgese, Cinzia Faieta, Greg Tufaro, Michelle Cammarata, Christine Brindisi, Nicole Brindisi, and Aram (Easter Bunny) Andronian.



Michele Cammartta decorates the park!



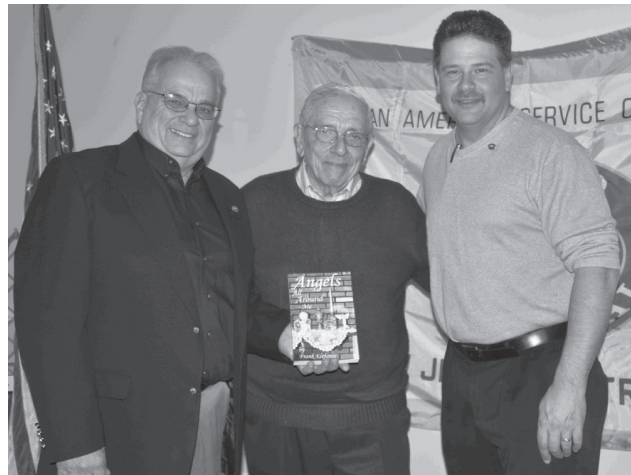
Chapter Secretary Amy Tufaro poses with Easter Bunny, Chapter member Aram Andronian.

The DEADLINE for the July Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, June 3, 2013.

Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: comunico@unico.org.

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

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV



Perry Russo, New Jersey District IV Governor presided over his third meeting of the year at the Paris Inn, Wayne, New Jersey on Thursday, March 14th, 2013. From left: Perry Russo, Pequannock member Frank Elefante and Wayne President Steve Calantone. Frank did a book review of his most recent book "Angels All Around Me".

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT II



Green Gables in New Milford, Pennsylvania was the place to be for the Thursday, February 28th meeting of Pennsylvania District II. District Governor Tom Gatto of the Carbondale Chapter presided over the business part of the meeting. Members from all the Chapters were in attendance, as well as Eastern Regional District Governor Chip Calabro and Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade. A very enjoyable evening was had by all in attendance.



From left: UNICO National Membership and Retention Director Mark McDade, Pennsylvania District II Secretary Yvonne Gatto, Pennsylvania District II Governor Tom Gatto, PA II Pennsylvania District II Treasurer Felix DeSio and Jean DeSio.



IN MEMORIAM



A Very Special Man and A Great Loss

By: Frank G. Cannata

It was with great sadness that we learned of Jim Melo passing away. It was not unexpected but difficult to cope with. We did have a conversation the week before he died and at least I had an opportunity to let this man know how much I loved him and valued him as a friend. When Terri Melo called us to give us the bad news she asked me to deliver the eulogy, at the funeral mass. I asked for and received permission for it to be reprinted in ComUNICO and I want to thank our Executive Administrator Andre' DiMino and fellow Past National President for allowing us to do so.

Today we say goodbye to a very special man who played many roles in life with a unique ability to make it appear as if he were doing anything at all. Well the truth was he was giving it everything he had.

He was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, relative and to many of us a very special friend. Jim was the type of person who could see the truth and pain in your eyes when you were fooling everyone else.

It has been my good fortune to travel all over this globe – I have set foot on 5 continents and never met a man with such a high degree of integrity, honesty and sense of decency, as Jim Melo. He lived by a simple credo – Take care of the family and, ensure that they had the necessary means to live a good life and along the way instill in them the core values of loving and caring for one another.

He served his country for four years in the United States Navy, upon returning home he worked and earned a business degree and entered the workplace. He quickly rose to a managerial position and ultimately became a very successful entrepreneur. In many ways he fit the description of those described in Tom Brokaw's book the "Greatest Generation." The only difference was Jim's war was Korea and not World War II.

His love for his wonderful wife Terri knew no bounds and he strove to provide her with the richness of life. She was his partner and soul mate for life. His children represented his legacy and his grandchildren were his immortality.

Jim Melo believed you earned a living not only for your family's needs but to help others in need. To him life was not about accumulating great wealth but creating an ability to be charitable and not at his family's expense, but at his own. He chose not to live lavishly because to him that was foolishness and never did he ever attempt to seek some kind recognition or reward for his many charitable acts.

The Lord taught us that "The left hand should not know what the right hand is doing." Jim

practiced that teaching as well as any man I have ever known. While he did not exhibit the trappings of a pious man he lived a truly Christian life. Neither did he preach or pontificate. He simply set the example and if the bar was too high it was okay if you had to slide in just a little bit lower.

I followed him in UNICO for over 25 years. He was my mentor and I was privileged to be his friend. What did Jim teach me? This quotation by Wendelin Draaner in a book entitled "Flipped" says it all. "Next time you're faced with a choice, do the right thing. It hurts everyone less in the long run."

In 1955 John O'Hara wrote a book, "Ten North Frederick." It was a best seller and made into a motion picture. The lead character was named Joe Chapin. Upon his death his children realized that he was a man who lived by a simple book of rules. Chapin was a weak but honorable man who in the end died with honor having made amends for his transgressions.

Jim Melo was no Joe Chapin and he had his own book of rules but, he died with his honor, his dignity and his integrity all intact.

God rest your soul my dear friend and when you meet the guys for the lunch, please remember and save a place for me.

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO hosted a presentation by Mark J. Luongo about the origins and History of the 39th New York Volunteer Italian Infantry during the Civil War, Garibaldi Guard. Mark discussed the involvement of Italians in the Civil War, their uniforms and equipment, their renegade colonel and their heroic major. Thirty people were in attendance.



Clark member Henry Varriano presents a donated book "Garibaldi Guard", to Clark Librarian Patty Anderson, as Mark Luongo looks on.



Clark members George Abruzzo, Vera Abruzzo and New Jersey X District Governor Bob Bengivenga pose for a photo at the presentation.



Clark Chapter members pose for a photo with Mark Luongo. From left: Renato Biribin, Past National President; Paul Alongi, Patty Ashmont, Greg Menza, President Ralph Bernardo, Rocky Biondi, Mark Luongo, Moreno Rimmaudo, Vera Abruzzo, Bob Bengivenga, New Jersey District X Governor; Bobby Spinella, George Abruzzo and Henry Varriano.



Clark UNICO member Moreno Rimmaudo and New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga display the Italian uniforms.

LIVINGSTON, NJ

Livingston Heritage Meeting

Livingston UNICO hosted a Heritage Meeting in March and one of its members, Neil Aurilia prepared a presentation that over-viewed the immigration of Italians to America. Neil summarized the immigration of Italians in three distinct waves that were all motivated by the bad times in Italy and the attraction of America as a land of opportunity. WAVE 1, known as the "Old Immigration" occurred between 1860 and 1890 and had a small number of Italians. WAVE 2, known as the "New Immigration" occurred after 1890. This was caused by major natural disasters (earthquakes, volcano eruptions and the Spanish Flu). This was the largest inflow of Italians; over 5 million. These were primarily laborers and farmers. Over half returned to Italy. WAVE 3, the "Last Immigration" followed WWII. War ravaged areas forced people to seek a better life in America Bravo Neil!!



President Al Branchi (right) presents Neil a Certificate of Recognition for his effort.

PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



The Passaic Valley Chapter has awarded the first of their two Collegiate Study Abroad Scholarships. From Montclair University, their 2013 recipient is George Curtis Clark III. George Clark is pictured receiving his grant from Sal Benvenuti, Chapter President Bob Appaluccio, and Chapter Study Abroad Chairman Joe Agresti.



At the evening festivity, sponsored by the Coccia Institute for Italian Studies, all of the Passaic Valley Chapter members took a time out for a second picture: From left: Celina Poggiogalle (the Chapter 2012 Study Abroad Recipient), Gaetano Sollazzo (Chapter friend), George Clark, Sal Benvenuti, Joe Agresti, Robert Appaluccio, and Steve Pelonero. All of the pictures from the evening can also be seen on the Passaic Valley Chapter website at www.PVU-NICO.com.

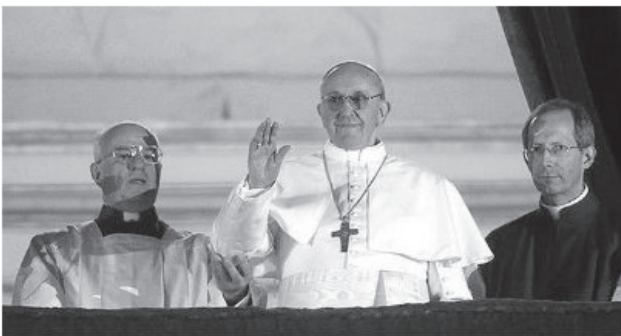
CARBONDALE, PA



At the monthly meeting of the Carbondale Chapter of UNICO one new member was installed. Charlotte Connor is shown being sworn in by President Tom Gretzula.



MY ITALIAN FAMILY



Francis I - A "Papal" Family Tree

On March 13 the words "Habemus Papam!" were finally heard in a crowded St. Peter's square announcing the election of the new Pope, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio age 76 from Argentina. It did not take long to discover that Pope Francis had Italian roots; his family was originally from the village of Portacomaro Stazione part of the city of Asti, in the rolling hills of Monferrato located in the historic region of Piedmont.

The mayor of Asti, Fabrizio Brignolo, minutes after Pope Francis was elected requested the research of the Bergoglio family tree. The results were made public a few days later. We followed his lead and researched some family documents which we are making available to you here.

On August 14, 1884 a 27-year old farmer walked in the town hall of Asti to declare the birth of his son Giovanni Angelo, born the day before at 11:00 a.m. in the house located in Valleversa (Valle means hill/valley and Versa is the name of the stream flowing through the hills of Monferrato) of Portacomaro Stazione from him and his legitimate wife Maria Bugnano. That farmer's name was **Francesco Bergoglio**, the great-grandfather of the current Pope who surprisingly chose the name of Francesco (Francis). Later we will learn as a tribute to Saint Francis, the protector of the poor. Witnesses to the birth were Lorenzo Nadelle age 41 contadino (i.e. farmer) and Giovanni Belangero age 42 facchino (i.e. porter).

Francesco was the son of Giuseppe **Bergoglio** born in 1816 in the hamlet of Schierano part of the town of Passerano Marmorito and of Maria Giacchino or Gioacchino born in 1819 in Cocconato d'Asti. The two towns are only a few miles apart.

Giovanni Angelo Bergoglio born on August 13 1884 migrated to Torino when he was 22 years old on January 1, 1906. A year later, in 1907 Giovanni Angelo, liquorista and caffettiere (owner of a beverage and coffee shop) age 23 married Rosa Margherita Vassallo, daughter of Pietro, age 23 originally from Piana Crixia (province of Savona) and on April 2, 1908 they had their first son **Mario Giuseppe Francesco Bergoglio**, the Pope's father.

In 1918, a year after the birth of another daughter, **Bianca Maria Bergoglio**, stillborn, the family returned to Asti. At the time of his daughter's birth, father Giovanni Angelo, caffettiere, was away and the birth was declared by Giuseppe Martinengo, age 33, fabbro (i.e. blacksmith). Back in their hometown, they opened a grocery store and resided between Via Fontana, Corso Alessandria and via dell'Antica Zecca for eleven years before they boarded a ship on February 1, 1929 heading to Argentina.

The family kept some contact with the homeland; Mario who in the meantime had married Regina Sivori registered with the town hall of Asti the births of three of his five children: Maria Elena Bergoglio, Marta Regina Bergoglio and Alberto Horacio Bergoglio all born in Buenos Aires.

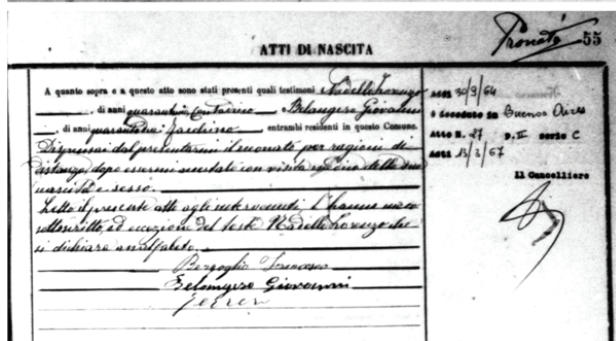
Facts:

- In 2003 the then Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was awarded from the Region Piemonte, the international recognition of "Piemontese nel mondo", as a person who positively represented Piemonte abroad.
- When in 2005, Cardinal Bergoglio visited his Ancestral village he brought back to Argentina a bag full of soil never to forget his roots.

(Courtesy of My Italian Family. To research your family in Italy, you can visit our website at www.myitalianfamily.com. Alternatively you can write to My Italian Family LLC, 6542A Lower York Road #204 - New Hope, PA 18938 or call FREE at 1-888-472-0171 or fax FREE at 1-866-728-8919 or email at ask@myitalianfamily.com)



The Bergoglio Family in Argentina



Birth of Giovanni Angelo Bergoglio - Portacomaro Stazione 1882 (showing the signature of his father Francesco Bergoglio)

DENVILLE, NJ

Denville Chapter of Unico National had its Second Annual Valentines' Day Dinner Dance on February 9, 2013, where all profits went to support local charities. Once again, a great time was had by all who attended. A special thanks to Pat Strocchia, Second Vice President and Denise Sabeh Recording Secretary for arranging this wonderful affair. We hope to see everyone back again next year!"



From left: Benny Catanzariti, Lou Mattaliano, Denville First Vice President; Gino Lolacono New Jersey District XI Governor, Nicki Carpinelli and Dominick Nicastro, UNICO National Third Vice President.



From left: John DiNapoli, UNICO Foundation President; Frank and Barbara Paolercio, Mary Berger, Angela DiNapoli and Nicki Carpinelli.



Justin Black of the Denville Chapter (center) enjoys the evening with some of his invited family and guest that attended.



Valentines Dinner Dance organizers Pat Strocchia, Denville Second Vice President and Denise Sabeh Recording Secretary addressing the attendees. Again, nice job guys!!!

ST. IGNATIUS GRANT HONORING ANTHONY FORNELLI

UNICO National Pledges \$10,000 to Fornelli '51 Endowment at Saint Ignatius College Prep Chicago

Reverend Michael Caruso, S.J., President of Saint Ignatius College Prep, is proud to announce that UNICO has recently made a \$10,000 pledge towards the Anthony Fornelli '51 Endowment at Saint Ignatius College Prep.

UNICO was started in 1922 by Anthony P. Vastola, MD. It then combined with the National Civic Organization in 1947 to form UNICO National. UNICO was created with a dream to create an Italian American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds. Since the inception of UNICO National in 1947, thousands of people and individual charities have been the recipients of UNICO's charity. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for national and international disasters.

Each year, UNICO Foundation and UNICO National Chapters donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from Chapter locations throughout the chain.

Funds of \$10,000 were granted from the UNICO National Foundation over a two year period.

Regarding this new donation, John DiNapoli, President of the UNICO Foundation said, "We look forward to completing this well deserved honor for a very special man at Saint Ignatius College Prep."

Please join us thanking UNICO National in welcoming Brianna Latko as Principal of Saint Ignatius College Prep. For additional information please visit the school Web site at www.ignatius.org.



From left: Reverend Michael Caruso, UNICO National Executive Vice President Mike Veselka, Past National President Anthony Fornelli and UNICO Foundation Trustee Paul Domico.

**The DEADLINE for the July Edition of
ComUNICO is Monday, June 3, 2013
Send Chapter news to the UNICO
National Office: comunico@unico.org.**

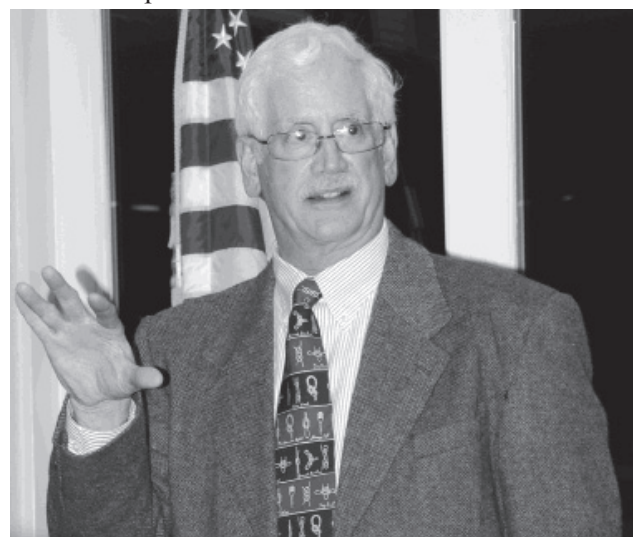
**Please call (973) 808-0035 with any
questions.**



PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

The March Meeting of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter was crowded with members all finally back to their homes after Sandy and ready to get back to UNICO.

Guest Speaker for the evening was the Chapter's Heritage Chairperson Zeke Zaccaro, who gave an informative presentation about our new Pope and Italian emigration to Argentina. Also in attendance were several Youth Members who not only enjoyed the evening, but also being active participants in the UNICO meeting. One of the other highlights was the installation of new member Michael Salvatore by District Governor Alan Floria. President Debbie Vaccaro then discussed plans for Community Service Day and for a Chapter Fund-raiser to make up for lost funds due to postponed events. Membership agreed to support a May Dinner Show in order to continue the Chapter's commitment to scholarships and National Convention.



Point Pleasant Italian Heritage Chairperson Michael Zeke Zaccaro.



From left: Tom Moretti, Michael Salvatore, newly installed member of Point Pleasant Chapter; Alan Floria, New Jersey District I Governor and Laura Lenhart, Membership Chair.



Immediate Past District Governor Grace Gynn welcomes members Virginia Hnatt, Charlie Brema, President Debbie Vaccaro and Andrea Pistolakis back to a UNICO meeting after five months of being displaced from their homes due to damage from Superstorm Sandy.

PITTSFIELD, MA

UNICO Pittsfield Chapter February 2013 Public Service Event

On Saturday, February 23, several Pittsfield Chapter members converged on the Berkshire Hills Country Club to prepare and cook a polenta, venison and chicken dinner to benefit the Berkshire Health Systems Women's Imaging Center. The group, headed by Past Chapter President and master polenta chef Kevin Dondi, prepared 400 meals that also included salad and bread. The proceeds will be used to purchase new rehab equipment for the New Berkshire Medical Center Cancer Center at the Hillcrest Campus. The Women's Imaging Center at Berkshire Health Systems opened its doors in 2003 as a place to consolidate radiology services designed specifically for women. It offers state-of-the-art-technology for mammography and bone density tests, with results available to referring physicians within 24 hours.



Chapter kitchen volunteers Bob Quattrochi and Ticki Winsor take a short break from preparing venison for one of the tasty and delicious polenta toppings.



Chapter kitchen volunteer Rick Stohr meticulously trims cuts of venison.

Celebrity Bartender Night

The Pittsfield Chapter held its fourth Annual Celebrity Bartender Night (Grande Salute) on Thursday, March 14th, at the Olde Heritage Tavern in Lenox. Volunteers from the Chapter worked in shifts of three, for 45 minutes tending bar starting from 6:00 pm and ending at 11:00 pm. 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 getting ready to start their shift are from left: Steve Romano, Julie Salatin and Chuck Romano.



Chapter bartenders ending their shift from left: Fran Curley, Tony Simonelli and Jim DiSimoni.



Newer Chapter members ready to take up the challenge are from left: Lisa Puleri and Pat Anello.

BROOKHAVEN, NY



Members and distinguished guests attend a recent Chapter meeting. From left: Peter Galluzzo, Curator of Sicilian Museums; Professor Marcello Saija, University of Palermo; John Misso, Sons of Italy; Professor Mario Mignone, Director of Italian Studies, Stony Brook University and Richard LaValle.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



Rutherford UNICO installs two new members. From left: New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch, New Members Robert Rizzo and Alberto Infante and Frank Tidona, Chapter President.



From left: Guest Speaker Bob Hurley, St. Anthony Basketball Coach; New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch; St. Mary High School Athletic Director Matt Stone and Brian Piccolo Honoree Connor Cucinelli from St. Mary High School.



Rutherford Chapter members attending New Jersey District VII Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner.

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



PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

Journey through Storm Continues

As the Jersey Shore rebounds from Super storm Sandy, so do the members of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter. President Vaccaro is finally back home, although only the second floor is livable. Charlie Brema is back living in his house in Seaside Park and Virginia Hnatt and her family back to their Brick home after five long months of renovations, while many other members are still repairing damage to their primary residences. In addition our meeting place, The White Sands Hotel, owned by charter members Frank and Cathie Chiaia, is still repairing the main banquet facilities but able to host our monthly dinner meetings once again.

Since September, all Chapter events and fund-raisers have been cancelled due to destruction of homes and businesses, so our charitable efforts were concentrated on helping those in need in our local shore communities. In the meantime, officers and committees continued to contact and keep all members informed and united in their service to UNICO.

Over sixty members attended the February meeting and discussed honoring the Chapter's commitment to the Chapter's local scholarship program in June and pledging to at least one UNICO Charity at the Convention this summer. So on May 5th the Grand Reopening of the White Sands Hotel Ballroom will present a UNICO Dinner Show and Gift Auction featuring the music of local Italian American entertainers. Unlike any fund-raiser in the past, this event is asking members, residents and businesses that were the most affected to give at a time when they are still in the midst of rebuilding when it is the hardest when it is the true meaning of Charity.

As you drive south down Route 35 and see miles of homes and entire towns destroyed, it is unimaginable that our membership is not only stronger but still able to give and serve others. Here is hoping this event is a huge success and the Point Pleasant Chapter continues to grow and inspire. Grace Mongiello Gynn.

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

Ciao Unicani!!

Speaking on behalf of all Atlantic City UNICO Chapter members, I would like to devote this article to the memory of Joseph Mangano, one of the original founders of our Chapter over 35 years ago. Joe served in many Chapter capacities throughout his years with UNICO most recently as Treasurer. Joe was as reliable as the sunrise and fully devoted himself and his unique talents to each task he undertook. He was a role model for new members and was always ready to offer advice to assist us in advancing our mission. His absence is keenly felt and the legacy of service he leaves behind inspires us all. Joe was a consummate gentleman and trusted friend. May he rest in peace.

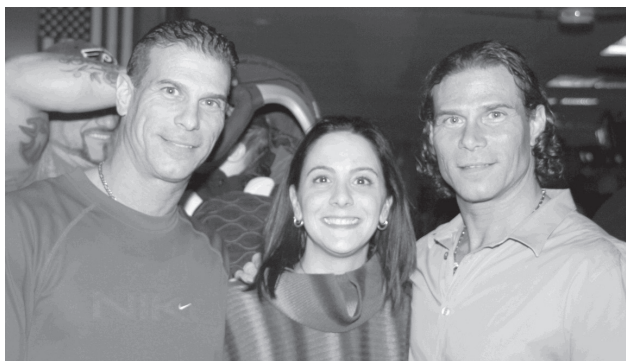
Upcoming events scheduled for our Atlantic City Chapter include our Annual Pasta Dinner to be held at St. Michael's Hall in Atlantic City on Sunday,

April 28, a Wine Tasting Affair and membership drive in May, our Annual "Person of the Year and Scholarship Award Dinner" at the famous Atlantic City Country Club in July and our "Around Absecon Island Cruise" in August. All of these events are organized and conducted by volunteers and are devoted specifically to raising funds for our causes. The primary fund-raising purpose is for scholarships for worthy area high school students. A follow up report will be provided to ComUNICO on each of those events in future articles.

That's all for now. Please enjoy the long-awaited spring weather.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Philadelphia Chapter held its bowling event at Westbrook Lanes recently. This is one of the events the Chapter holds to raise money for local charities. We had over 200 people there and had all 42 lanes to ourselves for three hours.



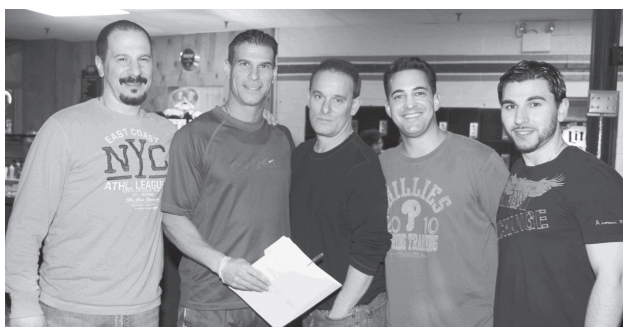
From left: John Ferrara, Stephani Capocci and Ben Ferrara.



Bowling supporters.



From left: UNICO National President David Donini, John Ferrara, Chapter President; Germain Demartini, Pennsylvania District III Governor and Ben Ferrara, Past Chapter President.



From left: Joe Serleno, John Ferrara, President; Vinny Testa, John Avicelli and Joseph Heinbach.



Bowling supporters, in the middle gray shirt is Chapter Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Iannuzzi.



Bowling supporters with Joe Cifoni Chapter Treasurer.



ROSETO, PA



The Roseto Chapter installed new officers during a recent meeting. The ceremony was conducted by UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro. From left: Catherine Capozzolo, Corresponding Secretary; Joe Danubio, Vice President; Marino Saveri, III, Recording Secretary; Bruce Snyder, Treasurer; Dominick Nicastro and Frank DeFrank, Chapter President.



Roseto Chapter of UNICO installs a new member at the March meeting. The ceremony for Phil Rusche was held at Giradinos' Restaurant. From left: Chapter Pres Dr. Frank DeFrank, Joe Diorio, Phil Rusche, Joe Danubio and looking on Joseph Laureti.

UNICO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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

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

MARCH

BETHLEHEM

Jami Azzaro
Theresa Doria

CARBONDALE

Madolyn Dempsey

CEDAR GROVE

John Cannizzaro

CLARK

Josephine Calandra
Claudio DiNucci
Cristofero DiNucci
Joseph Kilburg
Louise Lipari
John Pingor

GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Joseph Cianfrani, Sr.
Robert Mariotti

GREATER RAMSEY

Denise Miccoli

HACKENSACK

Catherine Cusimano
Nancyann Hallihan
Gloria Layne
George McBride

MANCHESTER

John Pastorelle

NEWBURGH

Damiano Maniscalchi
Leonardo Maniscalchi

PLAINFIELDS'

Santi Buscemi
Mary Ellen Cuneo
Alberta Esposito
Bruno Esposito
Raffaelina Esposito

ROSETO

Philip Rusche

SADDLE BROOK

Christine Pecoraro

SAN DIEGO

John D'Andrea

STAMFORD

Anthony Martini

TORRINGTON

Nancy Sieller

WAYNE

Michael Cetrulo
Robert Saypol



APRIL

BROOKLYN

Charles D'Emic, Jr.

CARBONDALE

Madeline Nault

CEDAR GROVE

Mary Basile
Leon Cavallo
Maria Cavallo

DENVILLE

Nancy Metz

GARFIELD

Jonathan Makowsky

HACKENSACK

Dolores Corado Codner

HAZLETON

Lorine Angelo Ogurkis

KANSAS CITY

Anthony Botticella
John Cascone
James Rinella
Maria Saitta

MARIN

Camille Massaro

NEWBURGH

Michael Berardinelli
Antonella Lazar

NEWINGTON

Karen Arborio
Neal Forte

PITTSFIELD

Steve Bartini
Courtney Mathes
Rudolph Sacco

PLAINFIELDS'

Michael Boyle
Patrick Boyle

SAN DIEGO

Anthony Papaleo

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD

Salvatore Perillo

STAMFORD

Jim Romaniello

TORRINGTON

Robert Calabrese

WATERBURY

Sara Billett
Julia Daniels
Thomas Vecca

WILKES-BARRE

Michael Lombardo, III
Joseph Schillaci
Rocco Schillaci
Thom Tevana



MONTVILLE, NJ



In keeping with their spirit of cooperation and support, Montville UNICO made a donation to the Montville Kiwanis Food Pantry at the Chapter's general meeting. From left: Co-Chair, Deane Driscoill and Food Pantry President Linda Gannon receiving a \$1000 check from Montville UNICO President, Michele Maddalena. The Food Pantry has moved to their new location at 192 Passic Valley Road, across from the Eckhart Barn.



Montville UNICO hosted a St. Joseph celebration March 19th. The program was held at the Columbia Inn and as they always do, they provided a special meal of the traditional items for this celebration, pasta, figs, fruit, bread and pastry. From left: Michele Maddalena, Chapter President; Nick Conturso, Vice President; Javier Sandodal, sous chef; Sergio Jesus Romero, Chief Chef; Aran McDermott, proprietor and Tutty Giordano, Program Chairperson. This has come to be a very popular annual event and was the third year UNICO and the Columbia Inn have joined to present this program.

PITTSFIELD, MA

Chapter Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

On Friday, April 5, the Pittsfield Chapter held its Sixth Annual Wine Tasting, Auction and Raffle 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, Mike Palmieri and Rick Palma 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 a silent auction, Chinese Raffle and 50/50 raffle available to attendees with many great prizes that included a watch and several dinners for two.

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



Co-Chairmen of the wine tasting portion of the event from left: Anthony Gamberoni and Mike Quadrozzi.



Co-Chairmen of the raffle and auction portion of the event from left: Mike Palmieri and Rick Palma.

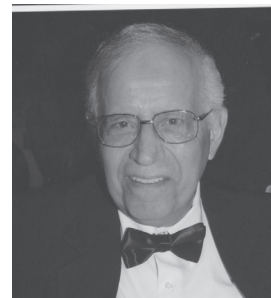
Pittsfield Chapter Honored by Local Chamber of Commerce

The Pittsfield Chapter was recently honored by the Berkshire Chamber of Commerce at its Good News Business Salute Breakfast. The Chamber of Commerce, through this forum, showcases businesses and organizations that have achieved milestones in hiring or expansion or, in the case of UNICO, a significant anniversary. The Pittsfield Chapter recently observed its 25th Anniversary as part of UNICO National as well as service to the local community. The emcee for the event recognized the Chapter by describing the Chapter, its history and its many contributions to the community while a slide show was simultaneously presented showing many of the members working and having fun supporting Chapter activities.



Representatives of the Pittsfield Chapter, clockwise Fran Marinaro, Mike Quadrozzi, Vin Marinaro, Dom Sacco, Judge Rudy Sacco, Cathy Mazzeo, Chapter President; Jackie Sadera, Wayne Ditore, Chapter Vice President and Linda O'Brien.

BOOK REVIEW



Book Review by Tony Arabia

MILIONI GRAZIE!

From the Mid-Year Board Meeting came kudos for yours truly from Andre' DiMino and Dr. Stephen DeFelice, our recent Marconi Awardee. The kudos were for DeFelice's earlier writing, reviewed here and suggested by Vice President Rick D'Arminio. You may recall it as, "Old Italian Neighborhood Values." In it was a wonderful exchange of views on many subjects from a diverse group of people. But this article is about another older book of cherished Italian family values. It is classic Adriana Trigiana, her very BEST!!

ROCOCO by Adriana Trigiani

Before delving into the fascinating characters, let's get Webster's most succinct definition of rococo: full of elaborate decoration.

Originally published in 2005 by Random House, it begins by taking you back to 1970. Bartolomeo di Crespi, a famed decorator introduces the book via first person narration in a most colorful way. He is the community's artistic person and also its most eligible bachelor. His descriptions are among the most delicately detailed and even humorous as well. Referring to his sister as Toot as in the song "toot, toot, tootsie" is an example. As an Italian American, he was born into a family of prominent noses. And yes, he got surgery for it! He elaborated, "Toot elected to have her nose done not in New York City by my capable surgeon, but by a doctor in Jersey City who was rumored to have given Vic Damone his signature tilt."

Toot is just as much a "genuine character" as her brother Bartolomeo. Her disdain for Father "Porp" (Porporino) reaches a level of irreverent, but comical behavior to rival the best stand-up lines in that business-- with birth control pills!

B. as Bartolomeo is referred to by his family, has an enormous ambition, to redecorate OLOF, Our Lady of Fatima Church. He does so in an amazing and talented fashion.

Finally, let me strike some interesting chords of difference between the three Italian American authors Lombino (McBain), DeFelice, and Trigiani. The police mystery author McBain has to be the tough, analytic writer while DeFelice presents a broader range in his characters. Entertainment Weekly says it best about Trigiani's characters: "A veritable crazy quilt... of quirky Italian Americans." You will definitely enjoy the many characters she develops!



HERITAGE AND CULTURE



**Heritage and Culture Chair
Sal Mangano**

ROSSANO BRAZZI **Famous Italian Actor of 1940's 50's and 60's**

Rossano Brazzi was born in Bologna, Italy to Adelmo and Maria (nee Ghedini) on September 18, 1916. At the age of four he moved with his family to Florence, Italy. He attended San Marco University in Florence and studied law.

Rossano Brazzi's life was more than just that of an actor.

As a young man, Rossano excelled as an athlete. He was particularly a good soccer player and assumed the role of goalkeeper for his Florentine college team for two years. He was an amateur boxer during his college years, but quit boxing when he unintentionally seriously hurt an opponent. He earned his Law degree in 1937. He then went to Rome to begin his law practice.

After his parents were killed by Fascists, he abandoned his studies and became an actor. He made his film debut in a 1939 Italian film and rapidly rose to matinee idol status, but while making faces before the Mussolini controlled cameras by day, he was tirelessly active in the Italian Resistance by night.



Brazzi had an extensive filmography, most of it in Italian and French films. The film that propelled him to international fame was "Three Coins in a Fountain" in 1954, a Hollywood blockbuster. He followed that film with the leading man role in David Lean's romance film, "Summertime" in 1955. Other notable roles include his first Hollywood part in "Little Women" in 1948, as well as visible roles in "The Story of Esther Costello" in 1957. His most famous role was Emile de Becque in "South Pacific" in 1958. Additional films include, "The Barefoot Contessa" and "The Light in The Piazza" in 1962. In 1966, he starred in the family feature "The Christmas That Almost Wasn't", a film he also directed. In 1969 he starred as the murdered Roger Beckerman in "The Italian Job". He was also a respected stage director in Italy.

He became an occasional visitor to television after his first appearance in a 1960 episode of "The June Allyson Show". He was a regular cast member of "The Survivors" series in 1969, playing the part of an Aristotle Onassis clone named Antaeus Riakos.

In 1940, Brazzi married the actress, Baronessa Lydia Bertolini, to whom he stayed

married to until her death in 1981. She was 60 years old. They had no children. In 1982, he married the German actress, Ilse Fischer. His marriage to her, ended upon his death. There were no children from this marriage either.

Rossano Brazzi died in Rome on Christmas Eve, 1994 at the age of 78. The cause of death was listed as a neural virus. His wife and his brother Oscar Brazzi survived him.

Researched, adapted and submitted by Salvatore J. Mangano, PNP

REHOBOTH AREA, DE

SISTER ROSA SPEAKS TO REHOBOTH BEACH, DELAWARE CHAPTER

Sister Rosa Alvarez recently spoke to the Rehoboth Beach Chapter of UNICO about her work with the Hispanic population in this area. She was instrumental in establishing La Esperanza, a Community Center for the Hispanic population in 1996; La Red, a health center in Georgetown in 2001; and Gardenia House, a shelter for abused, abandoned and battered women and their children in 2006. The Rehoboth Chapter has been a financial supporter of Sister Rosa and her works for the past 5 years and individual members have volunteered their time.



The Rehoboth Beach, Chapter of UNICO recently donated a quilt courtesy of member Nina Wilson to the Tunnell Cancer Center for use as a raffle item to benefit the Sussex County Cancer Survivors Fund (SCCSF). The SCCSF was established 5 years ago and assists cancer patients receiving treatment to pay bills for daily living. From left: Vita Mule presenting the quilt to BevAnn Kubala, a nurse at Tunnell Cancer Center and one of the founders of the Sussex County Cancer Survivors Fund.



From left: Vita Mule, UNICO member; Sister Rosa Alvarez and Joan Boraski, UNICO Outreach Chairwoman. Members of UNICO donated diapers and other infant needs at the March 19 meeting. Member Vita Mule stitched the quilts and knitted the hats, mittens and other children's items.

GREATER RAMSEY, NJ



Greater Ramsey UNICO Donates \$500 to Cub Scout Troop 1307. From left: Wendy Church, Cub Scout Troop 1307 accepts \$500 check from Joe Tredici, President Greater Ramsey UNICO.



Greater Ramsey donates \$500 to Cub Scout Troop Pack 306. From left: Kirsten Rostkowski, Assistant Cub Master Troop Pack 306 accepts a check from Joe Tredici, President, Greater Ramsey UNICO.



Greater Ramsey UNICO Donates \$500 to Ramsey DARE. Ramsey Police Officer; Tim Shoemaker; accepts \$500 check from Joe Tredici, President Greater Ramsey UNICO, and Ramsey Police Chief, Bryan Gurney.

Receiving duplicate issues of ComUNICO? 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!

SECAUCUS, NJ



On March 16th, the Secaucus Chapter held its St. Joseph Meets St. Patty's Day Dance. Everyone enjoyed the Irish and Italian Specialties along with great entertainment from Kerri Smith and her Irish Dancers. From left pictured with Keri: back row: Juliana Peters, Shannon Lawlor, Olivia Adiukas and Rachel Peet. Front row: Alexis Dato, Phoebe Peet and Maria Esperanza Bello.



Everyone enjoyed the smooth voice of Gerard Esposito who rather than be compensated for his service had Secaucus UNICO make a donation in his name to The Wounded Warrior Project. Thanks Gerard!!



Bake Sale Success. The UNICO Youth club of Secaucus High School raised over \$400 at their bake sale. The students donate all funds to support their school, community, and various charities. From left: Samantha Nesheiwat, Claudia Pan, and Samantha Vogel.



From left : Michelle Malcolm, advisor; Cindi Messaoudi, Krupa Patel, Crizzia De Leon, Brionna McClure, Karishma Vaswani, Ashruti Patel, Cynthia Arce, Mario Castelli, and Ridha Ahmed.

KEYSTONE, PA



At the March meeting, arrangements for the Charity Pig Roast benefitting the Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA were finalized and its Executive Director Mary Ann La Porta spoke on behalf of the Center. New Member Frank Valvano was installed. Seated from left: Cathy Bianchi, Mary Ann La Porta, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA; and Jay Fumanti. Standing from left: Mark E. McDade, Chapter President; Frank Valvano and John N. Mecca.



The Keystone Chapter volunteered their services at Allied Integrated Health System's Volunteer's Bunny Breakfast. One hundred nineteen attended, with the children being treated to a full and nutritious breakfast; Easter Holiday Music; personal time with the Easter Bunny; and an Easter Pail. Chapter members who volunteered are seated from left: Mary DePalma, Michele McDade, the Easter Bunny; Cathy Gerard and Nettie Wormuth. Standing from left: Mark E. McDade, Chapter President and Allied Volunteers' President and Tom Carlucci.



The Keystone Chapter's "Le Sorelle" Committee supported the Annual Helen Keller Day Fund-raiser Fashion Show with two tables this year. Several members served as models for this popular event. Seated from left: Claire Maldonado, our senior member at 101 and still active; Tillie Tarantini, Claire Karsnak, Annette Maldonado Profera, Katherine Barnansky, Margaret Caterino and Marian Barnansky. Standing from left: Mary DePalma; Mary Pasqualichio, Teresa Profera Karsnak, Michele McDade, Marci McDade Barnansky, and Cathy Gerard.



Also attending this event seated from left: Estelle Byers, Rita Sacco, Nettie Wormuth and Valerie Riggi. Standing from left: Cesira Berardelli, Marie Scaringi, Jean Barnaba, Carmela Iannetta and Antoinette DePalma.



In keeping with UNICO National's Community Service Day, one of the Keystone's Chapter venues was being a "Host for a Day" at Saint Francis Kitchen, helping with food preparation and the serving of it during a recent Sunday dinner. From left: Elisabeth Sabatelle, Tom Carlucci, Loree Jannicelli, Mark E. McDade, Chapter President and Sharon Gombita.

Charitable donations to UNICO Charities are tax deductible!
Send your check made out to UNICO Foundation:

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

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

Saddle Brook UNICO Donates to the Melissa Centrella Scholarship Fund

On February 22, 2013, six members of the Saddle Brook Chapter attended the Melissa Centrella Scholarship Fund event held at the Brownstone in Paterson, New Jersey, and donated \$500 to the Fund. Melissa was a young child from Saddle Brook who passed away at an early age from M.S. This fund raiser was very successful. Our Chapter also manned a UNICO booth at the event.



From left: Phil Sergio, Ed Ebel, President Joe Nasello, Claire Centrella, Mother of Melissa; Joy Ebel, Marilyn Nasello and Carol Sergio.

As many of you know the Saddle Brook Chapter and the Coccia Foundation donate funds to the Saddle Brook School district to have Italian classes in Kindergarten to the Sixth grade in the entire school district. A teacher was hired and classes have become very successful. During the recent Carnevale season each class member was asked to make their own Carnevale mask. There was contest in each class and a winner declared. The members of the Saddle Brook Chapter were asked to be judges. This was a three day event. Many of us enjoyed the experience. The Italian teacher, Ms. DiModugno, does a great job. We are very proud of this addition to the school curriculum.



One of the classes that participated with the Carnevale masks that they made.



Italian teacher, Ms Annamaria DiModugno, in Carnevale Costume and one of the class winners.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, New Jersey District VII celebrated its 41st Annual Brian Piccolo Memorial Awards dinner at the Venetian in Garfield. Each of the eight Chapters presented an award winner. We were very fortunate to have Coach Bob Hurley as our guest speaker. Mr. Hurley is the coach of St. Anthony's High School basketball team. He is the winningest basketball coach in New Jersey history. Saddle Brook Chapter's Award winner was Eric Nasello, an outstanding football player from Saddle Brook High School. Eric excelled on the schools winning team for three years. Eric is also the son of our Chapter President and vice President Joseph and Marilyn Nasello.



From left: Joseph Nasello Jr; Chapter President Joseph Nasello, Brian Piccolo Recipient Eric Nasello and Marilyn Nasello.



From left: Coach Bob Hurley, New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch, Saddle Brook Football Coach Leo Ciappina and Brian Piccolo award winner Eric Nasello.



First row from left: Eric Nasello, Marilyn Nasello, Joy Ebel and Ed Ebel Jr. Second row: John Cook, President Joe Nasello, Coach Leo Ciappina and Sal Mangano. Third row: Joe Nasello Jr, Carl Esposito, Angela La Face and Rocco DiStefano. Fourth row: Ann Taylor, Carol Sergio and Phil Sergio. Top row: Jerry Taylor and Ed Ebel.



HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY TO ALL OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SERVICE.

SAN ANTONIO, TX



Marconi Awardee Dr. Stephen DeFelice meets with Rose Marie Arabia, Patsy and Joe Monaco, Book Reviewer Tony Arabia and Pat Park at the Mid Year Board Meeting.



Frank and Barbara Paolercio visit San Antonio at Luciano's with from left: Rosie Arabia, Phil Merola, Bill Kelly, Penny and Romeo Caschera, Liz Kelly, Frank and Barbara Paolercio, Tony Arabia, and Patsy and Joe Monaco.



Texas State Representative Giovanni Capriglione met with San Antonio Chapter members Bill and Liz Kelly, President Rosie Arabia and her husband Tony, Joe and Patsy Monaco and Michael Mangiopane for a talk on education and scholarships.

KEYSTONE, PA

Charity Pig Roast of Lackawanna County

Fiorelli's was the setting as the Keystone Chapter UNICO celebrated its First Anniversary by holding its First Charity Pig Roast. Peter Noto served as chairman with Cathy Bianchi, Mary DePalma and Michele McDade as co-chairs. The Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA was chosen as the events beneficiary. The evening began with a greeting to all attendees by "Sweet Charity", the Charity Pig Roast Mascot, a. k. a. Shirley Siragusa. "Dani-elle" Kleha provided her own style of vocals. UNICO National Officers attending included Glenn Pettinato, Chip Calabro, Tom Gatto, Joe Cerullo, and many Carbondale members, as they sponsored the chartering of the Keystone Chapter. The Pig Roast theme carried through the evening with pig centerpieces made of Paper Mache' and created by the Scranton art students, coupled with chocolate treats and a display of roasted pigs. Many items were available to raffle off, including a money umbrella and a mystery pig filled with money. The evening rounded out with Danny Argo and Kenny "G" entertaining with dinner and dancing. The Keystone Chapter is very appreciative to all of our local and National UNICO Members who participated either by attending or sponsoring this fund-raiser for the Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA.



From left: Mary DePalma, Peter Noto, Michele McDade, Mark E. McDade, Chapter President; Mary Ann LaPorta, Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center; Cathy Bianchi and Jennifer Aglialoro, Children's Advocacy Center.



"Sweet Charity", a.k.a. Shirley Siragusa, the official greeter at the Charity Pig Roast along with one of the perfectly roasted pigs.

SCOTCH PLAINS/ FANWOOD, NJ

Sinatra Dinner Show

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO recently hosted a Sounds of Sinatra Dinner Show Fund-raiser featuring Steven Maglio. Over 150 people were in attendance and many sang along and danced the night away. Proceeds from the evening will support the Chapter's charitable trust for scholarships and charities.



From left: Steve Maglio, the entertainer; New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga and his wife, April Bengivenga; Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO Chapter President Geri Samuel, Paul Raphael and Alfonso Gialanella.



From left: Jeff Blanck, Alfonso Gialanella, Paul Raphael, John Lestarchick, Sal Perillo, Anthony DiStefano, Ernie Hernandez and Nick Fabiano.



Members and guests dance the night away.

The DEADLINE for the July Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, June 3, 2013
Send Chapter news to the UNICO National Office: comunico@unico.org.

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

WETHERSFIELD, CT

Second Annual Awards Dinner "Medaglia di Servizio"

"Service Above Self" represents not only one of our UNICAN qualities but also the virtues of the two citizens being honored. Reviewing our first Annual Award Dinner last year we felt that kudos should be conferred upon two sterling citizens of our greater Wethersfield environment.

A committee worked for nearly two months to refine this new, expanded service award dinner. Included were UNICO National Expansion Director Tom Vaughan, designated event chairperson Luciano DiBacco, supplier Paul Angelico, organizer Concettina Marzano, Sal LaRosa, George Desopo and others.

Our Chapter President Nick D'Eramo greeted the nearly 150 diners and introduced the Evening Chairman, Luciano DiBacco and the event's committee members.

The first well known award winner was introduced by President Nick D'Eramo as Mary Huffman Daversa, the founder of Mikey's Place. Tom Vaughan, introduced one of the bedrocks of the Wethersfield Chapter, Tony Santucci.

Resolutions followed for each via Wethersfield Chapter's Tony Martino and Deputy Mayor John Console from the Town of Wethersfield and the State of Connecticut.

Tony is a charter member of the Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO; he has been a member since 1977. He was Chapter president from 1999-2000, a Chapter Delegate from 1979 to present, and, has been tightly involved in the important details of the UNICO Golf Tournaments since 1977.

Tony Santucci currently assists the Chapter by maintaining its membership list, submitting Chapter reports to UNICO National, and takes part in the inventory control and purchases for our annual "Famous Macaroni Dinner". Tony attends and helps out at all other UNICO events throughout the year. He is there when needed and we all know that Tony Santucci is integrity personified. He is reliable and laudable.



Mary Huffman Daversa.



Tony Santucci.



Tony Santucci receives a municipal award by Deputy Mayor and UNICAN John Console.

BOB BENGIVENGA

for
First Vice President



District X New Jersey Governor
★ Former President,
Plainfields' New Jersey Chapter
★ Army Veteran ★ American
Legion Vice Commander ★
Board of Directors, Edison
Valley Playhouse ★ South
Plainfield Public Library Trustee
★ Former Member, South
Plainfield Police Reserves ★
UNICO National Board Member
★ National Chair, Community
Service Day (2010-2011) ★ 20-
Year Member, Plainfield Rescue
Squad ★ Chair, John Basilone
Parade, Raritan, NJ

A True Team Player

- Increased membership by 25% while President of the Plainfields' Chapter.
- Established Italian language class for Unicans and community members.
- Helped spearhead "Sister City" relationship with Terno d'Isola Italy.
- Increased participation in the Brian Piccolo Dinner—with over 200 guests attending—while District X Governor.

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UNICO NATIONAL



Dr. Anthony P. Vastola Gold Medal Award

Joseph J. Agresti

Sponsored by: Passaic Valley, New Jersey Chapter

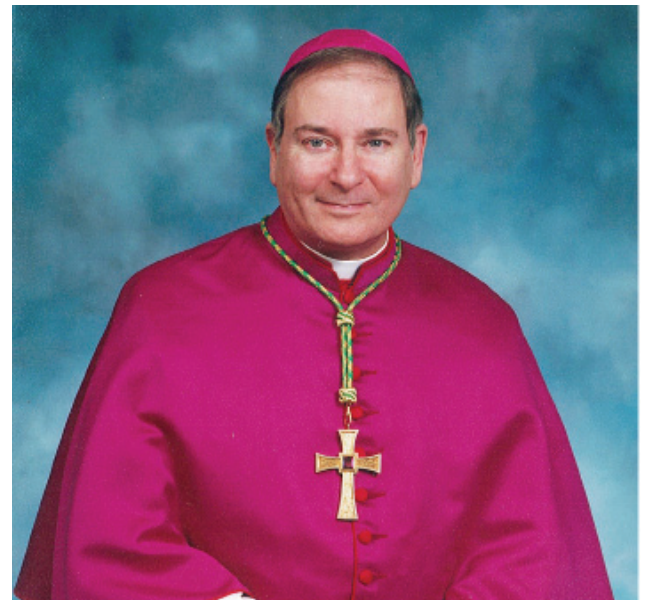
Joe Agresti has an incredible record of service to UNICO National that has spanned many years. He has held positions on the District and National level, chaired many committees and served a term as National President. He has actually expanded his service and dedication after his term as National President through his deep involvement in a multitude of committees and his unrelenting efforts working on the National Conventions and meetings.

Antonio R. Rizzuto Medal Award

Bishop Joseph Serratelli

Sponsored by: The Rizzuto Award Committee

His Holiness, Pope John Paul II name Bishop Serratelli a Prelate of Honor in 1998. His appointment as Titular Bishop of Enea and Auxiliary Bishop of Newark was announced on July 3, 2000. He was appointed Vicar of Ministries, Regional Bishop of Essex County and Vicar for the Apostolates and subsequently Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese of Newark. He was installed as Paterson's seventh bishop in 2004. Bishop Serratelli has been active in giving retreats to priests and religious, diocesan convocations and lectures throughout the United States.



Joseph P. Cianci, Esq. Humanitarian Award

Paula Varsalona Marino

Sponsored by: Montville, New Jersey Chapter

Paula Varsalona Marino, internationally recognized as one of the principal couture designers of bridal apparel, has been a leader in the fashion industry for over 40 years. As a designer of and manufacturer of the Paula Varsalona Group, she offers unique and personalized fashion statements for every bride. She was one of the first female members of the Montville Chapter of UNICO and the first woman to be elected to the Board of Trustees for the UNICO National Foundation. In 2012, as Chair of the Dorothy Varsalona Cancer Fund, she raised \$21,000 for the UNICO National "V" Foundation donation to benefit the Siteman Cancer Center at Washington University School of Medicine.

Philip Mazzei Americanism Award-Civis Illustris

Joseph N. Valenzano, Jr.

Sponsored by: Greater Ramsey, New Jersey

Joe Valenzano has spent over forty years in the publishing and communications industry, currently serving as President and CEO of epWorld, Inc. Under his direction, he led EP from the verge of bankruptcy in 1993 to the most recognized and respected communications company serving the disability community in the world. From a single six-time-a-year magazine in 1992, EP has become a multi-media communications company which includes a Custom Communications Division responsible for publishing clinical reports on complex medical issues. Mr. Valenzano is a frequent speaker at publishing industry conferences, companies, the United States Military, non-profit organizations, hospitals and rehabilitation facilities serving people with special needs. He has published and spoken extensively around the world about Universal Newborn Screening, which has become his passion in life.



2013 AWARD WINNERS



Dr. D. M. Nigro Memorial Award for Amateur Athletics

Carlo Calabrese

Sponsored by: Verona, New Jersey Chapter

Carlo Calabrese participated in 12 games at Notre Dame University, starting five in 2012. He recorded 49 tackles, nineteen solo stops, three tackles for loss and one forced fumble. He started his first game of the season against Miami, and recorded three stops against the Hurricanes and was a key cog in the red-zone defense against Stanford, making stops on the final two stands of the game and denying Cardinal Running Back Stepfan Taylor on back-to-back runs from the one-yard line. He picked up his second start of 2012 against BYU and had four stops, notched five tackles, including a half tackle for loss against Oklahoma. He also had seven tackles against Purdue, forced one fumble against Wake Forest which was converted into a touchdown and had seven tackles, four of them unassisted against the Demon Deacons. In 2013, Carlo, a fifth year senior who has earned his degree in design, will return to Notre Dame for his final year of eligibility.

Vince Lombardi Memorial Award for Professional Athletics

Anthony Fasano

Sponsored by: Verona, New Jersey Chapter

Anthony Fasano just finished his seventh season in the National Football League and his fifth as the starting Tight End for the Miami Dolphins. He has been incredibly reliable and consistent starting every game he has played in, missing only four games due to injury. As an undergraduate he played at Notre Dame where he ranked second in both receptions and receiving yards for a Tight End in school history. As proud as Fasano is of his on field accomplishments, it is the work that he does off the field and in the community that truly motivates and inspires him. In 2008 he started the Anthony Fasano Foundation in an effort to facilitate his philanthropic interests. Throughout the year the foundation fills the calendar with events that support families in need.



Louis Attilio DeFillipo an American Hero Award

Army Specialist Nicholas Staback

Sponsored by: Scranton, Pennsylvania Chapter

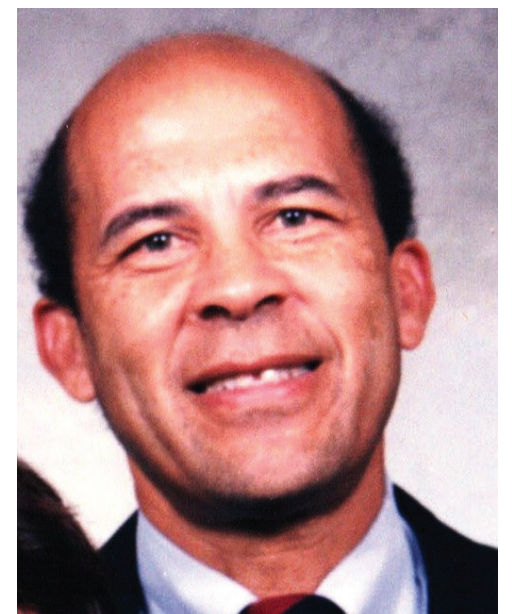
Nicholas Staback joined the Army in 2010 and was deployed to Afghanistan in April 2011 as a member of the ACO 1st Battalion, 5th Regiment of the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. On October 24, 2011, while on patrol he was seriously injured by a exploding IED. The resulting damage to his body included severe injury to his right hip and right arm and traumatic loss of his lower limbs from above the knee. Nick is currently recovering from those injuries at Walter Reed Military Medical Center. Each day he surpasses the expectations of this medical team and does so with an attitude and spirit that does his family and county proud.

Basilone Freedom Award

Joseph P. Patin, M.D.

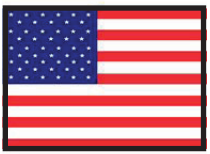
Sponsored by: Rehoboth Area, Delaware Chapter

Joseph P. Patin was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army reserves while an undergraduate student at the University of Michigan. In the summer of 1969, Dr. Patin was activated into the Army. As Chief of Surgery, specializing in trauma, he and his team worked day and night in the operating theatre often extending 24 hour stretches during the heat of battle. The team also treated Vietnamese citizens and soldiers in addition to soldiers of the Viet Cong. Their mission was to save lives. For his service he was decorated with a Bronze Star and received the Army Commendation Medal along with the Vietnamese Commendation Medal.



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FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT ~2013**

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VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

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KEARNY, NJ



The Kearny Chapter sponsored an "Italian" Flea Market at Riverbank Park. A membership table was set up with the Chapter's scrapbooks, UNICO National membership brochures, awards won, issues of ComUNICO and newspaper publicity received from local newspapers. Members of the Chapter also sold tickets to the Chapter's 50-50 raffle and the Flapjack Fund-raiser at Kearny Applebee's to help raise additional funds for the Chapter's charities. Pictured from left: Lou Pandolfi, Celeste Pandolfi, Alice Belfiore, Denise Ficeto and Joe Sgalia.



On March 26, 2013, the Kearny Chapter hosted the monthly meeting of New Jersey District VII. District VII officers from left: District Governor Patty Hirsch, Treasurer Celeste Pandolfi, First Deputy District Governor Elyse Buonomo and First Alternate Deputy District Governor Joe Kovacs prepare their agenda prior to the start of the meeting.



Kearny Chapter members from left: Jo Ann Mitchell, Theresa Trucillo, Libby McInnis and Denise Ficeto attended the meeting.



UNICO National Second Vice President Ann Walko spoke to the members about her duties as Second Vice President and also her vision for UNICO in the future.



On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, Haley Durning was presented with the prestigious Brian Piccolo Award by the Kearny Chapter. The award was presented at the New Jersey District VII Brian Piccolo Memorial Awards Dinner. Other UNICO National Chapters within New Jersey District VII also made their presentations that evening. Celebrating with Haley was front row from left: James Cifelli, Haley Durning and Al Gilson, Kearny H.S. Principal. Second row from left: John Millar, Kearny High School Vice Principal for Athletics; Nancy Durning and Mrs. Judy Hyde. Third row from left: Vincent Almeida, Haley's soccer coach; Al Perez, Haley's track coach and Denise Ficeto. Fourth row from left: Gerry Ficeto, Louis Pandolfi, Ida Nigro and Celeste Pandolfi.

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton Chapter's March meeting was held at Mia Amore, Dickson City. Three generations of the Peters family attended. From left: Joe Peters, Max Peters and Eugene Peters.



Scranton Chapter welcomed five new members at the March 12 Membership Meeting. From left: Sal Mecca, President of the Scranton Chapter; Jo Ann Verduce, sponsor; Laura Ducceschi, new member; Diane Alberigi, sponsor; Sharon Selwocki, new member; Bonnie Blasé, sponsor; Max Peters, new member; Joe Peters, sponsor; Michael Dudzic, new member; Linda Malinoski, Membership Chairperson; Lorraine Duke, sponsor and Nancy Heck, new member.



Scranton Chapter welcomed two new members at the February Membership Meeting and Dinner held at Villa Maria II in Scranton. From left: Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Jim Wansacz, Lackawanna County Commissioner, new member; Angela Schuback, coordinator of the Chapter's Italian Heritage endowment program at Penn State University, Worthington Scranton, new member and Sal Mecca, Scranton Chapter President.



WILKES-BARRE, PA



The Wilkes-Barre Chapter recently installed three new members into the Chapter. Pictured from left: John Terrana, Jr., new member and first student member in the Chapter; new members Daniel Saporito and Michael A. Lombardo, III, and Fred A. Pierantoni, III.



The Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO National recently installed three new members into the Chapter. Pictured from left: John Terrana, John Terrana, Jr., new member and first student member in the Chapter; Daniel Saporito, Michael Lombardo, III, new members, Fred A. Pierantoni, III, and Joseph A. Pierangeli, Chapter President.

UNICO NATIONAL 2013 CONVENTION NEWS



FOOD PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Wednesday Evening July 31st “Icebreaker”

- “Hawaiian Luau Theme” (Casual Hawaiian Attire)
- Tropical Drinks Cocktail Hour
- Polynesian Revue Show
- 3 Course Dinner:
 - Cappellini Pasta, Vine-Ripened Tomatoes, Asiago Cheese, Roasted Garlic
 - Roasted Tuscan Chicken Breast with Parma Ham, Roma Tomatoes, Shitake Mushrooms in a Chianti Glaze
 - Chef’s Italian inspired Dessert
 - Wine served throughout Dinner.
- Dancing to the music of **“The Avalons”**



Friday August 2nd “Luncheon”

- “Cookout Buffet”
 - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ Chicken
 - Mixed Green Salad, Oven Roasted Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad
 - Chef’s Dessert Selection



Saturday Evening August 3rd “Gala” (Black Tie Optional)

- Cocktail Hour including Antipasto Tables with Italian Specialties & Wine
- Awards Ceremony
- 3 Course Dinner:
 - Caprese Salad, Buffalo Mozzarella, Tomatoes, Arugula, Balsamic Drizzle
 - Surf & Turf: Filet Mignon & Shrimp with Cabernet Demi-Glaze
 - Wine served throughout Dinner
 - Chef’s Dessert Selection
- Dancing to the music of “VIVA”



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United Airlines – Discount of 5% off published fares (8% off Business & 13% off First Class) www.united.com Offer Code ZPXF486596

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

Attractions

- **Bonnet House Museum & Gardens** 954-563-5393 www.bonnethouse.org
- **Museum of Discovery & Science** 954-467-6637 www.mods.org
- **Miami Marlins Baseball** (playing NY Mets) www.marlins.com
- **Galleria** Upscale Shopping Mall
- **Sawgrass Mills** “Largest Outlet Shopping Mall in the United States”
- **Las Olas Boulevard** “Eat-Shop-Enjoy” www.lasolasboulevard.com
- **Hard Rock Hotel & Casino**



UNICO NATIONAL 91ST ANNUAL CONVENTION – 2013

The dates for the Convention are:

Wednesday, July 31, 2013 to Sunday, August 4, 2013

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



2013 UNICO NATIONAL 91th Annual Convention

Registration Form

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July 31st- August 04th, 2013

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

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City, State, Zip _____

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Chapter _____ District _____ Office Held _____
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FEES AND CHARGES UNICO NON MEMBERS Attendees not reserving their rooms from the "UNICO room block" \$400.00

MEALS and ENTERTAINMENT \$275.00 \$275.00

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Registration (UNICO Members only) \$100.00 N/C

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UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

ISLIP/SMITHTOWN, NY

Annual Easter Bunny Visit

For the past ten years, the Islip/Smithtown Chapter has made an Annual Easter Bunny visits on Holy Thursday to the Pediatrics Floor at Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip, New York. This year, as in years past, the Bunny and her helpers gave out stuffed bunnies and crayons with sketch paper. Islip/Smithtown's Bunny Brigade is very happy to give and is very happily received by Good Samaritan staff. It is a very rewarding couple of hours to see smiling children during a time when they all should be home waiting for the Easter Bunny. The Chapter wishes to extend a very special thank you to Dr. Catherine Caronia, Mrs. Joan Alpers and Kate Fenton for allowing us these special visitations with their children every year.



From left: Kathleen Fenton, Senior Child Life Specialist at Good Samaritan Hospital; Chapter Members Jeanne D'Agostino, Katie Forster (Bunny), Hospital Volunteer Gabrielle Carleo and Chapter Members Carol Lynch and Lee Sarcona.



The Islip/Smithtown Chapter held the raffle drawing for its Annual Scholarship Fund-raiser at its February Chapter meeting. Over \$2500 was raised toward Scholarships to be given to graduating seniors at local high schools. Presenting the winning check are from left: Scholarship Committee members, New York II District Governor Roseanne Buckleman, Faye and Matthew Fortunato and raffle winner Chapter member Stephanie Fodera.



The Islip/Smithtown Chapter was honored to have guest speaker, three time President of the Smithtown Chamber of Congress, Mario Gino, our March Chapter meeting. During his tenure in office Mario was honored as Man of the Year by the Times of Smithtown. Mario addressed the Chapter on various issues related to the Smithtown area and how our Chapter could assist in supporting the efforts related to those issues. Seated are from left: Board Chairman Joseph Petito, New York II District Governor Roseanne Buckleman, Chapter member Frank Lombardo, Mario Gino and Chapter member Dr. Tom Sapienza.



At the March meeting, The Islip/Smithtown Chapter installed a new member. From left: New York II District Governor Roseanne Buckleman, new member Elizabeth DeGennaro and Chapter President Elizabeth Hansen.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII

NJ District VII is on a Membership Quest!

On Sunday March 3, 2013, NJ District VII embarked on a membership quest with a four Chapter Heritage Day. With the help of Past National President Andre' DiMino, the District acquired more than fifteen new members. With the help of all the Chapters and their donations, we had great food, great entertainment, and a super speaker and mentor in Andre' DiMino. Thank you to all that helped and made this event extra special.



From left: John Cappello, District Governor Patty Hirsch and Saddle Brook Chapter President Joe Nasello.



Italian Singer John Quattrone.



Andrea Mistretta.



Past National President Sal Mangano tries to convince some attendees to join UNICO. They joined the Hackensack Chapter.



From left: Criss Mangano, President Joe Nasello, and John Cappello watch the presentation.



Past National President Andre' DiMino and New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch are joined by members of the New Jersey District VII Heritage Committee.



From left: Dominick Nicastro, Elyse Buonomo, Ann Walko, Coach Hurley of St. Anthony's High School, Rick D'Arminio and Patty Hirsch at the New Jersey District VII Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner.

PLAINFIELDS', NJ



Members of Plainfields' UNICO recently took the time to donate cultural and heritage 2013 calendars to the South Plainfield Library. From left: Ken Bonnanno, Renato Biribin, Past National President; Linda Hansen, Director of the South Plainfield Public Library; Bob Bengivenga, New Jersey District X Governor; Jason Risoli, First Vice President and Stephanie Bartfalvi.



South Plainfield Mayor Matthew Anesh recently made a donation to Plainfields' UNICO out of his wedding fund! From left: Renato Biribin, Bob Bengivenga, Alex Barletta, Plainfields' UNICO President John G DeAndrea, Rob Bengivenga and South Plainfield Mayor Matt Anesh.



Seven new members joined in at the recent Chapter meeting of Plainfields' UNICO at Giovanna's Ristorante in Plainfield. The members are from South Plainfield, Skillman, Edison and Piscataway municipalities in New Jersey. From left: new members Santi Buscemi, Mary Ellen Cuneo, Alberta Esposito, Ivana Palma, Lina Esposito, Josephine Salerno, Fran Gervasio, and Renato Biribin. Front row kneeling: New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, and Plainfields' UNICO First Vice President Jason Risoli.



The Plainfields' Chapter swore in new members during a meeting at Giovanna's in Plainfield. From left: Renato Biribin, new member Alberta Esposito, Susie Leonardis, new members Lena Esposito and Ivana Palma, Chapter President John G. DeAndrea, and New Jersey District X Governor Robert Bengivenga.



Plainfields' UNICO recently took the time to donate cultural and heritage 2013 calendars to the "Let's Play in Italian" language center in Scotch Plains. From left: Catiana Celentano, Director of Let's Play in Italian; New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, his granddaughter, Annabelle, and Renato Biribin, Past National President.



Members of Plainfields' UNICO presented UNICO Italian American heritage calendars and the book, "It Happened in Italy" in celebration of our heritage to students at the Wardlaw Hartridge School. From left: New Jersey District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, Teacher - Alexandra Cozzi, Gerard Gonnella, a number of students from the school, Past National President Renato Biribin, Plainfields UNICO First Vice President Jason Risoli and South Plainfield Councilman and Plainfields UNICO member Rob Bengivenga.



Woodcliff Lake UNICO held its 16th Annual Beef-steak Dinner and Auction recently. Seated from left: Mr. and Mrs. DiNapoli, Gianfranco Gervasio, April Bengivenga and Alina Nicastro. Standing: Mr and Mrs. Gervasio, Renato Biribin in rear, Dominick Nicastro, and Robert Bengivenga.

GARFIELD, NJ



On February 13, 2013, New Jersey District VII Governor Patty Hirsch had the pleasure of installing three new members of the Garfield Chapter at Al Di La in Rutherford, New Jersey. From left: Joe Kovacs Chapter President; Dave Gray, New Member; Patty Hirsch, Dominick Nicastro Jr., New Youth Member; Elyse Buonomo, Richie Derrig, New Member; Allan Focarino, and Anthony Randazzo.



UNICO National Third Vice President Dominick Nicastro can be seen placing the UNICO pin on his newly installed son, Dominick Nicastro Jr.

NUTLEY, NJ



Nutley UNICO members Tom Sposato (left) and Frank Cocchiola (right) with Mrs. Trombetta, New Jersey District VII Piccolo Award recipient Robert Trombetta, Mr. Trombetta and Nutley High School Head Wrestling Coach Frank Di Piano.



Mr. and Mrs. Trombetta with Robert Trombetta, Nutley Chapter Brian Piccolo Award winner at the New Jersey District VII Awards Dinner.

WESTWOOD, NJ

Westwood UNICO Holds Annual “Fight Autism” Taste of Italy Dinner--- Tutti a tavola a mangiare!!!

On Saturday, April 6, 2013, the sounds of Italian music and scents of Italian food wafted from the Westwood Community Center, as the Westwood Chapter held its Fourth Annual “Fight Autism” Taste of Italy Dinner. The Chapter, as is true of all UNICO Chapters, seeks to put “Service Above Self.” It is donating a substantial portion of the proceeds to help support the education of children with autism in the local communities, as well as to other charitable causes chosen by Westwood UNICO. The event was planned to coincide with April’s designation as Autism Awareness Month.

Over 220 local and county residents attended and enjoyed delicious entrees and desserts generously donated by many local restaurants and bakeries. They included Banchetto Feast, Bella Campania, Big Daddy’s Grill, Casa del Sole, Cortina’s, Domani, Granita Grill, It’s Greek to Me, Lepore’s Italian Market, Marc’s Deli and Pizza, Pompilio’s Pizzeria, Rockland Bakery, Florentine Gardens, Le Petite Gateau, and Sogno. In addition, approximately 40 other local businesses generously supported the effort by donating merchandise or gift cards for a tricky tray auction and a silent auction. These fund-raising efforts, along with a 50/50 raffle and door admissions helped Westwood UNICO make this dinner the most successful held to date.

Special thanks go to members of Girl Scout Troop #416 of Rivervale, New Jersey and to students of Pascack Valley High School who provided entertainment for the children in attendance and who smoothly handled the task of serving the food to everyone present.

Grazie mille a tutti!!!



Chapter Treasurer and Cultural Officer Frank Pizzella.



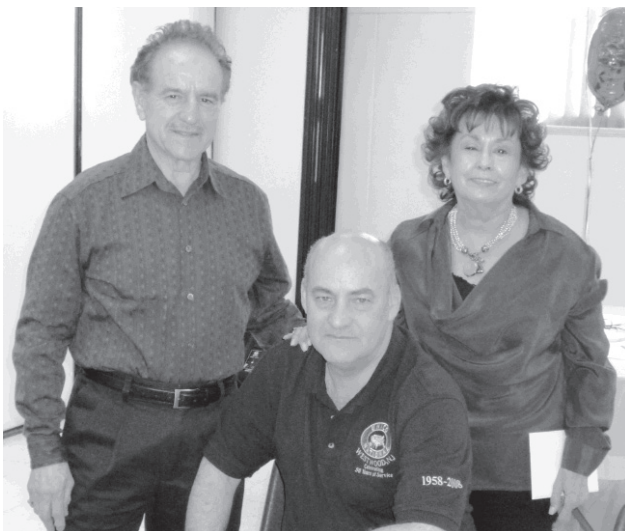
From left: Past National President Frank Tidona, New Jersey District IX Governor Gerry Heytink and his wife Roseann Heytink.



From left: Chapter Secretary Steve Bifulco and Sergeant-at-Arms Howard Snyder.



From left: Chapter President Ralph Spataro and Richard Porter.



From left: Chapter President Ralph Spataro, Second Vice President Frank Vitale and First Vice President Marge Spataro.

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter will be presenting 25 scholarships totaling over \$30,000 to Nutley graduates this year. The initial awards were made at the April 4 dinner meeting. Zachariah Callouri (\$4,000), Matthew Halchak (\$3,000) and Dana San Giacomo (\$2,000) received their Nutley UNICO Academic Awards. The evening also featured the presentation of the Chapter’s two major awards. The “Outstanding Achievement” Award was presented to Anthony Iannarone, who has served on the Nutley Library Board for 41 years, 27 as the President, and been involved in countless community service groups. Dan Marucci was honored as the “UNICAN of the Year” for his commitment to Italian culture and heritage through his monthly “It’s All About the Food” features, and his Italian history lessons.

At each table at the April meeting was a copy of the newspaper article announcing the Nutley Chapter’s Charter as a member of UNICO National in 1960. The Charter was presented by

Vincent Bonadies, National Expansion Director, and the officers were installed by National Vice President Joseph Napolitano from the Bloomfield Chapter.

Each spring Brian Piccolo honorees are recognized by New Jersey District VII and the local Chapter. This year’s recipients are Robert Trombetta and Ann-Margaret Conca. These awards and several additional scholarships will be presented at the May 19 Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast at Forest Hill Country Club, Bloomfield, New Jersey.

The May and June dinner meetings will also feature scholarship presentations and the swearing in of a new slate of officers. The Chapter is deeply appreciative of the work done by our outgoing President Anthony Malfitano, who has successfully initiated and organized many service and Chapter activities. And, we welcome the new President, Phyllis Coldebella, who we know will display the same great leadership traits of all those who have preceded her.



Bob Montanino, Russ Todaro, Pete Scarpelli and Marie Solimo enjoying the fruits of Nutley UNICO wine making.



Vito Scarpelli and Sal Cocco tasting some of the fresh grapes for Nutley UNICO wine making.



The Scarpelli family representing generations of Nutley UNICO wine making.

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR



A Message from Executive Administrator Andre' DiMino

So, why should I go to the UNICO Convention?

Well, there are lots of great reasons to attend the UNICO National Convention! But, there is one very important reason that I want to expound on in this column - voting on the amendments to our UNICO National Constitution. Each year amendments to our UNICO National Constitution are presented and voted on at our National Convention. These amendments have an impact on our organization and can directly affect critical aspects of how UNICO National operates. The officers and delegates who attend the Convention have the opportunity to hear about the amendments and to discuss the merits of the proposed changes to our Constitution. They then have the duty, and privilege, to vote to determine if such change to our Constitution should be enacted. It is important to note that a two-thirds majority of those present

and eligible to vote is required for any amendment to be adopted. So, every single vote is important, whether for, or against, any specific amendment.

This year we have a wide array of amendments to our Constitution that can make some fundamental changes to UNICO National. Therefore, to have your voices heard on the future of UNICO National, you need to have your eligible voters in attendance to vote on these amendments. And, remember, an amendment to the Constitution takes effect immediately after its passage.

Voting on our Constitutional amendments is a very important reason to attend the Convention. But, you should also attend to participate in all of the other business we conduct, as well as to witness the "passing of the guard" to the new National President and officers for the coming year!

But, don't think our Convention is all work and no play. Quite the contrary! Along with all of our important UNICO work, we can enjoy the fun and camaraderie of being with UNICO members from across the country. It is a great experience to be able to spend some quality time with our UNICO family members while we partake of the many social activities and amenities. This year is no exception because the Harbor Beach Marriott in Fort Lauderdale is an outstanding resort in a great resort city. Our Convention Committee has been hard at work making all of the arrangements for the upcoming convention. And, the UNICO office staff is ready to support our organization in any way we can to have a successful Convention.

So, there are lots of reasons to go to the Convention! I hope to see you there!

OUR STORY

This is a recipe that my grandparents from Praiano and Positano handed down to my family. We make it every year in January as it is a hearty dish!! Hope your readers like it.

John J. Ruocco, Westwood UNICO

Pasta al Forno con Salsiccia e Formaggio (da Praiano, Costa d'Amalfi)

2 lb. Pasta (Ziti)
1 3/4 gal. 1% Milk
2 16 oz. Packages part-skim mozzarella (sliced)
2 lbs. (about 10 links) Italian sweet sausage, sliced into small round pieces. (If sausage is semi-frozen, it's easier to slice.)
3 tablespoons salt
20 oz. Farina
Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Grease 4-5 baking trays with olive oil. Preheat oven to 400°F.

Bring milk to a boil. Salt the milk. Add the pasta. Cook until very al dente. Then gradually add farina until thick, stirring constantly as you add farina. Then add the sausage, a few pieces at a time, stirring constantly. Pour the mixture into the pans. In each pan, put a thin layer of pasta, followed by mozzarella cheese, and then top with another layer of the pasta mixture.

Bake until golden brown, about 1 1/2 hours.
(Serves 8)



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Chair:
Paul Domico
ppdomico@
gmail.com

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ALESSANDRA BELLONI: The tarantella isn't just a dance for her, it's a profound source of spiritual and even physical healing.

LOU&A

by Louis R. Carlozo

Gift of the Spider Woman

Watching Alessandra Belloni play her outsized tambourine and dance the tarantella in her flowing white robe, you sense she does much more than perform gypsy-like music, seized by the manic spirit of Terpsichore. Rather she melts into it — merges with it — revealing a realm where mind and body, rhythm and movement, spirit and sensuality, all blend in ecstatic celebration and transcendence.

If this equaled first-rate art and nothing more, it would still merit notice. But Belloni, an artist-in-residence at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine, claims the tarantella also has restorative powers. It forms part of her "Rhythm is the Cure" workshop, which features Southern Italian ritual dances used as music and therapy throughout the Mediterranean for centuries.

(See Lou&A on Page 44)

NEWSMAKERS Among the stars

by Jim Distasio

It's never easy to fill an iconic role.

Just ask stage actors burdened by grand expectations when playing the lead character in a play so monumental, the cast is forbidden from uttering the title before a performance. (Spoiler alert: It's "Macbeth.")

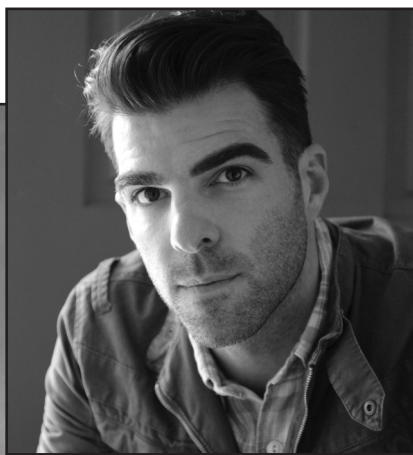
And film acting is no exception. For every Al Pacino, who artfully assumed the mantle of Ricky Roma from Joe Mantegna in the movie version of "Glengarry Glen Ross," there are countless others who either fumble outright or fail to make an impact when stepping into the big shoes of beloved performances. Does anyone

remember Julianne Moore as Clarice Starling in the "Silence of the Lambs" sequel, "Hannibal"? Nope, didn't think so.

But Italian-American stage and screen actor Zachary Quinto has pulled off that impressive feat — twice, no less. In 2010, Quinto earned rave reviews for his work as the hate-filled and broken Louis Ironson in the New York City revival of playwright Tony Kushner's groundbreaking masterpiece, "Angels in America." The 35-year-old Quinto has called his performance in the sprawling stage saga, "the most challenging thing I've ever done as an actor, and the most rewarding."

His work on "Angels" also led to Quinto revealing he was gay in a high-

(See Newsmakers on Page 44)



**STAR
TREK**

ZACHARY QUINTO: He had big shoes to fill when he tackled the iconic role of Spock in the 2009 reboot of the "Star Trek" franchise, and he reset the bar just as high while redefining the role for a new generation.

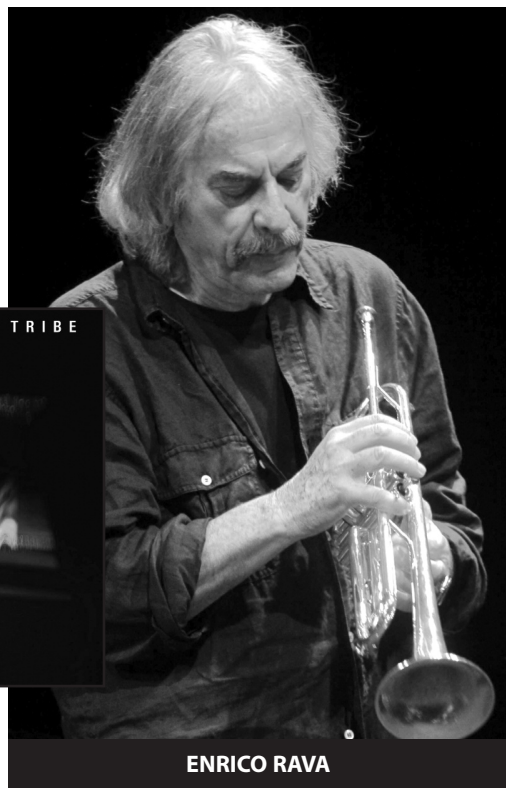


MUSIC REVIEW No slowing down

by Nicola Orichuia

Few musicians have influenced Italian jazz as much as Enrico Rava. The 73-year-old trumpet player has been at the forefront of the country's jazz Renaissance ever since 1978, after coming back from a 10-year stint in New York City. There, he immersed himself in the experimental "free jazz" movement that was sweeping through the city's clubs, blending them with his Italian spirit to create a unique sound that audiences around the world have come to know him for. "I think my music is different because I've never stopped being curious about new things," Rava says.

Hailing from the northeastern city of Trieste, Rava is still an extremely prolific performer, working on multiple projects at the same



ENRICO RAVA QUINTET TRIBE

ECM

ENRICO RAVA

time. One of these projects, the quintet Tribe, will be touring a few U.S. cities in June, including New York City (June 8-9), Boston (June 11) and San Francisco (June 13). "Since coming back to Italy in the late '70s, I've made a point of returning to the States at least once a year," Rava says.

During the North American mini-tour, made possible thanks to Umbria Jazz Festival and the Year of Italian Culture in the United States, Rava will be performing alongside four very young Italian talents: Gianluca Petrella (trombone), Gabriele Evangelista (double-bass), Fabrizio Sfera (drums) and Giovanni Guidi (piano). "It's always an exciting experience to play in the United States," says 28-year-old Guidi, who has been with Tribe for the past five years.

"Tribe is mostly made up of younger musicians," says Rava, "but I don't choose them based on their age. I choose them for their skills and passion." There is plenty of both in the group's latest self-titled

(See Music Review on Page 44)

LIBRI Redefining mystery

by Fred Gardaphe

Move over Lisa Scottoline, David Baldacci and Robert Ferrigno, there's a new Italian-American mystery writer on the scene. Frank Lentricchia, who by now has produced more pages of fine writing in fiction than he had during his stellar career as a literary critic, has moved into the detective/thriller genre with "The Accidental Pallbearer."

A far cry from his earlier more literary fiction, but not too far from his more recent works, like "The Italian Actress" and "The Sadness of Antonioni," this new novel is a tight, twisted and totally engaging read that follows the life of private detective Eliot Conte.

Conte is a middle-aged former professor who once dangled a university provost out of his office window in a fit of rage. When he returns home to Utica, N.Y., after his expulsion from UCLA, his political kingpin father, Silvio, who prefers to be called "Big Daddy" by those he controls, sets him up in a comfortable home only to earn his son's disdain. The father/son tension keeps the plot on a tightrope that takes readers over the working-class terrain of upstate New York and keeps Lentricchia's take on the genre grounded in a gritty reality, making Conte's strange work habits seem not only normal but necessary.

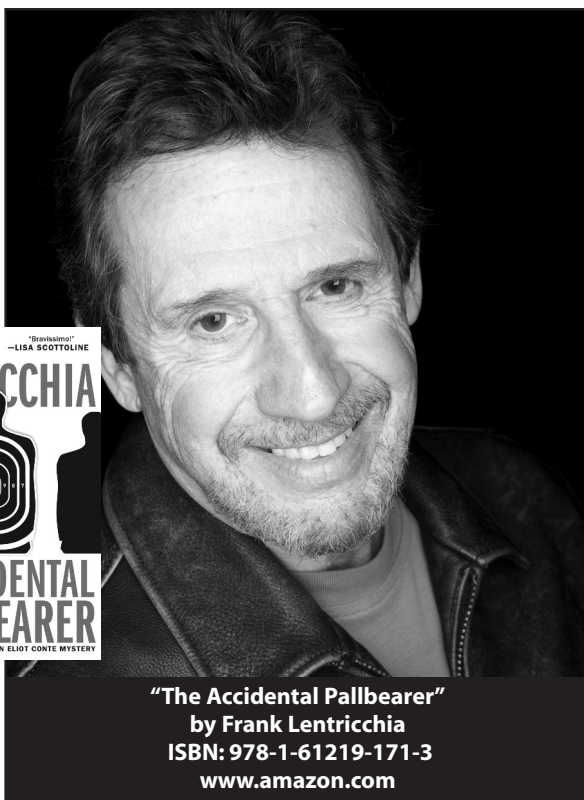
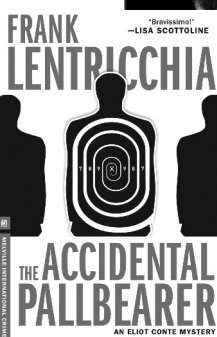
Conte is friends with all the right and often all the wrong people, and he has a

hard time telling the difference between the two. In very unconventional ways, he gets the job done when he stumbles into a web of crime that could very well have his own father at its center. Silvio, the man who made most of the local and even some national politicians bend to his will, cannot have his way with his son, something he regrets more and more as he nears his own grave. When father and son come together in the old man's

hospital room, Eliot learns more than he bargained for and begins to understand that his old man might not be so bad for a gangster. The soul-searching that accompanies his clue-searching is the quality that separates this mystery from most others.

But Eliot isn't so concerned about his father as he is about the rising death rate in the Utica neighborhood. Seems each stone he turns in search of an alleged serial rapist gets used against those he interrogates. It gets to the point where he could easily, because of the way he works, become a victim and suspect. Conte is as cool and as crude as detectives come — two qualities he uses to his advantage as he solves crimes while attempting to do a favor for his brother-like friend Antonio Robison, the city's first black police chief. The life he lives is not one to envy, but it's certainly one to watch, especially as he makes his way toward a new love while investigating one of the area's oldest unsolved crimes, one that just might involve the very people he knows and loves.

Once again, Lentricchia has forged a fiction that has guts. There's a depth in this novel that will satisfy even reluctant mystery readers, but it's not for aficionados of the genre who love red herrings. With nary a bump in the prose, Lentricchia keeps it real while building enough suspense to keep the brain clicking and the pages turning.



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SPORTS The path less traveled

by Elena Ferrarin

Don't you dare tell Jason Belmonte that bowling is easy.

In February, the 29-year-old Australian native became just the second foreign-born player to win the United States Bowling Congress Masters. He was named the Professional Bowlers Association's Rookie of the Year in 2008-09, and won the Best Bowler ESPY award in 2011.

Belmonte grew up playing all sorts of sports, including golf, tennis, squash, cricket, soccer and rugby. He also dabbles in billiards and snooker.

Of all of the above, bowling is by far the hardest. "There isn't one sport I played that is more difficult to play," Belmonte attests.

For one, most people don't know about the oil coat on bowling lanes, he says.

The oil is used for conditioning, but it also affects the direction and spin of the ball. Plus, the oil pattern keeps changing as more and more balls hit the lane, he says.

It's kind of like water and bunkers in golf — except invisible, Belmonte explains.

"That's why it takes a lot of talent and skill to make a physical shot by basically guessing where the best part of the lane is to play," he says.

Belmonte spends six to seven months a year traveling around the world to compete in the United States, Europe and Asia.

He started bowling at 18 months old, after his parents built a bowling alley in his native Orange, Australia.

Belmonte has gained notoriety for his

unique, two-handed style of bowling, which he started using as a little boy trying to hold the ball up.

When he began competing internationally as a teenager, there was no one else who bowled two-handed — and he took a lot of criticism for it, he says.

"The traditionalists have always had their two cents about me," he says. "Being called a 'cheat' used to really upset me when I was a younger boy, but now I'm older.

"I've double- and triple-checked every single rulebook in the world. I'm not break-

ing any of the rules."

His two-handed approach does give him an advantage, he says without hesitation.

"What I do with the bowling ball allows me to create more power, more speed. It allows my strike percentage to be higher," he says. "I can curve the ball more than anyone else, and it allows me to play in a certain part of the lane that no one else can play."

Two-handed bowling, though still a rarity among professional bowlers, has gained traction of late, for example among the Bolivian national team, he says.

"There's an army of two-handed bowlers around the world that have come out," Belmonte says. "Every bit of success I have, it makes those who are watching even more intrigued with it."

Belmonte credits much of his success to his wife, Kimberly, with whom he has two young children, and his parents, Marisa and Aldo Belmonte, the latter born in Italy.

"Kimberly never told me not to go anywhere, never held me back," he says of bowling's year-round schedule. "My mom and dad, they didn't try to change the way that I was bowling. They allowed me to have fun."

Aside from his first major win this year, another great moment in his career was winning the QubicaAMF World Cup held in 2011 in South Africa, he says.



JASON BELMONTE: He took a lot of grief for it during his formative years, but his two-handed approach to his sport has reaped rewards while changing the way the world bowls.

37 AMERICA

MAY 2013

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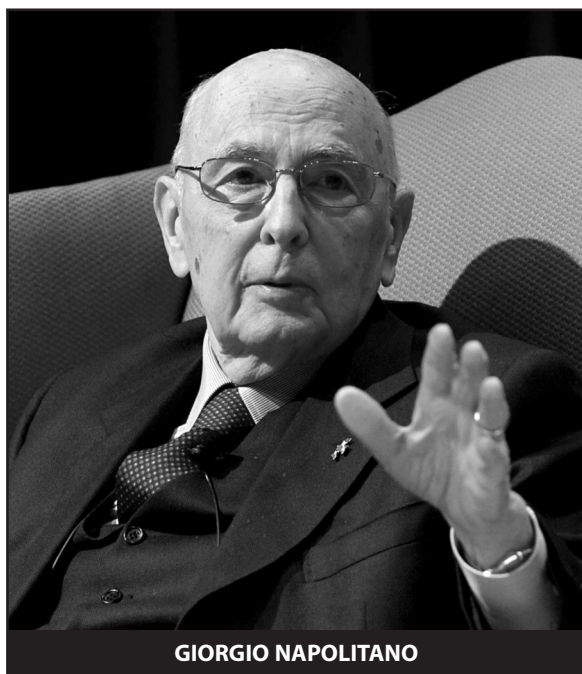
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GIORGIO NAPOLITANO

GOVERNMENT

by Nicola Orichuia

The die is cast

It's been two grueling months since the elections, and Italy finally has a new government — but it's far from anything most voters might have imagined in late February. Forced into a difficult situation by the absence of a clear majority in the Senate, the Partito Democratico turned to 46-year-old Enrico Letta to form a wide-ranging coalition that includes the Popolo della Libertà of longtime rival Silvio Berlusconi and the Scelta Civica of former Prime Minister Mario Monti. The new government earned confidence votes in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate in late April, Letta was then installed as prime minister, and the real work began.

How this coalition will fare remains to be seen. While Berlusconi appeared more than happy to accept a deal with the PD — going from irrelevant third party to vital cog in the government — the 5 Star Movement's refusal

(See Government on Page 45)

CINEMA

The guy next door

by Jeannine Guilyard

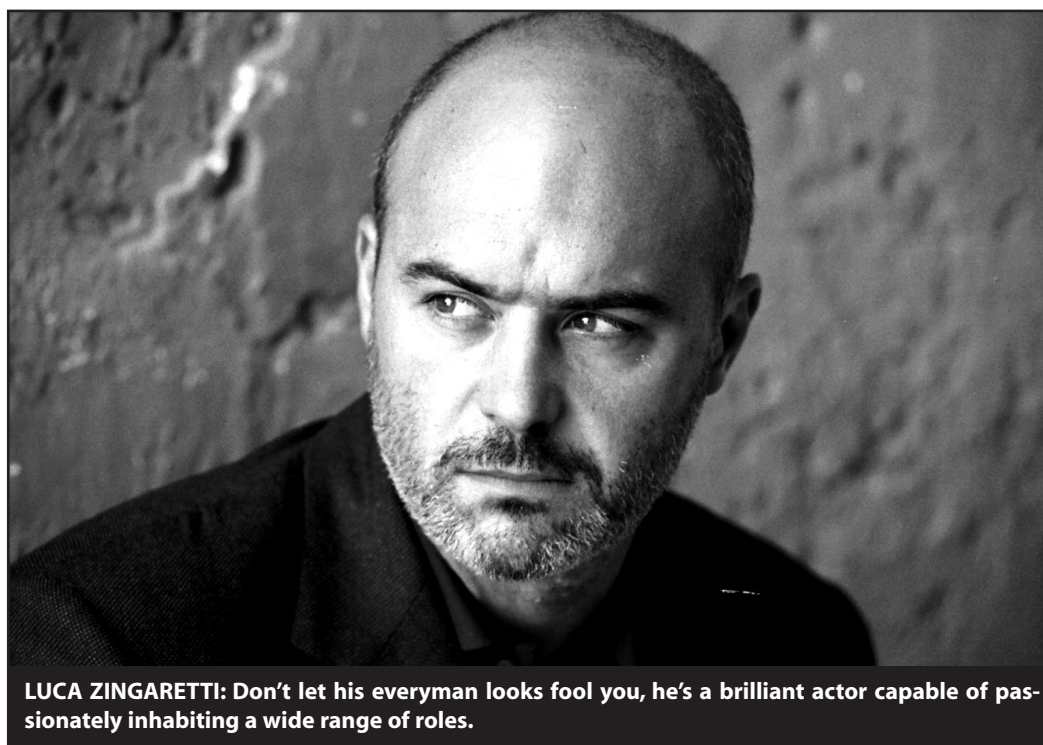
His roles have been diverse to say the least, as he has played everything from a dedicated police inspector and Fascist tablecloth salesman to a womanizing five-star chef. He has been on stage, on television and on the big screen, but the one constant is the deep conviction he brings to every role. Roman-born actor Luca Zingaretti has been a fixture in Italian TV and cinema for nearly three decades. His guy-next-door appeal gives him the ability to blend into a crowd yet hold his own in the presence of other cinematic heavyweights.

Zingaretti had his eye on entertainment from an early age, and was classically trained at Rome's prestigious drama school Accademia Nazionale d'Arte Drammatica Silvio D'Amico.

Upon graduating in 1984, he immediately hit the stage, appearing in classic such as Chekhov's "Three Sisters" and Shakespeare's "Titus Andronicus."

A few years later, he landed his first feature film role in Giuliano Montaldo's "Gli occhiali d'oro" (The Gold-Rimmed Glasses), and later that year made his first television appearance in "Il Giudice Istruttore" (The Investigating Magistrate). In the mid-'90s, he gained recognition while working with respected directors Marco Risi and Ricky Tognazzi. But his big break came in 1999 with the lead role of Salvo Montalbano in RAI television's "Il commissario Montalbano." Based on the novels by Andrea Camilleri, the mystery series about an

(See Cinema on Page 44)



LUCA ZINGARETTI: Don't let his everyman looks fool you, he's a brilliant actor capable of passionately inhabiting a wide range of roles.

SNAPSHOT Name that landmark!

by Nicola Orichuia

Anyone wanting to test their knowledge of Rome's landmarks — or simply take in a stunning panoramic view of the Eternal City — should head straight for the Vittoriano Terraces. Thanks to a glass elevator in operation since 2007, tourists can ascend to the top of the iconic white monument built in honor of Italy's first king, Vittorio Emanuele II, and cast their eyes across the metropolis.

To the north, the long Via del Corso cleaves the city in two, starting from Piazza Venezia, separating the Pigna and Trevi neighborhoods, cutting across Rione Colonna and ending in Piazza del Popolo. To the left, the Pantheon's low-slung cupola hunkers among the surrounding buildings, while in the distance, St. Peter's better-known dome makes a much bolder statement.

Down Via del Corso, one can easily spot the bronze statue of St. Paul

atop the imposing column of Marcus Aurelius, while just to the left, Montecitorio presents a serene facade that masks the political battlefield known as the Chamber of Deputies. To the right,

Trinità dei Monti can clearly be seen, and one can only imagine the bustling crowd gathered on the Spanish Steps below.

The view to the south is even more spectacular. One can gaze for hours at the architectural marvel that is the Colosseum. (If you plan to do so, bring plenty of sunscreen!) Just behind the Flavian Amphitheatre is San Giovanni in Laterano, with its saints standing watch over the city's outskirts.

A unique view of the Fori Imperiali, with the arches of both Titus and Constantine clearly visible, hints at how vast the city center once was. And there is so much more to sift from the urban landscape ... a sort of "Where's Waldo?" or "I Spy" on a monumental scale.



VIAGGIO Palazzo wars!

by Judith Anne Testa

When a modern-day traveler approaches the low hill where Palazzo Pitti stands in majestic isolation, the enormous bulk of the building seems intimidating. And well it should, as it's by far the largest palazzo in Florence, the only one on a hill and the one with the most open space surrounding it. But if the original builder, Luca Pitti, were to see it today, he wouldn't recognize it, as the palazzo he commissioned in 1457/8 has been swallowed up by the present building, constructed over several generations by, among others, Pitti's triumphant rivals, the Medici family.

Luca Pitti (1398-1472), a wealthy and ambitious Florentine merchant, was ostensibly a supporter of the Medici family's behind-the-scenes control of Florence, but, like many others, he harbored secret resentments and envy of the Medici's privileged position. When he decided to build a palazzo, Pitti put himself in competition with Cosimo, then the head of the Medici family, since Cosimo's family palace, the biggest in Florence at the time, was then nearing completion. Luca purchased a site in a rural area known as the Boboli Hills, on the far side of the Arno River, and there he commissioned a family residence intended not merely to rival but to surpass the Medici palazzo in the city center. There's a story that Pitti wanted his windows to be larger than the main entrance of Palazzo Medici (they aren't), and his palace was not, in fact, as big as Palazzo Medici.

The architect Pitti hired is unknown, but it was probably Luca Fancelli, a follower of the great Florentine architect Brunelleschi, who died in 1446. Because of Fancelli's association with Brunelleschi, some scholars think Fancelli's design may reflect the original plan Brunelleschi had submitted to Cosimo de' Medici for his family palace, a plan Cosimo rejected as being too "royal." The original Pitti Palace consisted of a square three-story block, with three doors on its facade and seven tall windows on each of the stories above. The entire facade was faced with enormous, rough stone blocks, some of them weighing four tons. This was an in-your-face effort to outdo Cosimo de' Medici, whose palazzo had much more modest rustication (as this kind of stonework is called) only on the ground floor. Never before had a private citizen built a palace for himself in



PALAZZO PITTI: Commissioned by an early supporter and eventual rival of Florence's first family, it was transformed over the subsequent centuries into a visible sign of Medici power.

such isolation from his neighbors, and on top of a hill so that it looked down on the city rather than being part of it.

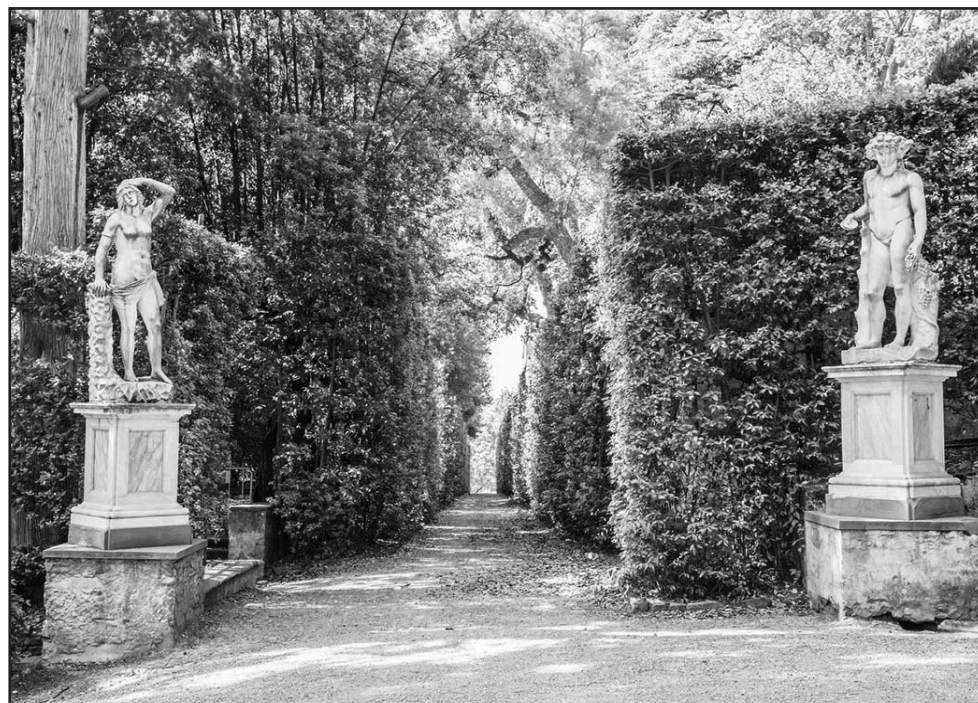
Pitti's palazzo was more or less complete in 1466, when its owner became caught up in a failed plot against the Medici. By then Cosimo de' Medici was dead, and his son Piero had replaced him as head of the family and unofficial head of the Florentine state. When Piero foiled the plot, Pitti became frightened of the consequences of his involvement. He agreed to abandon his fellow conspirators, but he made some nervy demands in return for his cooperation. He wanted government posts for himself and his brother, and he wanted his daughter Francesca married to Piero's elder son and heir, Lorenzo. Perhaps to Pitti's surprise, Piero readily agreed to the conditions. As for the first, it's easier to keep an eye on adversaries when they're working for you rather than against you. Regarding the second condition, the wily Piero assured Luca that his daughter

would be married to someone he (Piero) "held most dear." Assuming the "most dear" person must be Lorenzo, Luca agreed to the terms.

What Luca Pitti received wasn't at all what he expected. Piero de' Medici had outwitted him. He appointed Luca and his brother to meaningless governmental posts far from the center of power, where nobody consulted them about anything. According to a contemporary, "he [Luca] remained cold and alone" in his huge palazzo, his political career finished. In response to Luca's second demand, his daughter was married off not to Piero's son Lorenzo, the future ruler of Florence, but to Piero's brother-in-law, Giovanni Tornabuoni. This wasn't such a bad match. But Giovanni, who headed the Medici bank branch in Rome, would never rule the Florentine state.

Luca Pitti died in 1473, a bitter and disappointed man. His grand palazzo and its extensive surrounding land remained in the Pitti family until 1550, when financial difficulties made the sale of the property necessary. The buyer was Eleonora de Toledo, wife of Duke Cosimo I de' Medici. In 1532, the family with which Luca had tried to unite himself through his daughter's marriage had become the hereditary, absolute rulers of Florence.

After he became duke in 1537, Cosimo I had lived initially in the original Medici family palazzo, but that quickly became too small for his growing family and enormous retinue. The ducal household next moved into renovated and enlarged quarters in Palazzo della Signoria (city hall), seat of the Florentine government, but even this proved too modest for Cosimo's princely pretensions. With the acquisition of the Pitti Palace, Cosimo wanted to create a residence that would be a symbol of his princely status and power. Rather than occupying a portion of what had been the seat of the now-vanished Florentine republic, the duke would have a residence of his own on a spacious property that overlooked the city he ruled. When the duke left Palazzo della Signoria for his new palace, his old residence became known as the Palazzo Vecchio (Old Palace), the name it still has today.



TRAVEL TIPS



WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

Just as its original owner intended, Palazzo Pitti is still well outside the center of Florence, although the city has expanded across the Arno and the neighborhood is no longer rural. To get there, cross the Ponte Vecchio, and keep walking along via Guicciardini. After about a quarter of a mile, you'll see the Pitti Palace looming up on your left.

WHAT SHOULD WE SEE?

The Pitti is home to seven museums, not all of them worth your time, unless you have some specialized interests. The main event for most visitors is the Galleria Palatina, where the rooms are jam-packed from floor to ceiling with paintings exhibited without regard to chronology, just as they were in earlier centuries. There are many fine paintings, but the masterworks by Botticelli, Raphael, Rubens and Caravaggio are difficult to find. Other museums include the Royal Apartments (VERY sumptuous!); the Porcelain Museum (lots of elaborate dinnerware); the Costume Museum (clothing from the Medici and Lorraine eras); the Carriage Museum; the Gallery of Modern Art (obscure paintings from the 18th-20th centuries); and the Silver Museum, a rich collection of precious small objects commissioned and collected by the Medici, as well as, unexpectedly, the death mask of Lorenzo the Magnificent.

WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

Behind the Pitti stretch the elaborate and extensive Boboli Gardens. In good weather, you could spend the better part of a day exploring this amazing place, with its fountains, sculptures, small buildings and even an ancient Egyptian obelisk.

In 1561, the first major extension of the Pitti Palace began, under the direction of Bartolomeo Ammanati, a competent but heavy-handed architect. Although he left the original facade intact, he doubled the building's depth and added two perpendicular wings, creating a monumental three-sided courtyard, by far the largest in Florence. In 1564, Duke Cosimo had Giorgio Vasari construct a link between the Uffizi, the intended site of the ducal administrative offices, which Vasari was in charge of building, and the Pitti Palace. Cosimo wanted a raised passageway that would enable him to move quickly and — above all — safely between the seat of the government and his new residence. The extensive enlargement took so long that neither Cosimo nor his wife lived to see the work completed. Eleonora died in 1562 and Cosimo in 1574, and even Cosimo's successor, his son Francesco, never used the Pitti as his primary residence. The completed portions instead served as a sumptuous hotel in which the family accommodated its most important guests, and the immense courtyard became the setting for celebrations and theatrical performances.

With Duke Fernando, who succeeded Francesco in 1587, the Pitti finally became the official Medici family residence, but by this time the Medici entourage had grown so enormous that still further enlargement was needed. This time, the additions consisted of a series of service rooms, including housing for servants and several huge kitchens, to meet the demands of a permanent and numerous court not much different from that of a king. Through successive ducal marriages, the family was now connected with the most important ruling families of Europe, so the Medici were obliged to maintain a level of "magnificence" that would have dumbfounded their ambitious but relatively plain-living 15th-century ancestor, Lorenzo the Magnificent.

Duke Cosimo II (d. 1621) presided over the final expansion of the Pitti Palace to the size it is today. This project began in 1618 and went on for decades. The architect, Giulio Parigi, was the grandson of Bartolomeo Ammanati, who had overseen the first expansion of the palace back in the 1500s. While Ammanati had expanded the palace to the rear, leaving Luca Pitti's 15th-century facade intact, Parigi dramatically widened the building, increasing the number of windows across the front from seven to 23, creating an extremely long facade that obliterated the original one. The grand scale of the palace represented the heightened, regal stature of the Medici dynasty; the building itself became a visible sign of Medici power.

In 1637, Duke Fernando II married Vittoria della Rovere, heir to the Duchy of Urbino. During the couple's long reign (the duke died in 1670 and his wife in 1693), the Medici court grew even larger, and both were lavish patrons of the arts. It was during their lifetimes that the palace was enriched with vast cycles of frescoes, most of them still visible. The couple was also great collectors, and Vittoria brought many important works of art with her as part of her dowry. One of the most famous, now in the Uffizi, is Titian's "Venus of Urbino."

The next duke, Cosimo III, was uninterested in art (and so puritanical that he

had Michelangelo's "David" covered with a canvas tarpaulin!), so he made no contributions to the palace's decor. Nonetheless, his eldest son, Fernando, managed to have a room in his own ground-floor apartment decorated with scenes from the love affair of Venus and Adonis. His father wouldn't have approved, but by this time the palace was so huge that the duke probably didn't even know about the commission.

The last, utterly dissolute duke, Gian Gastone, not only added nothing; he allowed the palace to fall into a state of extreme disrepair. And the often dead-drunk duke went a long way toward ruining the valuable rugs, as he habitually vomited on them. When he died in 1737, his sister Anna Maria Luisa, the Medici dynasty's last descendent, willed the palace and all other Medici properties and collections to the new rulers, the House of Lorraine, with the stipulation that none of the Medici art treasures were ever to be removed or dispersed. In 1760, repair and renovation of the decrepit Pitti Palace at last began. Several splendid rooms on the ground floor were done up in the elaborate Rococo style of the 18th century, and many other rooms were redecorated in that same ornate style. In 2005, several forgotten 18th-century bathrooms were found, which contained surprisingly modern plumbing.

During the Napoleonic occupation of Florence in the early 1800s, members of the Bonaparte family occupied the Pitti Palace, and still further redecoration took place, this time in the severe Neo-classical style that reflected the latest in imperial taste. But after the fall of Napoleon, the brief residence at the Pitti Palace by members of the Bonaparte family ended, and the second Lorraine period began. During this time, the two wings that extend out from the front of the palace were added, and much of the interior underwent yet another renovation.

This period, too, came to an end, when the last members of the ruling family of Lorraine departed peacefully in 1859, and the Grand Duchy of Tuscany ceased to exist. Two years later, Tuscany became part of the new Kingdom of Italy, and Vittorio Emanuele II of Savoy, the first king of a united Italy, lived at the Pitti during the brief period when Florence was the nation's capital. After he and his court moved on to Rome, the country's permanent capital, a few members of the extended Savoyard royal family lived on in smaller quarters in the Pitti, but in 1919, King Vittorio Emanuele III donated the palace to the Italian state, and it was turned into a museum. Today, the Galleria Palatina, as the main museum in the Pitti is called, is second only to the Uffizi as a repository of artistic treasures. Several other, smaller museums also occupy some of the Pitti's innumerable rooms, and the area behind the palace, known as the Boboli Gardens, is the only large green space in relentlessly stony Florence.

Although the purchase of his precious palazzo by his archrivals, the Medici, must have left old Luca Pitti gagging in his grave, and later expansions would make his original home unrecognizable to him, he could take some satisfaction from one fact. Despite being inhabited by four dynasties and through more than four centuries, the palazzo still bears his family's name.

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RECIPES Fire up those grills!

by Dolores Sennebogen

Warmer weather sends us outdoors to soak up the sun, commune with nature and enjoy activities we've neglected all winter. The quintessential summer pastime for many families is firing up the grill and rediscovering the pleasures of cooking and eating in the open air. It's been said that everything tastes better outdoors, but that's only part of the appeal of grilling. Man first cooked food over open flames, and whether dad admits it or not, grilling has that caveman aura. It's also an activity that brings people together in a relaxed atmosphere where nothing seems as important as sharing the experience. A survey taken in 2012 showed that 71 percent of adult Americans say they own a grill or a smoker, and that the stretch between Memorial Day and Father's Day is when most people first take to the patio or deck to enjoy the taste, aroma and togetherness of cooking outdoors. This month's recipes include several for the grill and a few accompaniments for an enjoyable backyard feast. If you're entertaining, share this bounteous version of friselle with your guests while the main course is being grilled.

FRISELLE (Dressed Flatbread)

1 package (6 small) sliced friselle
1/4 pound Fontinella cheese, diced
7 slices Genoa salami, diced
5 slices hot capicollo, diced
1 large or 2 small ripe tomatoes, diced
2 medium carrots, pared and diced
2 stalks celery, diced
1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
5 fresh basil leaves, chopped
1/8 teaspoon dried oregano
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
Salt and pepper
Olive oil
Red wine vinegar

Run the cut side of the friselle under a small amount of tap water, shake off and set aside. In the meantime, dice the cheese, meat and vegetables quite small,



and put them into a large bowl. Add the seasonings and drizzle olive oil and red wine vinegar over the mixture to your liking. Toss together and taste for seasonings. Drizzle a bit of olive oil over the friselle, pile your mixture on top of the bread and serve. May be cut into smaller snack-sized portions for passing.

Note: Make sure the friselle are somewhat soft but not too mushy before adding the toppings.

— Tania Dedek

FILETTO DI MAIALE ALLA GRIGLIA (Grilled Pork Tenderloin)

3-4 garlic cloves, pressed
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
2 teaspoons coarse salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

1-1/2 teaspoons chopped
fresh rosemary
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 (1-1/4-pound) pork tenderloins

Whisk together the first six ingredients. Place the tenderloins in a large resealable plastic storage bag and pour the balsamic mixture over them. Refrigerate for several hours. Remove from the fridge about 90 minutes before grilling. Sear the meat on all sides on the grill and then continue cooking over indirect heat for another 20-30 minutes, rotating every 10 minutes. The pork is done when the internal temperature reaches 155 to 160 degrees. Let rest briefly before slicing into medallions.

— Dolores Sennebogen

FILETTO DI IPPOGLOSSO CON POMODORI

(Grilled Halibut with Tomato-Basil Sauce)

1 tablespoon lemon juice
1-1/2 teaspoons minced fresh rosemary
2 teaspoons olive oil
1/4 teaspoon salt
Dash of black pepper
2 (6-ounce) halibut fillets
1/3 cup diced seeded tomato
1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
1 tablespoon chopped green onion
1-1/2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
1/4 teaspoon grated orange rind

Combine the lemon juice, rosemary, olive oil, salt and pepper in a large resealable bag and add the halibut. Seal it and turn to coat. Refrigerate for about one hour. In a small saucepan, combine the remaining ingredients and simmer to blend.

Drain and discard the marinade. Using long-handled tongs, moisten a paper towel with cooking oil and lightly coat the grill rack. Grill the halibut, covered, over medium heat for four to five minutes per side, or until the fish flakes easily with a fork. Serve the tomato-basil sauce over the halibut.

— adapted from Carolyn Schmeling

(See Recipes on Page 45)



LOU&A

(Continued from Page 35)

(She also conducts annual workshops in Tuscany, with the next one taking place Aug. 19-26.)

Described as a “virtuoso” by Drum magazine and praised by The New York Times music critic Jon Pareles, Belloni even has her own line of Remo Italian tambourines. In conversation, she displays equal parts wonder and warmth as she recounts her creative journey: One that began in Rome, landed her in a Fellini movie as a young woman and fashioned an artistic persona potent as a spider bite. Fra Noi spoke with Belloni as she shared her incredible story.

Fra Noi: You were born in Rome. What was your upbringing like artistically speaking?

Alessandra Belloni: My grandparents were outside Rome, and they played folk music similar to what I do. My grandfather, my mother’s father, played the mandolin and the tambourine — and he was deaf. My grandmother, my mother’s mother, she sang. They were very musical. My mother always wanted to be in the arts, and became an actress at a late age. She was 58, and she decided to live her dream. I always think about how she shocked everybody. And my father was very unusual: free in some aspects and yet strict. He wouldn’t let me get involved in the arts. But I acted in school and sang in the choir, and at 14, I was cast in a stage play.

FN: That involved a prominent Italian actress, Anna Magnani — and a major turning point in your life. Tell us about that.

AB: I was cast as her niece in a big play in Rome, “La Luca.” We were supposed to go to London, and my father wouldn’t let me do it. So I swore I would run away. My mother took me to New York for a month of vacation to see my sister, and I decided not to go back home. I was 16. It was very wild; I want to write a book about this. I was really brave. I was just a kid — I only had my sister and my brother, but I stayed in New York.

FN: And then Federico Fellini comes along with a chance to act in his 1976 film, “Casanova.” Tell us about that.

AB: I was 20 years old. When my mother became an actress, her first audition was for Fellini, and she got in. Then he saw my photos and hired me to be a Turkish princess. It was a great role; I got to work with Donald Sutherland. I got to belly dance for Casanova; my part was cut, but there is an uncut version where I’m in it. Fellini liked me very much, and it was an extraordinary experience. He was always looking after me. One day, he called me into his apartment to give me advice; he was half naked, lying on his belly, getting a massage. And he said, “I’ve been watching you, you’re very serious about what you do — you should go to New York and do your art, go into the theater.” Then he said, “Just take my advice. If I spoke good English, I’d move there in a second.” And that’s what I did. I started my own theater company, and it was inspired by Fellini.

FN: In terms of your music, it’s much more than playing an instrument. What’s the healing connection?

AB: Most people may know that word “shaman,” it comes from Siberia. I know that traditionally all shamans used drums. That’s the main thing; they use it to induce trance. They would go into a trance and use it to help people go into the spirit world, bring back a vision or bring healing to a person. This was common all over the planet. Most indigenous people used drumming to bring back a spirit message or induce healing. In the Mediterranean, people used drumming in ceremonies and princesses used large frame drums, like the one I use, to enter an altered state of mind and perform healing ceremonies.

FN: And here, the female aspect is particularly important. Why?

AB: We know from the ancient Greeks and the tragedies of Euripides that women could enter an ecstasy — it was women with tam-

bourines healing people. They weren’t just having fun. In Italy, we were lucky we never lost these ceremonies; they evolved into dances like the tarantella.

FN: The dance has origins in the belief that a spider bite is the root cause that necessitates the dance. What’s behind the legend and your work with the tarantella?

AB: When a spider bit someone, it resulted in what was called a madness — the tarantismo. But it’s always the result or the symptom of unrequited love. So I use the tarantella mainly for women who suffer from depression. A film they’re making about me in Europe, part of a series called “Living Shamanism,” is about a healing with a woman raped by her stepfather from [age] 8 to 14. It’s very heavy. When I’m playing the drum, I see visions of blood, and sometimes I see real blood. But I also see a lot of healing. It’s the toxins coming out.

FN: So you’ve found a gateway to healing that clearly comes from a tradition beyond Western medicine.

AB: The medical world has come a long way, and I don’t want to say they don’t know how to treat cancer or other illnesses. But they don’t have the answers to everything. A lot of psychologists, for example, are interested in what I do and want to team up with me. And a lot of scientists agree that negative thinking can create cancerous cells. When I do healing drum sessions in nursing homes, you have people who can’t move — and yet you give them a drum, and they can move their bodies. I’ve been doing this for years, and it’s amazing. Even if they have one hand, they can do it.

FN: You’ve experienced your own healing episodes in 1986 and 1991 as a result of this dance work. Do you feel the work you do for others continues to exert a healing force in your life?

AB: Absolutely. It keeps me young and helps me to have great energy. People look at me and can’t believe how I can keep going. I don’t have an explanation. But when I see my friends who are doctors, I tell them, “If everyone was like me, you wouldn’t have any business.”

For more information on Alessandra Belloni, visit alessandrabelloni.com.

NEWSMAKERS

(Continued from Page 35)

ly publicized interview with New York Magazine in 2011 after years of speculation. “I believe in the power of intention to change the landscape of our society — and it is my intention to live an authentic life of compassion and integrity and action,” Quinto wrote on his blog following the announcement.

For fans not plugged into celeb news or the New York theatre scene, Quinto is perhaps best known for his work on the big and small screens — with one role in particular being literally out of this world.

Hotshot film director J.J. Abrams enlisted Quinto to boldly go where only Leonard Nimoy had gone before — playing the half-Vulcan, half-human space commander Spock in the 2009 big-budget reboot of “Star Trek.” The film was a hit with both critics and audiences, breathing new life into the previously moribund franchise and grossing more than \$385 million worldwide. Its highly anticipated sequel, “Star Trek: Into Darkness,” hits theaters May 17 as the opening salvo in a crowded summer movie season.

Beyond the CGI-heavy space battles and IMAX-sized thrills audiences expect — nay, demand — these days, the 2009 “Trek” struck a chord because it placed a higher premium on characterization than most summer popcorn flicks. Much of that was due to Quinto’s unique take on Spock. Sure he had the pointy ears, but the actor also infused the role with intensity and vulnerability, and found a compelling way to dramatize the internal tug of war between

his fiery human emotions and his alien desire to be perpetually logical. Pretty weighty stuff for a movie where all manner of space vessel blew up real good, but Quinto jumped head-first into a challenge many actors would have avoided.

“An enormous amount of discussion went into the emotional life of a character who is so often perceived as unemotional,” Abrams told The New York Times. “Zachary was the first person we cast, and he appreciated the opportunity to take something so galvanized in public consciousness and say without fear, ‘Let’s do it again our way.’”

It may have helped that Quinto wasn’t a diehard fan of the original 1960s “Star Trek” TV series, and was therefore unencumbered by canon. However, despite starting from the drawing board with his Spock, Quinto wanted to pay proper homage to the phenomenon that has spawned millions of fans worldwide and helped redefine the public perception of science fiction, leaving more than a few of the most devoted fans’ virginities unclaimed in the process.

“I didn’t want it to be about trying to recreate what he did 40 years ago,” Quinto told Parade magazine. “I wanted it to be about where Spock picks up with his journey. So I didn’t watch the TV show at all until we started shooting the movie. Then I always had sort of a loop of the original series playing in my trailer to remind me of that world and what it means.”

To complicate matters further, Quinto shared the screen with Nimoy himself, who played the older Spock in the 2009 film’s time travel-heavy plot. There was no hiding from the inevitable comparisons, but the gambit paid off, and Quinto is firmly ensconced as this generation’s Spock. It doesn’t hurt that there’s such a strong resemblance between Quinto and Nimoy, even if some extreme measures had to be taken.

“Every day, it took me two hours to do the hair, the makeup, the whole deal,” Quinto told Parade. “The first time I went in, they shaved my eyebrows and then they gave me the pointy look by gluing on about 75 individual hairs. I got conflicting reports on whether my eyebrows would ever grow back, but they did with a vengeance.”

Quinto was raised in this galaxy in suburban Pittsburgh to an Irish-American mother, who worked at an investment firm, and an Italian-American father, who worked as a hairdresser. Quinto’s father died of cancer when the actor was just 7 years old, and his mother raised both him and his older brother.

Although he lost his dad at a young age, Quinto attributes many of his personality traits — including his passion as an actor — to his Italian lineage.

“I think the Italian side comes out more strongly,” Quinto told AskMen. “I’m kind of fiery, and I really enjoy a long lunch with bottles of wine and friends.”

The actor performed in musicals in high school, and studied theater at Carnegie Mellon University. After a brief stint in New York City following his graduation, Quinto moved to Los Angeles and booked small parts on network TV shows. The actor’s big breaks came in 2003, when he became a recurring character on the show “24,” and more prominently in 2006 when he played the villainous Sylar in the hit comic book-inspired TV show “Heroes.” Despite his success in films, Quinto still has a soft spot for television, most recently co-starring in both the first and second seasons of the unsettling cable miniseries “American Horror Story.”

Quinto has even dabbled behind the camera, producing and starring in the hit 2011 independent film “Margin Call,” which dramatized in riveting fashion the earliest days of the U.S. financial crisis. But don’t expect Quinto to give up his day job just yet.

“My passion is acting, and has always been,” Quinto told Collider. “It’s what brought me to this point of being able to diversity and do other things, and I hope it’s something I’ll continue to have a passion for. I can’t see that changing.”

MUSIC REVIEW

(Continued from Page 35)

album, “Enrico Rava Quintet: Tribe.” The group’s next album, says Rava, will likely be a live recording of the two June shows at New York’s historic Birdland club.

No matter how young the people he plays with are, Rava is always able to infuse fresh sounds and lyrical inventions into his music. That’s no surprise, given his influences. “Of course, some of my all-time favorites remain Miles Davis, Chet Baker, Duke Ellington and Thelonius Monk, just to mention a few,” he says. “But I also have an incredible attraction to the 1920s and 1930s sound of the early Louis Armstrong and the amazing Bix Beiderbecke.”

At 73, Rava has no intention of slowing down, with projects ranging from jazz reinventions of Michael Jackson’s hits (with the Enrico Rava PM Jazz Lab) to an all-star duo featuring pianist Stefano Bollani. “Age is not a factor. I’m inspired by great musicians like Lee Konitz, who at 86 doesn’t know what the word ‘stop’ means,” Rava says. “I often create some of my best music with the great Italian trombone player Dino Piana ... he’s 83!”

New York City and San Francisco have been frequent stops for Rava in the past. Boston, on the other hand, will represent a return after more than 30 years. “The last time I played at the Berklee Performance Center, it was 1975 or 1976,” Rava says. “More recently, I received an honorary degree from Boston’s Berklee College of Music. It was a great honor, because I received it alongside jazz greats McCoy Tyner and Hank Jones during the Umbria Jazz Festival.” This year, Rava will share the stage at Italy’s most prestigious jazz festival with Sonny Rollins — just one more example of Rava’s name recognition.

CINEMA

(Continued from Page 39)

honest inspector looking for justice ran for a whopping 12 years and consisted of 22 films. Since then, he has worked with veteran directors like Pupi Avati and Marco Tullio Giordana as well as younger filmmakers like Daniele Luchetti and Ivan Cotroneo, while reprising his role as Montalbano in eight new films that ran on RAI through 2011.

Zingaretti is mesmerizing in lead and supporting roles alike. The first time I saw him was in Daniele Luchetti’s “Mio fratello è figlio unico” (My Brother Is An Only Child), where he had the supporting role of Mario Nastri, the aforementioned Fascist tablecloth salesman. In the film, he plays a father figure to the lead character, Accio, a rebellious teenager who feels like the black sheep of his family. A caring man who takes Accio into his home, Mario is nevertheless driven by his political beliefs to carry out violent acts. When he meets his sad fate, you can’t help but empathize with Accio as he cries for “poor Mario.”

In the two-part made-for-TV docudrama “Perlasca,” Zingaretti plays a very different sort of Fascist. This time, he takes on the title role of Giorgio Perlasca, an Italian who is credited with saving thousands of Jews during World War II. When Mussolini’s regime collapsed in 1943, Perlasca was working for an Italian importer in Budapest. Refusing to return home to Nazi-occupied Italy, he found work with a Spanish envoy who was issuing protective passes to Budapest’s Jews. After the Spanish envoy left the country in 1944, he remained and continued his work, teaming up with officials from Sweden, the Vatican, and the International Red Cross to save more than

(Continued on the next page)

3,500 lives between November 1944 and January 1945. Perlasca's sensitivity and passion shine through in Zingaretti's bravura performance.

Luca Zingaretti isn't the only family member to achieve some measure of fame. While he is busy playing Fascist roles in movies, his younger brother Nicola is a member of the center-left Partito Democratico. Having served as the president of the province of Rome from 2008 to 2013, he was recently elected president of the Lazio region.

Much of Luca Zingaretti's work is available through Amazon, including many films in the Montalbano series as well as films such as "My Brother Is An Only Child" and "Perlasca."

GOVERNMENT

(Continued from Page 39)

to sustain a meaningful dialogue placed it on the outside looking in. The inflexibility and vitriol of the Movement drove the PD into the arms of the center-right PdL, an alliance that seemed unthinkable two months earlier.

The PD took plenty of lumps along the way. The party started out brilliantly enough, nominating individuals for president of the Chamber and the Senate who were so respected and above the fray that it created a temporary rift in the 5 Star Movement, earning enough rogue votes to win the day. The PD seemed to squander that advantage during the election for president of the republic, rejecting the Movement's candidate, a respected jurist from the traditional left, and passing up a potential coalition-building opportunity in the process. The PD's attempt to find a presidential candidate from within also imploded, as young turks in the party rejected old-guard candidates Franco Marini and Romano Prodi. All of this led to the re-election of Giorgio Napolitano, who insisted that the parties overcome their differences for the greater good of the country.

Now that the PD and PdL are in league, it will be up to the Partito Democratico to lead the way toward crucial reforms that can put Italy back on track. Finding a solution to the high unemployment rate and revving the country's economic engine are high on the list, as is changing a widely despised electoral system.

Italians abroad and their representatives in Parliament will play a crucial role in the government's success, and Letta knows it. "We must treasure new Italians' desire to do, as well as value Italians abroad," said Letta during his first speech in front of the Chamber of Deputies. A joint statement signed by Senatore Renato Turano and his fellow representatives elected abroad underscored the importance of the prime minister's words. "The prime minister has underlined the dynamic role of Italians abroad, in the context of a necessary and urgent need of change for the country," the statement read. Letta's words allayed fears that the vote for Italians abroad would be abolished, a specter raised by a group of 10 "wise men" put together by President Napolitano during the post-electoral stalemate.

What happens in the next few weeks and months will determine the political future of all parties in play. The 5 Star Movement will no doubt continue to rail against alleged backdoor plots that it did nothing to prevent, while the other two major parties play a game of cat and mouse. Berlusconi will scrutinize the government's every move, ready to yank his party's crucial support at any moment and force elections that could put him back in power. To avoid this scenario, the PD must prove it has a credible plan for the country and execute it, come hell or high water. Only by leading the way can it regain the trust of the voters and keep the current government on track.

RECIPES

(Continued from Page 43)

INSALATA DI POLLO

(Grilled Chicken Salad)

6 large chicken breasts,
boned and skinned
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons melted butter
1 large clove garlic, pressed
1/2 teaspoon onion salt, or to taste
1/8 teaspoon black pepper
1/2 teaspoon each of oregano and basil
2 teaspoons chopped Italian parsley
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1 head Romaine lettuce
Additional mixed salad greens
of your choice
Grape tomatoes
Fresh basil
Lemon and oil dressing (recipe follows)
Shaved Parmigiano cheese (optional)

Remove any fat from the chicken breasts, rinse and pat dry with paper towels. Combine the olive oil and the next seven ingredients. Dip each chicken breast in this mixture, then turn to coat the second side. Arrange them in a single layer on a non-aluminum baking dish. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least two hours or overnight.

Make a medium-hot fire with either a charcoal or gas grill. Coat the grill rack with a nonstick spray before placing it over the fire. Place the breasts on the grill and cook for seven minutes. Turn them to cook the second side, about five minutes, or until the chicken is no longer pink in the center. Remove from the grill. If you're entertaining, this can be done ahead of time. If not using immediately, you should refrigerate them. When ready to serve the salad, slice the chicken breasts diagonally for long, thin slices. Cover a large platter with the cut up Romaine and other salad greens. Arrange the sliced chicken in an attractive pattern over them. Add the grape tomatoes. Shake the lemon dressing well and spoon it generously over the salad. Tear fresh basil leaves and scatter over the salad along with the optional shaved Parmigiano just before serving.

— adapted from Ann Sorrentino

CONDIMENTO DI LIMONE ED OLIO

(Lemon and Oil Dressing)

1/2 cup lemon juice from fresh lemons
1 clove garlic, through a press
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
or 1 teaspoon dried
3 large basil leaves, chopped,
or 1 teaspoon dried
2 fresh mint leaves, chopped,
or 1/2 teaspoon dried
1/2 teaspoon oregano, or to taste
1/2 teaspoon onion salt
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper,
or to taste
1 cup olive oil

Ream the juice from two or three



lemons, until 1/2 cup is accumulated. Put it in a bowl and add all the ingredients except the olive oil. Mix and stir to dissolve the salts. Add the oil, slowly beating it into the mixture. If not used immediately, store the dressing in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator. Shake well before each use.

Note: In addition to using this in the recipe above, lemon and oil dressing is also a great marinade for any grilled poultry or fish. Use some to marinate in advance and save the rest to pass as a sauce at the table.

— Ann Sorrentino

SALSICCIA CON POLENTA ALLA GRIGLIA

(Grilled Sausage with Polenta)

1 small eggplant (about 12 ounces)
1 medium onion
2 large bell peppers, seeded
1 or 2 Melrose or cubanelle peppers
Olive oil
1/2 cup balsamic vinaigrette
1 tablespoon small capers, rinsed
4 links sweet or hot Italian sausage
1 (18-ounce) tube ready-to-eat polenta
Shredded Parmigiano Cheese

Cut the eggplant and the onion in 1/2-inch slices, and the bell peppers in 1/2-inch rings. Cut the Melrose or cubanelle pepper in half lengthwise. Coat them all very lightly with olive oil and grill them over medium heat for 10 to 12 minutes, turning once, until tender. Remove to a cutting board and cut in bite-sized pieces. Toss with the vinaigrette and set aside. Split each sausage link down the center so that it is opened like a book. Grill them cut side down for eight minutes. Cut the polenta into 12 slices, coat very lightly with olive oil or nonstick cooking spray. Turn the sausages, add the polenta slices to the grill and continue cooking about six minutes, turning the polenta once. When the sausages are nicely browned and cooked through, serve them with the polenta slices and the grilled vegetable mixture. Pass Parmigiano cheese for those who would like it.

— adapted from Woman's Day

PATATE NEL CARTOCCIO

(Potatoes Wrapped for the Grill)

8 Idaho potatoes, peeled
1 green pepper, chopped



1 medium onion, chopped
Olive oil
Basil
Oregano
Salt
Pepper

Cube the potatoes fairly small and lay them on a large square of doubled aluminum foil. Toss with the chopped pepper, onion and enough olive oil to coat well. Sprinkle liberally with basil, oregano, salt and pepper. Toss again. Seal the sides and top of the aluminum foil to encase the potatoes. Cook on the grill as a side dish to your main course. You may need to start them before your meat or chicken, since they will take about 40 minutes to cook. Every 15 minutes, open the foil, toss the potatoes and reseal loosely. Be careful of the steam. Before serving, taste and add additional seasoning if desired.

— Deanne Wilbert

FRAGOLE AL BALSAMICO

(Balsamic Strawberries)

16 ounces fresh strawberries
1/4 cup granulated sugar
2 tablespoons aged balsamic vinegar
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground
black pepper (optional)
Mint leaves (optional)

Wash the berries, pat them dry and remove the hulls. Cut the largest ones in half if desired. In a medium bowl, sprinkle them with the sugar and balsamic, tossing to coat well. Let them sit at room temperature for at least one hour before serving so the berries will exude some of their juices. Just before serving, stir again and add the optional black pepper for zing. Good alone in pretty goblets garnished with mint leaves or over vanilla ice cream or plain cake.

Variation: Omit the black pepper but add one teaspoon each of lemon juice and grated orange rind.

CHEF'S CHOICE

For a backyard party, you could expand the berries and ice cream dessert into a do-it-yourself sundae bar. Serve several kinds of ice cream, and add fresh sliced peaches and blueberries as additional fruit options. You also can offer homemade brownie squares as a foundation for a sumptuous sundae. Add fudge sauce, coconut, cherries, nuts, sprinkles, whipped cream and whatever else strikes your mood.

— Dolores Sennebogen





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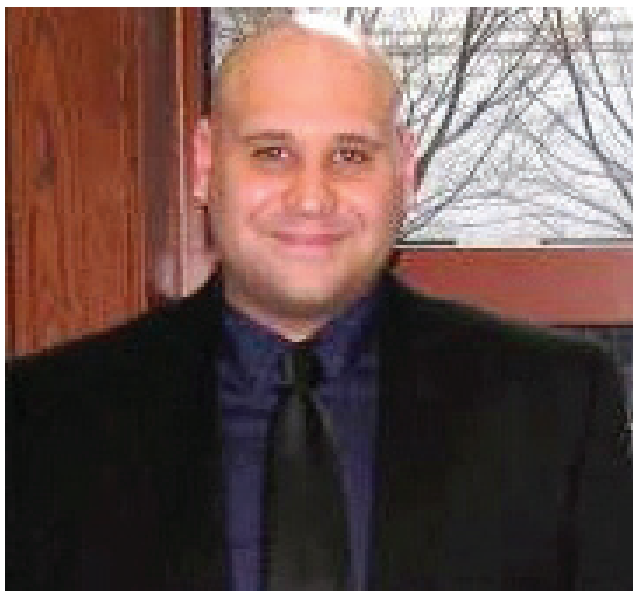
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2013 DI MATTIO CELLI FAMILY STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



George Curtis Clark

Sponsored by: Passaic Valley, New Jersey Chapter
Academics: Montclair State University
Personal Statement:

Studying a foreign language here in the United States has one major flaw; after the class is over, the students go back into a world where English is the primary language of communication. Street signs, television, radio and the people with whom they interact, all communicate in English and it makes it much more difficult to learn a foreign language. Studying in Italy, I will not only be taught in Italian, but I will use it every minute of every day. This opportunity to study in Italy will sharpen my Italian communication skills, perfect my accent, help me assimilate into the Italian culture and strengthen my resolve to impart my linguistic knowledge to future generations of students as an Italian teacher.

It is important to interact with native speakers of Italian in order to learn how it is used on a daily basis by vibrant people with rich cultural traditions. Immersion in the language and culture is by far the best way to increase my knowledge of Italian. It will give me the opportunity to implement all of the things I have learned over the years of study in the classroom with real, first-hand experience in Italy.

Education is an active process and as such must be actively engaged in their various disciplines in order to achieve success. Studying abroad is a dynamic method of instruction. It is not only an integral part of learning to communicate effectively in Italian, but also will provide me with real-life experiences which will help me inspire my future students to learn about the Italian culture.



Brittany Ann DeLeo

Sponsored by: Scranton, Pennsylvania Chapter
Academics: Saint Joseph's University
Personal Statement:

As a Food Marketing major, I believe that studying abroad in Italy would greatly enhance my knowledge of markets in different cultures in comparison to markets in the United States. I am planning to graduate with an Italian minor. Studying in Italy would allow me to be a part of the culture and truly learn not only the language, but also the traditions. Studying abroad would also help build my character by sculpting me into a more adaptable person; this would benefit both my academics and personal goals. In the future, I would like employers to see that I am dedicated and able to accomplish any task that is presented to me. Studying abroad would also push me out of my comfort zone; it would be a great personal goal to accomplish a full semester away from family, friends and Saint Joseph's University. While studying abroad, I hope to become a volunteer of the community. I believe that becoming involved with service while studying abroad would help me to learn more about Italian people and their language. Studying abroad would allow me a chance to see partly why I am the person I have become. I was raised in an Italian household because I have Italian ancestors. It would mean a lot to me to be able to see and experience what daily life in Italy would be like.



Ashley Beth DiLiberto

Sponsored by: Rehoboth Area, Delaware Chapter
Academics: University of South Carolina
Personal Statement:

Mark Twain once said, "In twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." For two years I have been hoping for the opportunity to study abroad, but my desire to travel has been hindered by a number of other things: jobs, classes, deadlines, applications to post-graduate schools, and mostly fear of the unknown.

Since 2009, I have been enrolled at the University of South Carolina studying Public Health. I remain enrolled at the university for the purposes of the study abroad program, administered through Florence University of the Arts. I have been accepted into Dental School for Fall 2013. I worked hard throughout college as Miss Delaware Teen USA, a University Resident Mentor, President of my Dental Club and as a Research Assistant at the Women's Health Clinic in Columbia, South Carolina. All of these experiences allowed me the opportunity to grow academically, philanthropically and personally. Still there is one thing keeping me from feeling complete: my burning desire to study abroad in Italy.

Before I begin Dental School, I have committed to continue my education at the Florence University of the Arts. These credits will be applied to my transcript at the University of South Carolina. Being a proud Italian American, I cannot think of anything more rewarding than being in a country where I can learn my native language.



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