



NOVEMBER 2014 | VOL 70 | ISSUE 01

Com **UNICO**

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Perillo Tours Supports UNICO National. Story on Page 41

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGES

04 President
05 Executive Vice President
05 First Vice President
06 Second Vice President
06 Membership & Retention
07 Chaplain
07 Scholarship Director
08 First Lady
08 ComUNICO Editor
09 Executive Director

NEWS

10 Chapters & Districts
11 In Memoriam
14 New Members
15 Scholarship Guidelines
26 NJ District XI Bocce
36 Columbus Day
42 Meet the President
46 Eastern Regional
55 Ella T. Grasso Essays
58 Eastern Regional

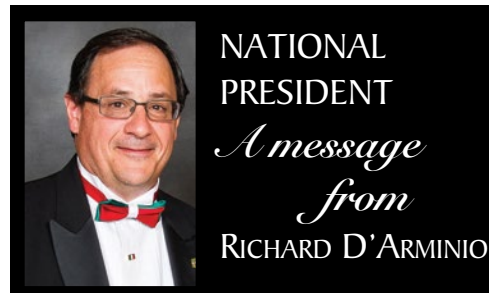
FEATURES

61 Cool Stuff
62 Book Review
63 Music Review
64 Panorama
65 Newsmakers
67 Recipes
71 Travel
74 Parting Shots

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 15, 2014 January ComUNICO Deadline
March 5-8, 2015 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting
July 28-Aug. 1, 2015 National Convention
For more events, visit www.unico.org

Title of Publication: ComUNICO Publication No. 00647700. Filed 11/15/14. No. of Issues Published Annually: 5. Annual Subscription Price: \$25.00. Mailing Address of Office of Publication, Headquarters, and Publisher: 271 U.S. Hwy. 46 West, Suite F-103, Fairfield, NJ 07004. Editor: Pat Pelonero. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding 12 months. ComUNICO is the official publication of UNICO National. Pages 1-60, and 71-72 editorial content copyrighted by UNICO National ©2014. Pages 61-70 editorial content copyrighted by Fra Noi Inc. ©2014. Volume 70, No. 1 • ComUNICO (ISSN-1044-7202) • Total Circulation 7,000+
Phone: 973.808.0035 Fax: 973.808.0043 E-mail: uniconational@unico.org
Periodical postage is paid to Caldwell, NJ and additional offices.
Postmaster, please send Form 3579 and all address changes to:
271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F-103, Fairfield, NJ 07004-2458



Although my term as your President began August 9th and I am already over two months into it I would like to summarize where I have been and where I would like to be at soon in order to accomplish the goals set forth in my inaugural speech.

We must focus our efforts in bringing back the Culture and Heritage that many feel was much stronger years ago. We need to feel "ITALIAN" again and inform others of the many accomplishments that Italians brought to this great country in the fields of Science, Music, Wines, Foods, the Arts, etc. We will have more active Italian Studies and Culture and Heritage committees working together this year, and a committee to build up the AP Testing.

September to me was the month of LA FESTA. First Lady Manuela and I attended feasts in Scranton and Hazleton Pennsylvania and Pequannock New Jersey. We also visited Pennsylvania II and the District meeting that was well attended by members of the Greater Binghamton, Carbondale and Keystone Chapters. District Governor Mark McDade ran an excellent meeting and I hope that other Districts will invite us. The First Lady and I look forward to these invitations, but you have to pick up the telephone, or e-mail me, or let the National Office know of your meetings and events.

October is known as Italian Heritage and Culture month. I had the opportunity of attending some Flag raising ceremonies in Bergen and Union Counties in New Jersey. My thanks to Ralph Contini our National Columbus Day Chairman for leading the way on October 3 in Bergen County and my thanks to New Jersey District X for the beautiful ceremony on October 10th in Union County. I also had the opportunity of receiving a proclamation from the Bergen County Freeholders on October 7th.

One of my goals is to get other Italian

American Organizations to work together to fight discrimination and spread the same message to our youth in getting more involved in our mission. I had that opportunity on October 4th when the Italian Language Inter Cultural Heritage Alliance had a beautiful dinner cruise around New York. My thanks to Mary Ann Re, Director of the Coccia Institute, for inviting me. I had the opportunity to spend time with Joseph Sciamè, President of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, Robert DiBiase, Chairman of the New Jersey Italian and Italian American Heritage Commission, and many others. I had a second opportunity to be with Mr. DiBiase at a District Culture and Heritage event hosted by the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter, and met with Umberto Mucci of We The Italians.

First Lady Manuela and I had the opportunity of visiting Gracie Mansion in New York City on October 10th to celebrate the month of October as Italian Heritage month. I attended a dinner on October 11th with the Italian Tribune as they honored many prominent Italian Americans. Then we all got ready for Columbus Day and our proud marches with our UNICO Float in Seaside Heights, New Jersey and New York City. I know that other areas like Chicago and Nutley/Belleville were represented well too. Many Chapters like Hackensack and Oradell, had ceremonies honoring a UNICAN or someone in their community with the Christopher Columbus Service Award. I attended many of them. I wish every month was October and it can be if we want it to be.

Our District Governors on the Executive Board and some of our Immediate Past District Governors will begin the initiative that I talked about in reaching out to many Chapters on a monthly basis in need of support or just to touch base and share ideas.

Let me close by saying that I am proud to be your President for the 2014-2015 year. For the past 35 years as a member and a National Officer I have experienced all the good that we do. One experience recently was attending the New Jersey Cooley's Anemia Dinner with Past National President Frank Tidona and our Office Manager Pat Pelonero. Together with them and members like Bob

Massella of the West Essex Chapter we presented a check for \$10,000.

UNICO certainly makes a difference in the lives of many. Frank De Frank, our Jimmy V Chairman and his lovely wife Linda represented UNICO at a dinner recently for Cancer that was hosted by Madeline and Frank LoRe. Frank LoRe will be the Charter President of the new Highland Beach, Florida Chapter. One of my goals this year is to work more closely with the Jimmy V Foundation through Dick Vitale and increase the awareness of the good works that we do.

More in the next issue. Hope to see you all soon, or at some point during my term.



Attending a dinner cruise on the Hornblower Infinity Yacht to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Italian Language Inter-Cultural Alliance are from left: Michangelo Vignale, Catherine Vignale, Bob DiBiase, UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio, Joe Sciamè, Mary Ann Re and Past National President Joe Agresti.



Past National President Joe Agresti and UNICO National President D'Arminio on the bridge after the dinner and cruise.

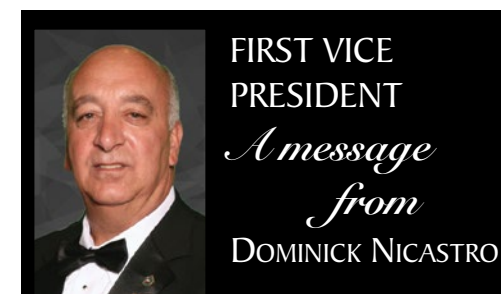


UNICO National meets with We The Italians. From left: Pat Pelonero, UNICO National President D'Arminio, Umberto Mucci, Dr. Joe Scelsa and Andre' DiMino.



CHANGE-Nothing stops an organization faster than people who believe that the way they worked yesterday is the best way to work tomorrow. Not only do our people have to change the way they act, they have got to change the way they think about the past. I like this phrase from Raymond L. Calabrese from his book-Leadership through Excellence. While we will always have a past-it is part of who we are- we now need to look to the future which will determine where we will go. It will determine our destiny.

This has been my theme since becoming the Second Vice President and it remains my goal as your Executive Vice President. COMMUNICATION is another



This year is going to be our second year of change. We started with Past National President Mike Veselka and this Executive board is continuing to make positive moves forward with our great organization UNICO.

One thing we need is the help from all of our members.

I ask that all the Chapter Presidents please communicate with your District Governors. Please get your monthly reports in to your District Governor.

Also, let us remember tax time is coming upon us soon. Please do not forget to file your District or Chapter 990.

goal. Nothing happens until people communicate. We must learn to share more information with a wider audience. I am happy to report that I am seeing more outreach between chapters and districts-but we need to do more. We need to hear about what we are accomplishing all across the country. A vehicle to do this is our new program-PiazzaUnico which will enable members to talk to each other and share ideas. But if you don't use it-we could lose it!

Don't be afraid of change — it is inevitable. Benjamin Mays tells us that the tragedy in life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal-the tragedy lies in having no goal to reach ... we have a goal and that is to start talking to each other more. Jim Rohn tells us this about goals: There's no telling what you can do when you get inspired by them. There's no telling what you can do when you believe in them. There's no telling what will happen when you act upon them!

You are going to see many changes being made by your Executive V. P. and as I go around communicating my vision for your future- the message is being

If you have questions, please contact the National Office for help.

District Governors - I need all of you to be in touch with your Chapters. Attend their meetings and guide them to build up their membership. You are the hub between local chapters and the National office.

Additionally, they should send reports in to your District Governor Chair, the National Office and to me as well. I will be holding seminars for the District Governors at the Eastern Regional, Mid-Year Board Meeting and this year's convention. Please attend this, so that I may help you with any questions you may have.

I sent out e-mails to all District Governors with my contact info. Please call anytime if you require assistance with any UNICO problems.

If you want to invite me to your meeting or any other event, you would like me to attend; I will do my best to be there. If we cannot get together for what-

received and I am seeing a new excitement about our organization. CONTINUE to work with me ...change cannot be accomplished alone. You are communicating your ideas to me and that is a positive sign that the goal set two years ago has become a reality-there is a closer link between the members and National Officers. CONTINUE to become our Partners in Progress. Our goal is to work smarter-not harder.

Growth is another priority....once we gain members-we must keep them! Developing a Public Relations program continues to be a prime goal-we must tell our story. We are the best kept secret in this country. Let's change that image.

We are on the way to reshaping our future-we are engaged in refueling, retooling, and streamlining our organization. Continue to be the stewards who will guide our destiny-continue to be the Patriots of Humanity. Thank you for making the start of my year an exciting one. Thank you for all you do to make life a little bit better for others as we engage in Service Above Self. WE ARE TEAM UNICO!

ever reason, we will do a phone conference call to make it work.

We might see a slight decrease in membership before we see a positive increase with some change. There are some Districts that I will be helping reform, and possibly increase the Chapters and its Membership. Along with our Membership / Retention Director and our Expansion Director who have several plans to make this happen.

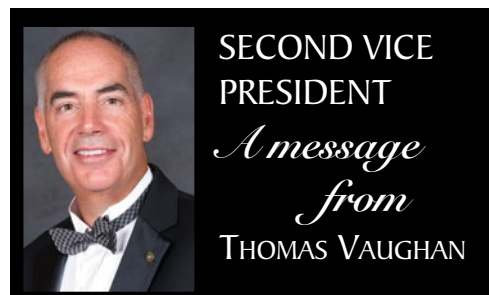
In closing, I want to leave you with this thought. An old timer from Italy told me once "Kid, we Italians can do so many things if we just stick together," He then added; "We are like this chain that holds my cross around my neck it's as strong as its weakest link".

My fellow UNICO members think about that. Let us keep this UNICO chain strong. Build its membership up and most of all, Stand together United as One and never break that link.

Thank you all and God Bless.

Save the Date!

Mid Year Board Meeting - March 5-8, 2015
Doubletree Downtown-Memphis, Tennessee



I think I can sum up the beginning of my term as Second Vice President in three words: parades, bocce, and meetings!

Parades: I was honored to march behind National President Rick at the New York City Columbus Day Parade. It was my first time marching there and it was quite an experience walking down the middle of 5th Avenue: huge crowds, lots of noise, and the waving of the green, white, and red. After the parade Connecticut District III Governor Morris Borea and I joined Executive Vice President Ann Walko, First Vice President Dominick Nicastro and members of many UNICO Chapters for a late lunch in Little Italy at the Grotta Azzura. Thanks go to New York District II Governor Joe Corsini for arranging a fabulous repast. I left my house at 7:30 am and got

home at 9:30 pm, but it was worth it!

The day before, Morris and I joined our Chapter President Mark Console and members of the Wethersfield and Greater Hartford Chapters in participating in the Hartford Columbus Day Parade. Obviously a much smaller parade, but we marched directly behind the New Britain High School band, which was a lot of fun. Thank you to Greater Hartford President Dan Falotico for his efforts in giving UNICO a strong presence at the parade.

Bocce: What a fun day we had at the New Jersey District XI Annual Bocce Tournament for Cancer Research. I believe there were 32 teams participating at this extremely well run event by Frank Paolercio and his committee. Our team of Ann Walko, Morris Borea, Membership & Retention Director Francine Nido and I acquitted ourselves well and played into the afternoon. Delicious home-made Italian food made by the hosts just added to the enjoyment. I also participated in the Wethersfield Chapter's 8th annual BoccePalooza to end our bocce season. After winning the tournament for several years, my team has now been usurped by Team Bambini consisting of Wethersfield Recording Secretary

Michele Capalbo, his wife Ali, his sister Teresa, and brother Giovanni: Congratulations to them. And thanks to the Commissioner, Mike Fortunato "Mr. Bocce" in Wethersfield.

Meetings: I was proud to swear in District Governor Geno Avenoso at the first Connecticut District II meeting of the year in Farmington. I was able to meet Delegates from Southington, Granby, Bristol, Avon, Torrington, and Farmington. I attended the first National Executive Committee meeting at the National Office in September where we accomplished a lot and planned out the UNICO year. Of course, I am also attending and participating in the Wethersfield UNICO meetings and events.

I will be reading those Chapter reports, so please send them in to the office. As I write this, I plan on attending the Southington UNICO Comedy Night, Connecticut District III meeting, Wethersfield UNICO Wine Tasting, NY/NJ/PA Meet the President, the Eastern Regional in Newport, Rhode Island, Highland Beach, Florida Charter Night, CT/MA Meet the President, and Greater Hartford UNICO Cultural Dinner. I hope to meet more of you as I attend these events.



As I have discussed in my previous articles, the role of a Membership and Retention Director on any level is demanding but extremely valuable. It's very difficult at times to make people want to get involved and sometimes even trickier to have them stay involved and most importantly remain active.

In an attempt to generate some excitement and provide an incentive for Chapters to increase their rosters, I am holding a New Member Contest. This contest will award a FREE Banner Stand to the Chapter that brings in the most new members during the month of October. All Chapter Presidents received a

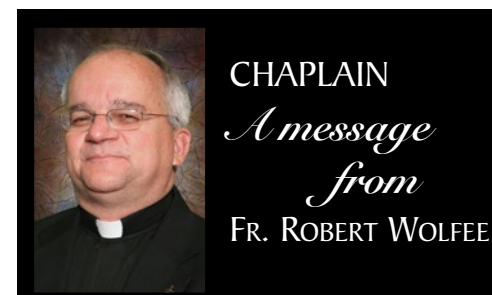
flyer with details of the contest and the winning Chapter will be announced mid November.

People may guffaw at this attempt or "gimmick", but as seen for decades in the business and advertising world, these "Buy One — Get One" deal or a "Loyal Customer Reward" specials work. Haven't we all bought something just because it was a "great deal"? Creativity and interactive communication is the key to help foster trust and understanding within our membership. I believe that we need to be creative in our approach to recruiting and retaining our membership. We need to take what has worked in the past, combine it with what's working now and start looking ahead to see what will continue to work in the future.

Now I have a new request for each member ... give me your thoughts on Membership & Retention!!!! Tell me what works when it comes to membership attraction. Communicate to me what doesn't work in retaining mem-

bers. Share your secrets to keeping your members active. Confidentially divulge what your (or another) Chapter does to scare members away. Express to me how I can help you more to promote UNICO in your community. Reveal your ideas to improve the morale of our members. Voice your concerns about member issues. State your needs for support from your District, Region and National. The idiom "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" is used to convey the idea that the most noticeable problems are the ones that get attention. It's your turn to get noticed!

Don't forget to also share with me any activities taking place in your Chapter including special events, meetings, open houses, membership drives or heritage nights. If invited, I or someone from my committee will make every effort to attend and provide support. As always, you can reach me via e-mail at UNICODoll@gmail.com and my phone number and mailing address is available on www.UNICO.org.



While we certainly have many reasons to be thankful every day, we celebrate a special national holiday every November for that purpose. Thanksgiving Day was originally set aside as a special day to thank God for all he does for us. However, it now seems that each year Thanksgiving is celebrated less as a holiday and more as the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. I write this only a few days after a major retail store announced that it would open at 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving evening in anticipation of "Black Friday." I am afraid that soon Thanksgiving will just be another



Our members have great reason to be proud of the UNICO National Scholarship Program. On every level. UNICANS have been assisting deserving young scholars since the founding of our magnificent organization. It is clear that Italian Americans value and promote higher education.

Revised National applications will be available by mid-November. As we prepare for the 2014-2015 scholarship program, there are some important adjustments you should be aware of.

It has been recommended that we update our application distribution procedure. As past practice, hard copy for all programs were mailed to District Governors, Chapter Presidents and Scholarship Chairs. Last year, applications were also e-mailed to facilitate distribution. We have received favorable feed-back, detailing a very posi-

shopping day.

In the Bible, to give thanks means to state publicly that, at a particular moment, God was at work. In this context, thanksgiving begins with an acknowledgment of God's actions in our world and on our behalf. In thanking God, we proclaim publicly who he is, who we are and what he has done for us individually and collectively. St. Paul is a good example of someone who always found reason to thank God in both good times and bad times. No matter how bad circumstances were, St. Paul began nearly every letter by giving thanks to God through Jesus.

Every day, we can choose to be grateful or not. Gratitude is something we must find within ourselves and then express it in one way or another. We teach children to say the words please and thank you, but do we adults remember to use those words ourselves? Before we can say thank you, we have

tive response to and preference for the e-mailed forms.

Consequently, it makes sense to discontinue mailing hard copies. Of course, anyone preferring to receive hard copies is encouraged to request them from the office. As always, we will evaluate this adjustment at the completion of the 2014-2015 program.

Application revisions, suggested by the Scholarship Committee, were presented at the Convention and will be reflected in the 2014-2015 forms.

Previously, the Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship required the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as documentation of financial need. Since access to the FAFSA is difficult for some students, it was decided that a candidate should have the option of submitting the FAFSA or their previous year income tax return.

The Ralph J. Torracco Doctoral Scholarship for the Study of Ancient Mediterranean History/Archaeology was highly specific, seriously limiting the number of qualified candidates. This offering is now designated the Ralph J. Torracco Doctoral Scholarship for the Study of Italian History; thus allowing participation of a greater number of applicants.

to be aware of the many gifts, large and small, that are part of our lives. The start of a new day, a brilliant sunset, a word of affirmation, a job offer, the successful completion of medical treatment, a hug from a child or the mending of a relationship are just a few things for which we can be thankful.

The word "Eucharist" means thanking. When we celebrate the Eucharist, we are proclaiming God's mighty acts on our behalf, especially in Jesus' life, death and resurrection. When we come to Mass, we thank God for all he has done for us. Unfortunately, we do not always thank God when we should, and some people take his generosity for granted. When times are tough, we often pray with great intensity, but, for some people, that may be the only time they pray. If we believe that all good things come from God, why would we not thank him when thanks are due?

God bless

Several constraints, including notification of acceptance, made it difficult for study abroad candidates to meet the submission date. The DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship deadline has been extended from February 15 to March 1.

Last season, in the attempt to address serious difficulties encountered by a number of our Chapters, we modified certain submission requirements. After careful analysis of Chapter response, it was determined these adjustments should remain in place.

Candidates must reside in the home state of an active UNICO Chapter. Every Chapter, in good standing, may nominate candidates for each of the UNICO Foundation scholarships. Applications may also be submitted through the District Governor or the UNICO National Office. The Chapter letter of endorsement is optional, allowing Chapters an opportunity to support their nominees, if they so wish.

The UNICO National Scholarship Program continues to be a great success thanks to the commitment and support of our members; because Italian Americans value and promote higher education. You have great reason to be proud!



Our journey began back in August at the 92nd UNICO National Convention. I felt so special and proud to be honored alongside Rick as he was installed as the National UNICO President. It was a momentous occasion in which our closest families and friends witnessed his inauguration. It was a bittersweet time for us all, since my father-in-law, Michael D'Arminio, Past National President, was not able to be present, but was there in spirit and shining proud on his son. My mother-in-law, May D'Arminio was so proud and happy to be a part of her son's installation, and had finally seen the fruits of her and her husband's labor of love.

The Breakers is a beautiful setting for such a special event. I had the most

fun at the Havana Night Ice Breaker and continued the whirlwind extravaganza all the way to the Gala Ball evening. I hope many in attendance at this grand gala created special memories to take with them throughout the years. I know I have. I am truly blessed and grateful for all the help and organizing talents from the people who made this Convention possible.

These past few months have shown me how welcoming each UNICO Chapter is to Rick and me. The outpouring of affection and respect is overwhelming! We've had invitations to so many wonderful events and have met many new people. While attending the events, we've been invited and embraced into the home of Joe and Gloria Cerullo, and I thank them so much for their hospitality. I was saddened their first day of the Bell'Italia Festa was a bit rained out, but they had better success the following day when the sun came out to reward them with a good crowd.

We've had accommodations made for us that were quite enjoyable and conveniently located to each events' venue. I so enjoyed the Scranton Italian

Festa. There were so many people, music and food. I took my mother with us so she could experience for the first time in her 85 years, how big a feast Scranton UNICO puts on and how it still has a traditional Italian mass.

The Pennsylvania District II meeting was so entertaining and delightful with the Chapter Delegates showering us with their affection and gifts along with lots of good conversations and prizes. I attended Columbus Day Parades and festivities along with the Point Pleasant District meeting that brought together the Chapters to discuss Italian heritage and culture. Point Pleasant presented me with an ornament with a beach theme. It just so happens to be my favorite past time. How could they have possibly known that giving me a memento that represents their city has such special meaning to me and my memories of the seashore. It must be kismet.

I cannot imagine what this year will bring, but so far, I see a lot of exciting and interesting things to come. I look forward to meeting as many UNICANS as possible and to be of any assistance to those in need.

and unrecognizable. Pictures that are taken too far away from the subject will not be of good quality and you may not see who or what is in the picture when it is placed. We try to use every picture and article as long as they are sent in on time and the quality of the picture is sufficient for print. I will be asking for feedback after the issue is mailed to the membership. We want all our members to enjoy ComUNICO and it is important for us to work with the Districts and Chapters so their articles and information look professional and appealing to our readers. Please don't forget that ComUNICO reaches Libraries and Universities throughout the country.

The staff and I would personally like to wish all our members and advertisers a Happy Thanksgiving and a Wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Ciao until next issue in January.



THANKSGIVING – ITALIAN STYLE!

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

But, what about Thanksgiving???

This was where there was a convergence of a distinctly American holiday with our Italian American traditions.

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

offi, sauteed hot peppers with potatoes and onions, etc., etc. Plus the obligatory bottles of Nonno's homemade wine!

And then, after all that, would be — you guessed it — the turkey! But, at this point, there was not much room left — but it was served, just like “real” Americans! After courteously picking at the turkey for a while it was cleared from the table. Then a bowl of nuts and nutcrackers with a tray of fresh fruit would be laid out. This was followed by the dessert — usually some homemade Italian cookies and some special pastries from the Italian bakery — like Babas — dripping in rum, canolis and sfogliatellas with the espresso! Now that was our Italian American Thanksgiving!!!

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

How about you? Do you have pasta on Thanksgiving?



There is much excitement brewing at the UNICO National Office. This is our first issue with the new format and I hope you all agree it looks great. On the cover you will see that UNICO National was presented with a check from Perillo Tours supporting UNICO National's endeavors to promote our Italian Heritage and Culture and continue the great charitable offerings to people less fortunate. Thank you to Steve Perillo for your generosity and recognizing the good works of UNICO National.

For those of you that attended the Eastern Regional meeting, I think you all

had a wonderful time. It was interesting to see that business and having fun can happen when UNICANS gather. All the members and the Executive team worked hard to meet and take care of the issues of the day and reserved some time to celebrate Halloween by dressing up in some phenomenal costumes. You all looked great.

In addressing the new format of ComUNICO, I first ask that you bear with us in this transition period. It will take a few issues to get the method down. Please follow the guidelines that were approved by the Board of Directors at the 2014 Mid-Year Board meeting. In the new format there are going to be issues with pictures submitted by the membership. Please refrain from using cell phones unless you can change the DPI or resolution setting. Newer Android phones seem to have the ability to do this. If the picture is not crisp and clear the quality in print will be fuzzy

HAS YOUR CHAPTER FILED THEIR FORM 990?

IRS Revoking Tax Exempt Status for UNICO Chapters

If your Chapter does not file the required information return (Form 990) for three consecutive years, the IRS will automatically revoke your tax exempt status. We have heard from several Chapters that have received the Automatic Revocation Letter from the IRS.

Once your tax exempt status is revoked, you will have to reapply for tax exempt statue by filing for a determination letter with the IRS. You will need to complete Form 1024 (which is a 19 page application) and pay a user fee of \$100.

Below are the filing requirements for nonprofit/tax exempt entities. Please make sure your Chapter complies with the filing requires in order to avoid the automatic revocation.

IRS Filing Requirements

The IRS requires every nonprofit/tax exempt entity to file an information return which is due on the 15th day of the fifth month following the close of your year end. For a June 30 year end, the return is due November 15th and for a December 31 year end, the return is due May 15th. The type of return that is required depends on the amount of the gross receipts for the Chapter.

Gross Receipts not normally in excess of \$50,000 – Must file an annual electronic notice (e-postcard) Form 990-N. This can only be done electronically and there is no paper return available for this category. This is very simple and does not require any financial information, only 5 or 6 questions that must be answered.

Gross Receipts greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 – Must file a paper return Form 990-EZ.

If you have any questions with your filing requirements or need some help in completing the required forms, please call the National Office (973) 808-0035.

Save Columbus Day! Sign the Petition. Go to www.savecolumbusday.com

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Raritan Valley Chapter New Board members from left: Joe Forte, Terri Sapp, Sharon Gerard, Joe Ferrera, Gerry Cicero and Roger Delin. Members were sworn in on September 17, 2014.



From left: Robert Bengivenga, New Raritan Valley Chapter President Joyce Walker and Past National President Renato Biribin.

WETHERSFIELD, CT



Team Bambini are the winners of Wethersfield UNICO's 8th Annual BoccePalooza Tournament that wrapped up the bocce season. Team Bambini, consisting of members of the Capalbo family, defended their championship. Proceeds from the tournament go to the Chapter contribution to the Jimmy "V" Foundation.



Wethersfield UNICO members get ready to sell pizza at the 35th Annual Corn Fest held at the town green. From left: Al Marino, Dom Fusco, Tony Santucci, Tom Misenti, Jody Dinatalie, Joe Balzo and Emidio Pizzoferrato.

LYNDHURST, NJ



Patty Hirsch helps the Honor Guard lay the wreath at the Columbus Statue. The Township had a brief ceremony, food and plenty of entertainment for all.



Members of the Lyndhurst Chapter participated in the Lyndhurst Columbus Day Activities on Sunday October 12, 2014. From left: Mark Fiume and Patty Hirsch stand by the banner.

WAYNE, NJ

Wayne UNICO recently held our annual Golf Outing Fund-raiser. We had a great number of golfers on hand and enjoyed great weather for the event.

This year's golf outing was held in our town of Wayne, New Jersey, at the Preakness Valley Golf Club. We are pleased that we were able to raise over \$5,000 for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. One of our member's daughter has diabetes, so this cause was close to our Chapter and we hope that our donation helps out those in need. Our Chapter is planning on hosting several clothing drives over the next few months. We have found this is a great way to help our local community and we get a lot of help from our local students as well. Coming up on November 1st is our annual Halloween Party. If you are interested in attending, it will be held at The Paris Inn in Wayne, New Jersey. Also in the planning stage is another Heritage Day. Since we had such a great turnout at our first event, we are hosting another one on Sunday, February 8, 2015. For information on upcoming events, please visit us at www.wayneunico.org.

We would love to have our fellow UNICO members join us!



From left: Mike Morandi, Chapter President Steve Calantone, Rob Calantone and Doug Rouse.

Donate to the
UNICO FOUNDATION
Today!
Send tax-deductible checks to:
UNICO Foundation
271 US Highway 46 West
Suite F-103
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004

ROSETO, PA



Phil DeRea provided entertainment with encouragement from Dan Martino. Both are long time UNICO members.



Grill work was provided by Frank DeFrank and Lou Capozzolo supported by John Fiore, Joe Danubio and Joe Diorio.



Catherine Capozzolo has a break from service to visit with Dorothy Ruggiero, Phyllis Schiavone and Marie Pullo.

In Memoriam

ALICE C. BELFIORE

Alice C. Belfiore, 92, of Kearny, New Jersey. Surrounded by her loving family, Mrs. Belfiore died peacefully at home on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2014.

Mrs. Belfiore had been the office manager for Arlington Tax and Bookkeeping for 29 years. She was a past president and member of the Ladies of UNICO and the Arlington Woman's Club.

In 1993, Mrs. Belfiore was predeceased by her husband, Sebastian "Buster" Belfiore. She is survived by her children Celeste (Lou) Pandolfi, Bernadette (Tom) Antonelli, Joseph Belfiore and Patricia (Dave) Despotovich; siblings Mary, Molly and Dominick Cancia, and Rosemarie Latini; grandchildren Chris and Jennifer Szpila, Brianna and Michael Antonelli, and Alex and Dana Despotovich.

CARBONDALE, PA



The Carbondale Chapter was proud to install its new President Brian Durkin (R). Congratulating him on his new office is Past President Thomas Gretzula.



The Carbondale Chapter recently participated in the city's Pioneer days with their annual pizza stand. From left: Richie Ruggiero, Nunzio Gatto, Kitty Golin, Joe Masco, Chip Calabro and John Lemoncelli.

ORADELL, NJ



Oradell UNICO recently held a ceremony to honor the late Fred LaMonica, a Charter member and former Mayor of Oradell. Nick Palermo presented an honorary plaque to Fred's daughter, Susan LaMonica Pash at the ceremony.

CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN, IL



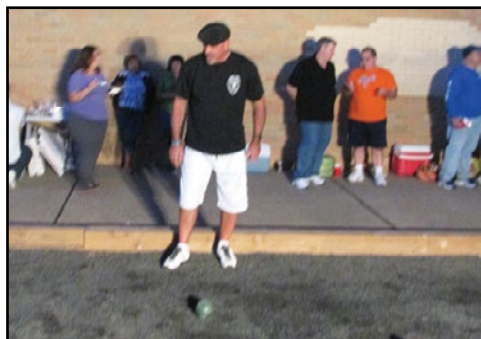
From left: Jack Cerone, Rich Caifano, and Joe Lucania present the Chapter's Piccolo Scholarship Award to Giuseppe Toia.



From left: Jack Cerone, Rich Caifano, and Joe Lucania present the Chapter's Randazzo Scholarship Award to Nicole Jaconetty.



CLARK, NJ



Clark UNICO christened the new recently installed BOCCE court. Over thirty Clark UNICANS came out to learn the great sport of Bocce. Complete with pizza, wine, desserts and Italian music, it was a great night of fun and camaraderie. Henry Trani observes the location of the Bocce balls to see who gets the point.



Anna Pace and Maureen Manasia try their skill at tossing the Bocce balls.



Group photo of the Bocce players.



From left: Ray Lombardi and Adrian Oddi relax after selling 50/50 at the feast.



Clark President Ralph Bernardo hangs out in the beer tent with fellow UNICANS at the feast.

PT. PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

ACES of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter and Youth Members were invited to a dinner recently to honor eight new scholarship recipients.

The Scholarship committee, comprised of members Claire Durso, Diane Grabowski and Janice Onorato, presented checks along with a UNICO Youth Membership to Scholarship recipients. Two memorial awards were also presented by Vincent Dominianni in honor of Patricia Caron Dominianni and Mrs. Grabowski awarded the William Grabowski Scholarship. In addition ACES and Youth Members raised funds to award their own scholarship to a high school student, who will be joining their Point Pleasant UNICO Youth group.

In October the ACES and Youth Members under the direction of Chairperson Marena Lobosco, chartered a bus to attend the Ocean County Columbus Day Parade. Over 40 young people marched with the Point Pleasant Beach

Banner in back of the UNICO National float.

Next up for this Youth group is a performance in Italian at the Chapter's Italian Heritage Dinner and then organizing a Clothing Drive for the Needy. Great work Youth of UNICO!



ACES Members march in Ocean County Columbus Parade with Point Pleasant Beach banner.



Chapter President Debbie Vaccaro along with her committee present scholarships to outstanding high school students.



UNICO National Rick D'Arminio and his wife Manula were guests of Point Pleasant Beach Chapter for their annual Italian Heritage Night. From left: Manuela and Rick D'Arminio, Chapter President Debbie Vaccaro, Robert DiBiase and Grace Gynn.

ITALIAN STUDIES/LOYOLA UNIVERSITY

At our 2014 Convention UNICO Foundation approved a grant for Loyola of Chicago to establish a Chair in Italian Studies. This represents the 7th such campaign that UNICO has either led or whole heartedly supported over 28 years.

During that period we can take pride that without our guidance, assistance and most of all our generosity none of them would have ever reached the amount of donations required to complete the campaigns. In all cases we viewed these efforts as part of collaborative effort by forming a partnership with a major university.

Today, we can point to six Chairs of Italian Studies, 2 Italian-American Institutes, an Italian Book Collection, a Fellowship in Modern Italian History, European Migration Archives (including a whole section on the Italian contribution) and well over \$2 million in endowed scholarships. The current value of all those endowments exceeds \$13 million.

Loyola of Chicago approached UNICO to help complete their campaign. The University has and is doing all they can to make such an effort successful. They are matching dollar for dollar, a commitment of up to \$500,000. They formed a committee that was totally sup-

ported by the University and their development personnel.

In order to be a success the campaign was required to raise \$500,000. At this juncture they are approaching \$400,000 and are closing in on completing this effort. Our Foundation needs your support and is asking each chapter to donate \$250 to the Loyola Chair.

In doing so we will have completed a crown made up of endowments that resides at the University of Connecticut, Seton Hall University, Montclair State, Hofstra University, SUNY Stony Brook, University of California Long Beach and finally Loyola of Chicago.

At the same time the total of the endowment for Italian Studies will exceed \$14 million. What does this investment bring with it? It has resulted in over 1,200 students currently studying Italian, Language, History, Art, Cinema and Culture. It also has yielded many special programs in Italian-American History.

Adding Loyola to our collection of Chairs brings additional programs in Italian Studies that will easily add another 200 students a year. If that is not what we want to accomplish then frankly I am hard pressed to understand what is more important.

Through UNICO's efforts and support a text book is being created that students will be required to buy when they select Italian-American History as a course of study. This work is being authored by William Connell, LaMotta Chair at Seton Hall and Stan Pugliese, Queensboro UNICO Chair at Hofstra. Every other Chair is contributing a chapter to this book addressing their particular discipline and knowledge of Our History.

By helping to complete this campaign UNICO will be able to point with a great deal of pride to Universities situated in Connecticut, New Jersey (2), New York (2), Illinois, California and Illinois that have created Islands of Italian Studies at their respective institutions. This is truly a coast-to-coast effort within centers of concentrated Italian-American population.

We hope that you understand the importance of this and will gladly contribute what we are asking. For additional information please contact our Foundation President John DiNapoli to solicit speakers willing to attend chapter and district meetings to discuss the importance of this latest effort in Italian Studies.

CLIFFSIDE PARK, NJ



The Cliffside Park Chapter awards Jill Fucci, a teacher at Cliffside Park High School, for her outstanding efforts in helping our Chapter with fund-raisers. From left: Coach Jim Fucci, Jill Fucci, New Jersey District VII Governor Jim Fucci, Fran Fucci and Nannette Scarelli.



New Jersey District VII Governor Jim Fucci of the Cliffside Park Chapter presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Dan Rome for all his help and dedication to the Chapter. Dan is always there to assist our Chapter with our fund-raisers.



A Certificate of Appreciation was presented at our September Chapter meeting to Dan Rome. Forefront from left: Sharon Rome, New Jersey District VII Governor Jim Fucci and Dan Rome. Background from left: Gerry Ranieri, Fran Fucci, Bernice Ranieri, Nannette Scarcelli and Frank Sodano.

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.

SEPTEMBER

BETHLEHEM
Michael Guerriere
Paul Iannelli
Joseph Laureti III

GRANBY
Kimberly Corallo

GRTER BINGHAMTON

Dianne Battisti
Barbara Brown
Cheryl De Rosa
Anthony Mosco
Rosanna Mucilli
Marie Nelson
Anthony Pettinato
Joshua Walsh

GREATER RAMSEY
Patricia Valenzano

HACKENSACK
Frank Macchione Jr.

KEYSTONE
Michael Tammara

LIVINGSTON
Rosemarie Mentasano

MARIN
Cody Bersaglieri
Barbara Lombardi
Mark Malatesta
Karen Raccanello

MONTCLAIR
Kathleen Bennett
Vincent La Paglia
Michael Palma

NEWINGTON
Jean Casasanta
Anthony Morello

NUTLEY
A. Peter Ardito
Angela Blasi
Daniel Carnicella
John Kelly III

PITTSFIELD
Nancy Fuore

PLAINFIELDS
Frances De Andrea
Carmela Valluzzi

PT. PLEASANT BEACH
Katie Bottrell
Angelo Falabella

Paige Gale
William La Rosa
Kevin Mcelwee
Claire Posluszny
Raelyn Schnappauf
Linda Sullivan

QUEENSBORO
Salvatore Crifasi

REHOBOTH AREA
John Bogia
Shelley Snyderman

ROCKAWAY TWSP.
Jon Coniglio
Garry Del Greco
Judith Del Greco
Rosina Palumbo
Victor Palumbo
Samuel Saporite

RUTHERFORD
George Dzurillay
Jean Dzurillay

SADDLE BROOK
Kane Jackowski-Majka
Diana Zoino

SAYRE
Thomas Landy

SOUTHINGTON
Lawrence Alberti
Adam Tarfano

SPARTA
Frank Cutrone
Matthew Pondiscio

ST. JOE'S H. S.
MONTVALE
Ardis Baskayan
Eric Baskayan
Eugene Baskayan
Lucas Baskayan
Anthony Del Ponte
Richard Del Ponte
Gary Gatto
Tara Sweeney

STAMFORD
Richard Smeriglio

WATERBURY
Roseanne Martino

WETHERSFIELD
John Rossi

OCTOBER

BETHLEHEM
Rosemary S.Hensel

BRICK
Stephen Butera
Gary M. La Rosa
Frank Pannucci Jr.
Eugene Quintieri
William Turano
Rosa Anna Weldon

CARBONDALE
Rose Marie Crott
Kathryn Golin
John J. Lemoncelli

CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN
Bruce Cherry
Andrew Giglione

CLARK
Michael Loguidice III
Rita SaccoNoonan

FARMINGTON
Lawrence G. Santilli

HAZLETON
Michael DeCosmo
Ryan DeCosmo
Eric Demusz
James J. DiGiandomencio
Nicholas R. Pane

LIVINGSTON
Antoinette J. De Ieso
Pasquale J. De Ieso

MARIN
Vicki L. Masseria

MARLBORO
Domenic Lopergolo

MEDIA
Paul Guidone

NUTLEY
Marty DePalma
Johanna Desordi

PARAMUS
Joseph L. Mecca, Jr.
Anthony Polemeni
Mary Ann Polemeni

PASSAIC/CLIFTON
Michael Cioffi

PITTSFIELD
Alexander Bertelli
Dario L. Cavallero
Robert B. Mcninch
Mark A. Messina
Jackie Sadera
Kevin Sherman

PLAINFIELD
William D Arienzo
Jennifer DeCosta
Stacy Limone
George Malanga

PT. PLEASANT BEACH
Douglas C. Peterson

RARITAN VALLEY
Judith Copt
Elaine Costa
Annette Del Rocco
Gloria Friedgen
Diane M. Pearly
Jacquelyn Puzio

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD
Robert Nardone

SPARTA
Diane Vitale

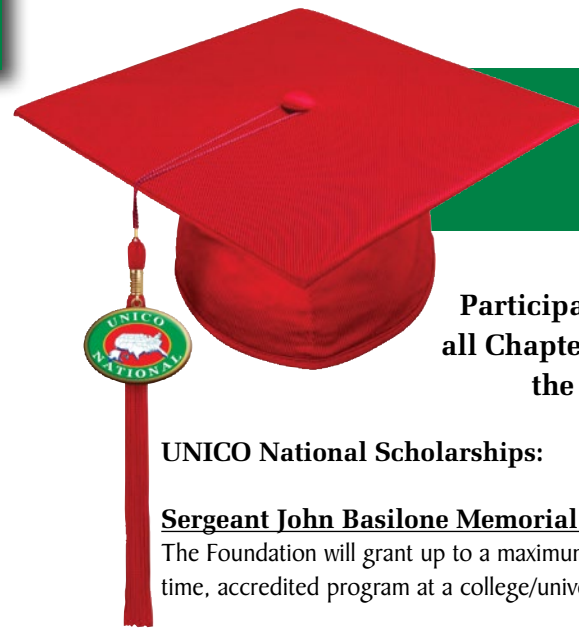
ST. JOE'S H. S. MONTVALE
Paul Banach
Angelo De Salvo
Nick Diani
Steven Foster
Kevin Goldstein
Vincent Mainiero
Dylan Ruggieri
Joseph Tandurella

ST. LOUIS
Jack J. Allenworth

WESTFIELD
Sandra Giordano

WESWOOD
Anthony Buonomo

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES



Participation in the UNICO National Scholarship Program is a privilege afforded all Chapters in good standing. We encourage our members to take full advantage of the opportunity to nominate candidates for these valuable awards.

UNICO National Scholarships:

Sergeant John Basilone Memorial Graduate Scholarship

The Foundation will grant up to a maximum of \$6,000, paid out at \$1,500 per year, for a graduate scholarship. The awardee must attend a full-time, accredited program at a college/university in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Dr. Benjamin Cottone Memorial Scholarship

The Foundation will grant a \$5,000 scholarship, paid on award, to a student pursuing graduate education at an accredited medical school in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarships

The Foundation will provide grants valued at \$2,500 each, paid on award, to students attending accredited prelicensure or graduate nursing programs in the United States. Preference is given to applicants demonstrating financial need. A candidate must be a United States citizen. This program is open to nursing students of all ethnicities.

Undergraduate Awards

Major Don S. Gentile Scholarship Alphonse A. Miele Scholarship

William C. Davini Scholarship Theodore Mazza Scholarship

The Foundation will grant four scholarships valued at \$6,000 to high school seniors who will be attending, full-time, an accredited college/university program in the United States; paid out at \$1,500 per school year up to a maximum of 4 years. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage. Candidates are encouraged to apply for all four scholarships. To do so requires the original application and three complete copies, including attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because scholarships are judged at different locations.

DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship

The Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$1,250 each, for study in Italy. Candidates must be currently enrolled, full-time, in an accredited college or university in the United States, pursuing a degree. The study abroad program must be eligible for credit by the student's college/university. An applicant must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage.

Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship

The Foundation will provide two literary scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each. Application for this program will be open to matriculated college students. Terms of submission require the candidate to present, in writing, an original short story or essay celebrating their Italian heritage.

Louise Torracco Memorial Scholarship for a Doctorate in Science

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

Ralph J. Torracco Doctoral Scholarship for the Study of Italian History

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

Ralph J. Torracco Doctoral Scholarship for Music Study

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

21ST CENTURY

21ST CENTURY APPEAL —
HELP US CONTINUE OUR LEGACY

Over a decade ago, the leaders of UNICO National, through the UNICO Foundation, realized that in order to continue the proud and rich history of charitable giving for generations to come, a Permanent Endowment Fund was needed! So, the 21st Century Campaign began. A bold but realistic goal of One Million Dollars was set. Many of us remember how it started; each Chapter was asked to contribute just \$1,000 a year for 3 years! Proudly, many Chapters and more individuals stepped up to the plate and provided these leadership gifts. As the years went by funds were added by having special events, Charity auctions, Annual appeals from Convention floors, and bequests. Presently, the

Fund has now grown to nearly \$750,000. You and your Chapter's help is needed to complete the goal. Once the funding reaches that million dollar goal, it's time to celebrate! Then all of us as members of the UNICO Foundation will take pride as funding for such programs related to our Italian American Culture and Heritage, Education, Scholarships, Charities and Anti-Bias efforts will continue forever!

To some of us who have been members a long time, this isn't new ... the objectives aren't new ... the charities aren't new. In any economy however, it becomes increasingly more difficult to maintain a level of charitable giving we as UNICANS are accustomed to. Our National organization was built on a solid motto of "Service Above Self" — helping our fellow neighbors in need. Many of you may not realize that we cannot spend one dollar of

that fund until the goal is reached! So in order to spend the interest and earnings on an annual basis to help so many in need as well as maintaining our Scholarships and Charitable programs, the goal needs to be met.

If you have donated in the past, a warm hug and a hearty handshake goes out as your gift is appreciated. If you haven't, please consider a gift — we're a 501(c)3 organization so your donation is tax-deductible. For many young people, the costs of raising a family, much less paying off that tuition loan, is substantial and difficult to deal with. Therefore, we owe it to them, to keep our heritage and the great works of charity that UNICO provides alive and well.

Thank you for your consideration and past support. To give, please contact the National Office!

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV



At the first New Jersey IV District Meeting, held on Thursday, September 25th, 2014, the UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko swore in the last of the District's Executive Board. All of the New Jersey District IV's pictures can also be seen on their website at www.UNICO-NJdistrictIV.4mg.com, and also at www.facebook.com/UNICO.NJdistrictIV



From the left: Ann Walko, Joe Barone, Christina Castillo and David D'Arco.



Pictured at the first New Jersey IV District Meeting are Past National Presidents, National Officers, District Officers and Chapter Presidents.

Save the Date!



New York District II
Gala Luncheon

Sunday, December 7, 2014
12-5 PM at the Chateau Briand
440 Old Country Road, Carle Place, NY
Proceeds to Benefit the 21st Century Fund
Info: DG Joseph Corsini 917-578-6900



David M. Donnini

1720 S. Elena Ave.
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

www.davidmdonnini.com
davidmdonnini@yahoo.com



SCRANTON, PA



The Al Dante Memorial Award was presented to Jim Baress for his dedication upholding UNICO National's motto "Service Above Self". From left: Dante Bieri, Lisa Dante Bieri, Jim Baress and Dave Bieri, Scranton Chapter President.



UNICO Scranton Chapter Volunteers prepared over 4500 pounds of Porketta for their Porketta stand at La Festa Italiana. The festival is held Labor Day weekend in Scranton, Pennsylvania.



UNICO Scranton Chapter Ladies Auxiliary Craft and Gift Fair Planning Committee. Seated from left: Gayle DeAntona, Ladies Auxiliary President; Lori Nozzi and Patti Montalbano. Standing from left: Julie Yando; Ashley Yando; Gloria Bernardi; Diane Alberigi; Carole Dougherty, Rosalie Prizzi and Tana Cacciamani.



The Scranton Chapter celebrated October as Italian Heritage Month by sponsoring an event which featured the showing of "La Mia Strada — My Road" — a most unique film by five time Emmy Award winning Director Michael DiLauro at the Scranton Cultural Center. A spirited discussion of our heritage followed the film. Pictured is Scranton Chapter Film Committee.



Members from throughout Pennsylvania gathered for the Annual "La Radunata" an evening of fellowship and food at Arcaro and Genell's in Old Forge.



From left: Ed Staback, Past National President Chris DiMaggio, Frank DeFrank, President Roseto Chapter; Mary Marrara, President Scranton Chapter; Gus Concilio, Bethlehem Chapter; Joe Cerullo, Hazleton Chapter; Frank Blasi, National Legal Counsel and Vito Geroulo.

HACKENSACK, NJ

The Hackensack Chapter held its 43rd Annual Columbus Day Ceremony on Saturday, October 11, 2014. The event was held in Columbus Park and the Hackensack Chapter presented the Chapter's "Distinguished Community Service Award" to Father. Brian H. Laffler, SSC Rector the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Hackensack.

The event was attended by UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio as well as many Chapter members, city officials and dignitaries. The event was culminated with a wreath laying at the statue of Christopher Columbus.



Members attend the wreath laying at the statue of Christopher Columbus.



From left: UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Elyse Buonomo, Ralph Contini, Hackensack Chapter President Gaeton DiNapoli, Honoree Fr. Brian H. Laffler, Pat Ruggiero, District Governor NJ District VII Joseph Kovacs, Donald Onorato and Al Ferrante.

**The Deadline for the
January 2015 issue of
ComUNICO is:
Monday, December 15, 2014.**

Please send all submissions to:
comunico@unico.org

FARMINGTON, CT

FARMINGTON CHAPTER PLANS FOR NEW YEAR!

President Frank Dolce welcomed members of the Farmington Chapter to the opening of a new year of UNICO meetings on September 10th at Cugino's Restaurant. An events update was provided which included The Unionville Festival, 45th Annual Pasta Dinner, Columbus Day Parade in New York City, "A Taste of Tuscany" "Wine Tasting, Relay for Life, and the Joe Filomeno Memorial Golf Tournament.



Frank Dolce welcomes Anne DeNuccio as a member of the Farmington Chapter.



District Governor Geno Avenoso shares information about upcoming events from other UNICO Chapters in our District.



Planning for the 45th Annual Pasta Dinner are from left: Sal DiMauro, Frank Dolce, Tom Sticca and David DeNuccio.

PITTSFIELD, MA

2014 GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Pittsfield UNICO golf tournament has become one of the largest and most successful golf tournaments in the region. It has established a reputation for great food and a premium raffle. It is well supported by Chapter members as well as 200 local businesses.

Members of the Farmington Chapter to the opening of a new year of UNICO meetings on September 10th at Cugino's Restaurant. An events update was provided which included The Unionville Festival, 45th Annual Pasta Dinner, Columbus Day Parade in New York City, "A Taste of Tuscany" "Wine Tasting, Relay for Life, and the Joe Filomeno Memorial Golf Tournament.



Chapter member Frank DiPierro plays a round with the morning group before manning one of the many volunteer assignments in the afternoon.



Chapter members/volunteers Paula King (l) and Sue Carmel (r) sell 50/50 tickets. The winning ticket was drawn later in the day at the awards dinner.



Chapter members/volunteers from left: Gary Valenti, Steve Romano, Wayne Ditore and Dana Spring start the morning golfers out with a tasty sausage egg and cheese sandwich for breakfast.



Chapter members/volunteers from left: Bill Coan, Nancy Bertelli, Linda O'Brien, Rudy Sacco and Alex Bertelli man the registration table for the incoming golfers.



Chapter President Dom Sacco welcomes Nancy Fuore to the chapter after being sworn in.

MARLBORO, NY



From left: Steve Runburg, Anthony Andoce, Joe Agresti, UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio, Chapter President Willy Biggins and Rich Gerentine. The clambake/picnic took place at the Benmarl Winery in Marlboro.

ELIZABETH, NJ

SERVICE DAY

The Chapter agreed to commit its resources for the 2014 Community Service Project to a cleanup and beautification effort at the Peterstown Community Center/ LaCorte Library. Behind the facility is a neighborhood bocce court with an outdoor table area that is utilized by senior citizens. The group participated in a spring clean-up of the parking lot, flower planting, and maintenance of the bocce court.

After working hard that morning, the members were invited to Sacco's Meat Market where owner and fellow UNICAN, John Sacco, had prepared a wonderful lunch. Prior to lunch, however, we had to make time to enjoy a nice game of bocce!



Sal Coppa (2nd from right) joins the Elizabeth Chapter Members.



Working on the bocce court cleanup from left: Joe Sutera, Joe Chiari and Henry and Alex Marcantonio.

FIRST ANNUAL CAR SHOW

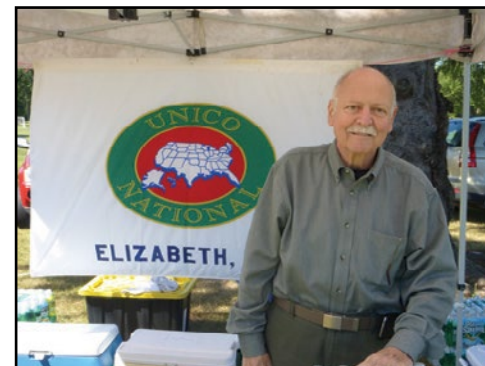
Despite a rainout on Elizabeth's First Annual Car Show, the sun was shining on the UNICO event and its participants the next day. So on Sunday, September 14th, over 85 classic cars rolled onto the beautiful grass field in Oak Ridge Park. Although the event lost some participants due to the prior day's rain, those

that came out enjoyed the sunshine, food and camaraderie with their fellow car enthusiasts. Participants and visitors alike enjoyed the event and said they would love to come back to the Elizabeth Chapter's Second Annual UNICO Car Show!

So, rev up your engines ... we'll see you all next year!!!



Welcome to the Car Show!



President Lou Bani.

ELIZABETH MEMBERSHIP GROWS

The 2014-15 membership year for Elizabeth has started with a flurry. With our existing members actively spreading the word, we were able to attract seven new members who were anxious to join our Chapter. In June, we had the privilege of having UNICO National's First Vice President Ann Walko, swear in the seven newest members. The Chapter's membership target for 2014-15 is 80 members based on a 15% annual increase. These newest members have increased the Chapter's membership to 76. This has been a terrific start towards achieving that goal. The new members include: Alfonso Campanella, Cindy Coppa, Tony Famiglietti, Accursio Marcianite, Janet Mazzarella, Al Munoz and Phil Tavormina.

Welcome to the UNICO family!



From left: Tony Famiglietti, Alfonso Campanella, Phil Tavormina, Cindy Coppa, Chapter President Lou Bani, UNICO National First Vice President Ann Walko, Carol Cascio, Al Munoz, Accursio Marcianite and Janet Mazzarella.

BROOKHAVEN, NY

The September meeting of the Brookhaven Chapter, held at Mario's Restaurant in Setauket, featured a most entertaining talk on the language and dialects of Italy by Dr. Lori Repetti, Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Linguistics Department at Stony Brook University and the mother of our Chapter Scholarship Grant Winner, Chiara Repetti Ludlow.

Dr. Repetti studies the history of the Romance languages, how they change, and their similarities and differences. Her specialty is the study of Italian and Italian dialects. Italy is one of the most linguistically diverse countries in Europe. Dr. Repetti also runs the Language Diversity lecture series for the Language Learning and Research Center at Stony Brook University.



Dr. Repetti speaks at the September meeting.



HERITAGE AND CULTURE



HERITAGE AND CULTURE

A message from SAL MANGANO

GENERAL ITALO BALBO 1896-1940

Italo Balbo was born in Quartesana, near Ferrara in 1896, and played a decisive role in developing Benito Mussolini's Air Force. Politically active from a young age, he joined in a revolt in Albania under the leadership of Ricciotti Garibaldi, the son of Giuseppe Garibaldi.

As World War I broke out and Italy declared its neutrality, Balbo supported joining the war on the side of the Allies. Once Italy joined the war, he served with the 8th Alpine Regiment and earned one

bronze medal and two silver medals. He reached the rank of Captain.

After the war, he studied in Florence and obtained a degree in Social Sciences. He returned to his hometown of Ferrara and worked as a bank clerk.

In 1921, he joined the Fascist movement under the leadership of Benito Mussolini and became Secretary of the Ferrara Fascist Organization. He grew quickly within the ranks of the Fascist Party, gaining favor with many of its leaders. He was one of the main planners of the March on Rome in October 1922, which would ultimately bring Italy under Fascist rule.

Despite the fact that he knew nothing about aviation, he was appointed Under Secretary of State for Air in 1926. He quickly learned to fly and set about reorganizing Italy's Air Force. In 1928, he became General of the Air Force and the following year he was named Minister of the Air Force.

As the Colonial Governor of Libya

from 1933 to 1940, Balbo transformed Libya from a backward colony to a model Italian province. To many, Balbo seemed to embody a noble vision of Fascism and the new Italy.

During World War II, he called for Italy to side with Great Britain, contrary to Mussolini's plans. He remained loyal and lead air patrols over North Africa. On June 28, 1940, he was killed while landing on the Italian airfield of Tobruk, Libya. The government in Rome maintained that the incident was an accident of friendly fire, but Balbo's closest friends and family strongly believed that it was an assassination on Mussolini's orders. A 1997 interview with a gunner who shot him down claimed that Balbo's plane was simply identified as an enemy target. It has never been proven that Balbo was assassinated.

Adapted from various Internet sources.

Researched and submitted by Salvatore J. Mangano, PNP, Heritage Chair.

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COLUMBUS DAY FLAG RAISINGS

ITALIAN FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

In celebration of the kick-off of Italian-American Heritage Month in New Jersey, Bergen County hosted it's now Fifth Annual Italian flag-raising ceremony in Hackensack, New Jersey. It was a wonderful event that featured remarks by the Bergen County Executive Kathleen A. Donovan, and a Keynote speech by the Honorable Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy in New York. A



Officials and dignitaries proudly watch the Italian Flag being raised.



Sparta UNICO raises the Italian Flag in honor of Columbus Day and Italian Heritage Month.



Passaic/Clifton President Dave D'Arco and Clifton Mayor James Anzaldi raise the flag in Clifton.

uniformed Italian Carabinieri was dispatched from Rome to accompany the Consul General of Italy. UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio offered remarks and received a special recognition award along with Dr. Thomas Bellavia, President of The Columbians. UNICO National Columbus Day Chair and Italian Flag Raising Organizer, Ralph A. Contini offered stirring remarks urging the community to strive for a nationwide celebration of Italian Heritage and Columbus events to promote the positive contributions that Italians and Italian Americans



From left: Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino; Bergen County Freeholders Maura DeNicola, James Tedesco, Joan Voss and David Ganz; Ralph A. Contini; Bergen County Executive Kathleen A. Donovan, Natalia Quintavalle, Consul General of Italy; UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio, Dr. Thomas Bellavia, President of The Columbians and Carabinieri Donato Ancona.



Members of the Keystone and Scranton Chapters join other Lackawanna area organizations for the flag raising



Passaic/Clifton members and local dignitaries attend the flag raising ceremony in Clifton.

have made to our country and the world and to redouble our efforts to ensure and protect the observance of Columbus Day. Commemoration presentations and the Italian Heritage Day proclamation were bestowed by The County Executive and the freeholders to Ralph Contini for organizing and promoting the Bergen County Italian Flag raising ceremonies. A wonderful bi-lingual Invocation was delivered by Father Brian Laffler, the Rector of the Church of St. Anthony of Padua in Hackensack. The colors were presented by the Bergen County Police Department.



Ralph Contini addresses the crowd on the importance of Italian-American Heritage month and urging the attendees to redouble the efforts to ensure and protect the observance of Columbus Day.



Annual New Jersey District IX Columbus Day Flag Raising Ceremony October 12th. From left: Joe Bolognese, Gerry Heytink, Paramus Chapter President Lois Iula, Westwood Chapter President Stephen Bifulco, Ralph Spataro and New Jersey District IX Governor Marge Spataro, and Joe Iula.



Orange/West Orange Annual wreath ceremony in honor of Columbus Day. From left: Ken Broderick, Chapter President Anna Marie Russo, Frank DeMaio, and Joe Vena

CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN, IL

The Chicago West Suburban Chapter recently held its biggest event of the year, the annual golf outing. Profits increased by 50% from last year, due to an increase in member participation and repeat participants. The committee members are Joe Mollica, Mario Veltri, Loreto LoCasio, Bill Randazzo, Joe Madonia, Paul Domico, John Panvino, and Ed Gesualdo.

In addition to the fun, two academic scholarships were presented to Nicole Alicia Jaconetty and Giuseppe Vincenzo Toia. Both students and their families attended the night's festivities.

This event has been the third Wednesday in August for over 40 years and has recently returned from a few year hiatus. The outing is on its way to once again becoming the biggest and best golf outing in Illinois. We have obtained sponsorships from as far as Milwaukee, Wisconsin from a relative of our Past President Ed Gesualdo.

A new event this year, which was also very successful, was our first annual Cigar Smoke at Porretta's Restaurant hosted by John Panvino. The rain did not stop the participants who went home stuffed, smoked and filled with prizes.

Looking to the future, events such as our candle light bowling, night at the races, Christmas Party for kids and golf outings are just some of the ways we are trying to spread the news about UNICO and our Chapters around the country.

Proceeds from all our events go to local and National charities, like the Jimmy "V" Foundation. Look for future articles regarding fund-raising disbursements.

We invite all Chapters across the country to visit Chicago and attend our events. Next year's outing is August 17, 2015. www.unicocws.com



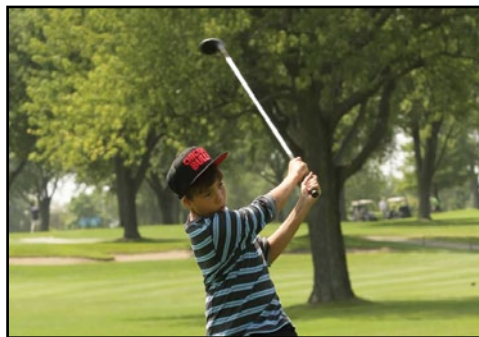
From left: Past National President Mike Veselka and Mike Sberna prepare a luncheon feast for golfers.



From left: Mario Veltri and Paul Domico await the golfers.



From left: Golf Committee — Rich Montalbano, Joe Madonia, Mario Veltri, Loreto LoCasio, Ed Gesualdo, John Panvino, Joe Mollica, Paul Domico and Billy Randazzo.



Future Member Frank Madonia.

BAYONNE, NJ



Members of the Bayonne Chapter attend the Madeline Fiadini LoRe Foundation for Cancer Prevention's Annual Gala. From left: Richard Treonze, Steve Laskow, Roseto Chapter President Frank DeFrank, John Minella, the new Highlands Beach Chapter President Frank LoRe Jr. and Vincent Serafino.

CLARK, NJ



Clark UNICO honored the winners of the UNICO Columbus Day Essay Contest on the grounds of the 8th annual Clark UNICO Italian American feast. From left: Union County Freeholder Sergio Granados, Clark Mayor Sal Bonnacorso, Marion Petite, who sang the Star Spangled Banner; Jennifer Manuelian, sitting in for essay winner Julia Tyrie from the Arthur L. Johnson High School; Clark Superintendent Kenneth Knops, Jen Gannon, essay winner from the Carl H. Krumpf Middle School; Clark UNICO President Ralph Bernardo, Gianni DePaz, essay winner from the Frank K. Hehly School and Aiden Ford, essay winner from the Valley Road School.

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HAZLETON, PA

Members of the Hazleton Chapter join the Knights of Columbus in placing a wreath in front of the statue of Christopher Columbus at Memorial Park, Hazleton. October is proclaimed National Italian American Heritage Month in recognition of the many achievements and contributions made by Americans of Italian descent. Noteworthy celebrities include Tommy Lasorda (baseball), Mario Batali (chef), Francis Ford Coppola (director, producer), Frank Sinatra (singer), Rocky Marciano (boxer), and Enrico Fermi (physicist) to name a few. Italian Americans are the fifth largest ethnic group in the United States of America, which, in fact, was named after an Italian explorer and geographer Amerigo Vespucci.



From left: Ron Jazowski, Grand Knight; Patricia Ann Ignar, Benito Tranguch, Nancy Tranguch, Florence Tranguch, Gloria Cerullo and Charles Pedri, Knight District Deputy.



President Rick and First Lady Manuela D'Arminio meet with, congratulated and presented a special certificate to one of Hazleton UNICO's honored Italian American citizens at Hazleton's Bell'Italia Festival. Mike is a surviving WWII veteran who served as a gunner in the Pacific theater.



From left: Jackie Nicolardi, Ursula Grossi, Robin Rimsky, Nancy DeFazio, and Patricia Ignar take a moment from their busy schedule selling Tricky Tray tickets at Hazleton UNICO's Bell'Italia Festival to smile for the camera. They wish to thank the local companies and individuals who donated wonderful prizes as well as the patrons supporting UNICO by purchasing tickets which helped to make the Tricky Tray stand a huge success.



Enjoying the warm Soup in Hazleton UNICO's booth First Lady Manuela, President Rick, Nino Canpagna serving and Pennsylvania District I Governor Bernard Brutto.



"Our Fried Dough Team" from left: Nino Campagna, Nate Lee, Bill Schneider and Tony Persico.



The Hazleton Chapter recently honored several Italian American citizens of the Hazleton who are 85 years of age or older. The award presentations were made at the annual Bell'Italia festival at Hazleton Township Community Park.

OAKVILLE/WATERTOWN, CT

On September 30th, 80 to 100 volunteers built "Where Angels Play" Playground at Veterans Park, Watertown in memory of Dawn Hochsprung, the Principal who died in the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The grandchildren of Dawn Hochsprung attend school at John Trumbull Primary School in Watertown. The dedication of the playground took place on Sunday, October 5th.



From left: Dot Dorso, Joe Masi, Paul Rinaldi and Chapter President Rich Gubbiotti supply breakfast items to the volunteers at the construction site of the "Where Angels Play" Playground at Veterans Park, Watertown.



From left: UNICO National Membership and Retention Director Francine Nido, Oakville-Watertown Chapter President Bob Ruscitto, Joe Iula, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Rich Gubbiotti and Connecticut District I Governor Tony Lancia at the annual UNICO National Oakville-Watertown Chapter Annual Clambake held at the Cercemaggiore Club in Oakville.

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All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

KEARNY, NJ



Mark Marinelli, Celeste Pandolfi and Ida Nigro enjoy an “al fresco” continental breakfast before boarding the Kearny Chapter’s bus trip to Caesars in Atlantic City.



Walter Tomasheski and Celeste Pandolfi were part of the Kearny Chapter’s bocce team that participated in the Jimmy V Tournament.

The Kearny Chapter held a fund-raising event to raise funds to purchase a power wheelchair for Kearny resident, Victor Muniz who was paralyzed when a tree branch fell on him during a freak lightning storm. Joseph Sgalia and Judy Hyde spearheaded the planning and execution of the “Wheels for Vic” tricky tray. Many local businesses and individuals donated monies, prizes and food to the event. Members of Kearny UNICO as well as other Kearny residents worked tirelessly for several months to gather, wrap and organize all the prizes. The event was truly a coming together of the Kearny community to help someone in need.



Lou Pandolfi (l) and Joe Sgalia (r) with Victor “Vic” Muniz.



Walter Tomasheski and Celeste Pandolfi were part of the Kearny Chapter’s bocce team that participated in the Jimmy V Tournament.



On October 11th, members of the Kearny Chapter and the Kearny Town Council braved the elements to place a commemorative wreath at the Christopher Columbus moment in Kearny Riverbank Park. From left: Joe Sgalia, Nino Capitti, Councilwoman Carol Jean Doyle, Mayor Alberto Santos, Jim Pecora, Councilwoman Susan McCurrie and Celeste and Lou Pandolfi.



On Wednesday, October 15, 2014, the Kearny Ladies of UNICO held their Twenty-first Annual Born to Shop Night. Attending from left: Past National First Lady May D'Arminio, National First Lady Manuela D'Arminio and Donna Fava.

ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ



Orange/West Orange members mans the grill at the New Jersey District XI Bocce tournament From left: Ken Broderick and New Jersey District XI Governor Carmine Campanile.



Orange/West Orange Members enjoying the New Jersey District XI Bocce Tournament From left: Ken Broderick, Marc Miceli, David Campanile, and Kaye Pelton.



Orange/West Orange installs two new members. From left: Tina Parsons, Chapter President Anna Marie Russo, and Sabina DeAgazio.



PITTSFIELD, MA

COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

The Pittsfield chapter celebrated Columbus Day by holding its thirteenth annual “Taste of Italy” dinner at the ITAM Lodge on Monday, October 13. The ITAM Lodge is situated on the southern shore of scenic Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield. The event was chaired by Rick Gregory. Rick was supported by many chapter volunteers who worked all day in the kitchen to make this event a success as it usually is. The event was attended by 150 people who were not only treated to a gourmet, multi course Italian meal but were also serenaded by an Italian duet that, not only sang popular Italian songs, but played the accordion and mandolin as well.

The “Taste of Italy” offerings were preceded by a platter of antipasto at each table as well as salad and bread with olive oil. The buffet meal included Italian spiced baked chicken, roast pork, polenta, eggplant parmigiana, risotto, sausage with peppers and onions and penne pasta with either marinara sauce or olive oil and garlic. Desserts and coffee were provided after the meal. Proceeds from this event go into the scholarship and general charities accounts.



From left: Chapter President Dom Sacco and Rick Gregory take a break from the meal preparations for a quick photo



Italian serenaders pose for a quick photo before going table to table playing the accordion and mandolin and singing favorite Italian songs.

TORRINGTON, CT

TORRINGTON CELEBRATES ITALIAN MAYOR OF THE DAY

The Torrington Chapter of UNICO National and the City of Torrington celebrated the Italian Mayor of the Day, Sunday morning, October 12, 2014. A wreath was laid at the Columbus monument, with State Representative Michelle Cook reading a proclamation declaring October Italian American Heritage Month. The ceremony moved to Coe Memorial Park, where Italian Mayor of the Day Domenic Mainella and Torrington Mayor Elinor Carbone raised the Italian flag.

State Representative Michelle Cook presented Domenic Mainella with a citation from the State recognizing his contributions to the City, State & Nation. She presented a second citation to both Domenic and his wife, Marie in recognition of their 60 years of marriage on October 9th.

During the ceremony Mayor Elinor Carbone declared Domenic the Italian Mayor of the Day.

Domenic A. Mainella was a veteran of the Korean War, serving as an officer and the recipient of the Bronze Star for Valor during combat. Korean Service Medal with Two Battle Stars, United Nations Service Metal and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. The Mainellas, who are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary have three children. Domenic was President of the Torrington Chapter of UNICO and District Governor of Connecticut District II, President of Saint Peter's Holy Name Society, Chairman of the Retreat League and Eucharistic Minister for several years.

Guest speaker Dr. Raeleen D'Agostino Mautner opened her speech with...”Despite the controversy surrounding Columbus, it is undeniable that Columbus showed us how to dream and follow that dream. If you have a dream, God put it in your heart. Dreams give your life meaning and purpose. To dream is to better your corner of the world”

The ceremony concluded with cake and cookies and entertainment from the Nutmeg Ballet Conservatory Dancers and the Prince Thomas of Savoy Singers, with traditional Italian songs.



State Representative Michelle Cook presents a Citation from the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut to Italian Mayor of the Day Domenic Mainella as his wife Marie looks on.

MONTVILLE, NJ



Montville UNICO had its 26th Annual Charity Golf Outing at the Brooklake Country Club. Over 80 golfers attended a full day of golf, open bar, dinner, and prizes. From left: Ron DelMauro, representing the St. Barnabas Hospital Burn Center, accepts a check in the amount of \$5,000 from Pete Mellillo.



Chapter President Benito Catanzariti resigned his position as President because he is moving with his wife Rita to the Syracuse, New York area. A 25 year member of UNICO, Benito was involved in almost every aspect of Chapter and District activities. Everyone knows Benito for his enthusiasm and perseverance and he will be greatly missed. Good luck, Benito and Rita!

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT XI BOCCE TOURNAMENT



From left: UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan, Frank DeFrank, Frank Paolercio, Steve Scott from the "V" Foundation, UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko, UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio and UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro.



From left: UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Frank DeFrank, UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio, New Jersey Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen, UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko, Anthony Bengivenga and Joe Almeida.



From left: Joe Almeida, Mike Colucci, First Lady Manuela D'Arminio, UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio and Anthony and Rachel Bengivenga.



The North Shore Chapter.



New Jersey District VII Members.



The St. Joe's H. S. Montvale Chapter.



The Passaic Valley Chapter.



The Cedar Grove Chapter.



From left: Marino Saveri, UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino and Frank and Nick DeFrank.



The Balloon Lady entertains the children.



From left: UNICO National Second Vice President Tom Vaughan, Francine Nido, Morris Borea, Domingos Campos and UNICO National Executive Vice President Ann Walko.



The Passaic Valley Team.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT XI BOCCE TOURNAMENT



The First Place Team from Orange/West Orange with from left: Frank Paolercio, Frank DeFrank, Chris Tomasello, John DiNapoli, Eugene LaRoche, Adolfo Arrieta and UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio.



The Second Place Team from left: Frank De Frank, Greg D'Alessandro, Steve DiGeronimo, Pat Capra, Ralph Amadeo, Frank Paolercio and UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio.



The Third Place Team was made up of Denville Chapter members Mateo Cardinale, Rob Torcivia, Joe Cardinale and Matteo Cardinale, III who are pictured with Frank Paolercio.



ATTENDEES AT THE NEW JERSEY DISTRICT XI BOCCE TOURNAMENT TO BENEFIT THE JIMMY "V" FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH.



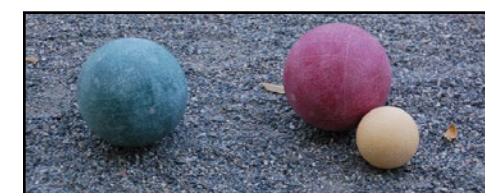
Carmine Campanile makes his famous zeppole.



The Food Committee prepares for the hungry players!



Frank Paolercio and Steve Scott pick the raffle winners.



COOLEY'S ANEMIA

UNICO Foundation awarded a grant of \$10,000 to the Cooley's Anemia Foundation, in support of research for oral chelation therapy.

In 1975, under then President Paul Alongi, Sr. UNICO National committed to assisting Cooley's anemia patients. Dr. Peter Pettinato, current Committee Chair, has kept our members informed of the excellent progress being made to improve the quality of life for patients and the movement toward the ultimate quest for the cure. Thanks to the efforts and generosity of our members, we have helped to ensure these positive results.



From left: Bob Masella, Pat Pelonero, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, representing Cooley's Anemia Foundation Anthony Viola and Amy Celento and Past National President Frank Tidona.

FAIRFIELD, NJ

UNICO members display their Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals that they were awarded for the wine they made. From left: Past National Presidents Joe Agresti and John Alati and Joe Catenaro, Joe Maurillo and John LaForgia of the Fairfield Chapter.

SOUTHINGTON, CT

For more than three decades, Southington UNICO has manned a popular sausage and pepper booth at the town's Apple Harvest Festival in October, an annual event that takes place over two weekends and draws state-wide crowds of tens of thousands.

Preparations for the UNICO booth started in the days leading up to the festival when members cut up 528 pounds of peppers (green, red and yellow!), 250 pounds of onions and 1,600 sausage links. Additionally, about 1,000 fresh rolls were purchased from a bakery in the Bronx for the first weekend and a second road trip followed for the festival's second weekend.

In all, UNICO sold an average of 1,600 grinders, garnering proceeds for the organizations' coffers.

"Our participation in the annual Apple Harvest Festival is not only a profitable fund-raiser for us, but it is also an opportunity for our Chapter to raise awareness of our local and national undertakings and promote the Italian heritage of which members are so proud," said Southington UNICO President David Zoni.



Southington UNICO members from left: Adam Tarfano, President David Zoni, Tom DelSanto Jr., John Costa and Bob Tonon, man the Chapter's sausage and pepper booth at the annual Apple Harvest Festival.



The Southington UNICO booth at the annual Southington Apple Harvest Festival.

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter opened its new year under the direction of Chapter President Phyllis Coldebella, on September 4, with a dinner meeting at Mama Vittoria. The scholarship committee, chaired by Alan Genitempo, was congratulated for coordinating the presentation of over \$30,000 to Nutley graduates in June 2014.

Two summer activities, the annual Golf Outing and a new event, "Christmas in July" were both reported as being very successful financially and as a summer activity for our members. The Golf Outing earned over \$4,500.

The October 9th dinner meeting featured a vote of approval for our 2014-15 budget and a focus on culture and heritage during October's "Italian Heritage Month". Activities for the month included a Cancer Candlelight Walk, the announcement of a "Sinatra Show" at the Nutley Public Library, the Nutley UNICO pre-parade ceremony in front of the Columbus statue at Nutley Town Hall prior to the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade, attendance of members at the New York City Columbus Day Parade and an Italian movie viewing at the Nutley Public Library.

The emphasis of our November 2nd dinner meeting will once again be on our veterans. Members who are veterans will be recognized at a special ceremony. Our guest speaker will be someone from current military service.

Plans are underway for the Chapter's Christmas party and the annual 50-50, which is the Chapter's largest and most important fund-raiser.



From left: Don Russeniello, Debbie Bellucci and Bob Montanino welcome interested citizens to the Nutley Chapter's booth at the annual Community Service Day.



The Ferraro family celebrates at the Nutley Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast.



Nutley Chapter Members enjoy "Sinatra Night" at the Nutley Public Library. President Phyllis Coldebella (3rd from left).



Nutley Chapter President Phyllis Coldebella with Chapter Members and friends marching in the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade.

MONTCLAIR, NJ

The Montclair Chapter recently held a membership drive at The Feast of St. Sebastian which was held in Montclair from August 20-24th. Pictured are Fran and Lou Iozzi, handling the responsibilities for the evening.

Please join us in celebrating
The Christmas Holiday at the National Office
December 5 from 12:00 until 8:00 p.m.



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GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

Greater Binghamton UNICO's September Charity was a local charity, Robbie's Pantry. The Pantry was established by UNICO members Frank and Angela Carro in 2008, in memory of their son Robbie. Robbie's Pantry supplies personal care items to clients living with HIV, who otherwise could not afford these items. The supplies and monetary donations from this evening should keep the pantry stocked for several months!



From left: Angela and Frank Carro were pleasantly surprised with the heartfelt donations from the members and families of Greater Binghamton UNICO.



In September, the Greater Binghamton Chapter installed six new members. From left: Dianne Battisti, Cheryl DeRosa, Rosanna Mucilli, Barbara Brown, Tony Pettinato, and ACES member Josh Walsh. WELCOME to UNICO!!!

The Greater Binghamton Chapter held its Second Annual Sauce-Off Fund-raiser. Attendees were able to taste and judge the Red, White, and Green Sauce entries. Each Sauce Winner received a prize and holds the bragging rights for having the best Sauce in their category for a year. The Red Sauce winner was Frank Carro, White Sauce-George Haus and Green Sauce-Donna Carlini. All were DELISH!! Thanks to all for a successful fund-raiser!! All proceeds benefits Greater Binghamton Charities.



Members and guests of Greater Binghamton UNICO take time for a photo during Second Annual Sauce-Off Fund-raiser.



It takes a team to do a successful fund-raiser. Thanks to Tom Harris, the bread made it safely to the Sauce tasting stations. From left: Tom Harris, Geri Harris and Nancy Redolphy.



Two of the newest members of the Greater Binghamton UNICO, Barbara Brown and Tony Pettinato enjoy the Sauce-Off Fund-raising activities!



Who says a fund-raiser can't be FUN!! Bonni Stacconi-Phelps and Marco Cuda serving up Sauce and FUN at the 2014 Greater Binghamton Sauce-Off.

PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Philadelphia Chapter held another successful bowling fund-raiser at the Westbrook Lanes. The event sold-out within two weeks of being advertised. Forty-four lanes were filled with members and friends. A DJ added to the success of the day!



From left: DJ Tommy Papino and DJ Dan Cronin.



From left: John Ferrara, Rosa Aversa, Mike Ianuzzi, Deanna Vergilio, Ben Ferrara, Doreen Guss, Don Sabatini, Joey Heimback and John Avecolli.



The Chapter recently held a sold out bowling fund-raiser. From left: John Ferrara, Chapter President; Father John Stabeno, Larry D'ambrosio, Jim D'Giavanniantonio and Ben Ferrara.



Members and guests enjoy a fun time!

ROCKAWAY, NJ

On September 10th, the Chapter swore in three new members. Additionally, Dr. Teresa Fiore was our guest speaker. Dr. Fiore holds the Insera Endowed Chair in Italian Studies at Montclair State University and has written articles/books on Italian history and culture. This renowned speaker, who taught at the Graziado Italian Studies Center, Italy and the Study Abroad Program, Sicily, received several fellowships. Dr. Fiore gave a terrific presentation to us on Italian History/Culture, Immigration to the United States and Italian contributions made in the United States.

On September 11-14th, the Chapter worked two games at the Montville San Gennaro Feast. We had a lot of fun and raised money for our scholarship fund. Our sincere thanks to the Montville Chapter for allowing us to participate in this event.

On September 21st, we held our First Annual Rockaway Township UNICO "Charity Motorcycle Run for Kids". Although it was a misty morning, 75+ motorcycles participated in our 86 mile, police escorted, motorcycle run throughout Morris and Sussex counties ending at Morristown Deli, where we had lunch, listened to live music by Paul Czekaj, and raffled off many prizes and held a 50/50. Most of the proceeds from this event are being donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, with a smaller donation being made to the Rockaway Township Substance Abuse program to help kids stay off drugs.



From left: New Members Judy Del Greco and Garry DelGreco, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, New Member Jon Coniglio, Chapter President Matt Mustachio and New Jersey District XI Governor Carmine Campanile.



From left: New Jersey District XI Governor Carmine Campanile, Past National President Sal Mangano, Teresa Fiore, UNICO National First Vice President Dominick Nicastro, Chapter President Matt Mustachio and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



Kathy Chiamonte Quinn, Martha Paravati and Lydia DiMarcantonio work the booth.



Riders on the Charity Motorcycle Run.

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PASSAIC/CLIFTON, NJ



Mario DeChellis, Vincenzo Latona and Chapter President Dave D'Arco work the "Chief Lou's Pasta & Meatball Stand" at Clifton's, St. Andrew's Carnival. The stand's name is in honor of Passaic-Clifton's late Sergeant-at-Arms, Louis Imparato, who was also a former Passaic, New Jersey Fire Chief.



From left: Tony DeLotto, Dave D'Arco, Rocco Giordano, Mario DeChellis, Jeremy McDonald and Rob Ferreri manning "Chief Lou's Stand".



Passaic-Clifton's members working hard to feed 400 people at the Annual Pasta Dinner and Tricky Tray.

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WATERBURY, CT



Standing in front of a statue of Columbus in front of Waterbury City Hall are from left: Anthony Lancia, Connecticut District I Governor; Mayor of Waterbury Neil O'Leary, Honorary Italian Mayor for the Day Father Frederick Aniello of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Chapter President Frank Travisano, and Columbus Day Chairperson Joanne D'Angelo. The wreath laying was preceded by a Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, a procession to City Hall and flag raising, and was followed by a luncheon in honor of Columbus and Father Aniello.



On Wednesday September 10 the City of Waterbury held a ceremony awarding hometown hero NASA Astronaut Rick Mastracchio the Keys to the City. At the same time the Waterbury Chapter granted Rick a lifetime Honorary membership in UNICO National and the Waterbury Chapter. From left: Rick Mastracchio and Chapter President Frank Travisano. Mastracchio has traveled in space four times the last time spending six months on the International Space Station during which he took an eight hour space walk to repair the cooling system.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X



The Bengivenga brothers, Anthony, representing Westfield UNICO and Bob representing Plainfields' UNICO, marched in the John Basilone Parade held a few weeks back in Raritan, New Jersey.

WATERBURY, CT



Dr. Fusco, Stamford Chapter Past President, has been a philanthropist and Italian American ambassador in the community for many years and this year was named grand marshal in the 2014 Columbus Day Parade.



Immediate Past Connecticut District I Governor Giuseppe Pampena and Color Corps Commander of the Stamford Knights of Columbus raises the Italian Flag at Columbus Park Ceremony.



UNICANs and their children get ready to step off in the Parade.



At left: future UNICAN Sarah D'Acunto, daughter of UNICO member Sebastiano, participated in the Stamford Parade, dressed in the "pacchiana", a typical costume of grandpa Giuseppe's hometown of Minturno Italy.

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ComUNICO

The DEADLINE for the January 2015 Edition of ComUNICO is Monday, December 15, 2014

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

ComUNICO will only accept high resolution digital photos attached to an e-mail and test in MS Word as an attachment or in the body of an e-mail.

VISIT WWW.UNICO.ORG

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KEYSTONE, PA



Keystone UNICO volunteered and walked as a team at the Northeast Suicide Prevention Initiative Awareness Walk. Volunteers for setting up and manning the "Grateful Chain" Stand are from left: Meg Keenan, Mark McDade, John Keenan, Marilyn Vitali, John Padula, Michele McDade, Jeanne Lally, and Tom Carlucci.



The Dunmore Senior Activity Hub held a Flapjack Fund-raiser at Applebee's with the Keystone Chapter supplying all eleven kitchen and wait staff.



The Keystone Chapter held its 3rd Annual Fund-raiser at Dunmore's Sherwood Park. Our tent with Instant Bingo Tickets and a large Basket Raffle greeted the Festival patrons for the Annual Festival. Seated from left: Carmela Iannetta and Mary Lou Karliak. Standing from left: Mary Rose Malia, Dolly Michalczyk, Michele McDade, Cathy Bianchi, Joe Michalczyk and Cathy Gerard.



Keystone Chapter held a Pancake Breakfast Fund-raiser at Applebee's for "Meals on Wheels". Twenty-three members volunteered and served over 180 patrons and a Basket Raffle added to the bottom line. Congratulations to event co-chairs Mary Ann Coviello and Dot Mariani for this successful fund-raiser.



Coming in Third Place out of 12 teams at the Keystone Chapter Inaugural Bocce Tournament were Team Coviello/Keystone UNICO. From left: John Mecca, Medalists Frank and Mary Ann Coviello, Dot and Steve Mariani and Sam Taffera and John Rettura.



The Annual Keystone UNICO Sponsored Italian Class is in full swing with 25 registered students.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS
FROM THE NATIONAL
OFFICE STAFF!!!**

NORTH SHORE, LI, NY

On Sunday, September 7, North Shore LI Chapter held its 4th Annual Family Picnic, chaired by Mauro Caputi, at Manorhaven Park in Port Washington. The weather cooperated fully and there were approximately 100 people in attendance for a wonderful day with lots of food, fun and camaraderie. A singer and accordionist were present for everyone's enjoyment and the children enjoyed the face painter, balloon sculptures, relay races and prizes. It was all made possible thanks to the help and donations of committee and Chapter members.



Jason Nappi, New York District II Governor Joe Corsini, Pat Corsini, Queensboro Chapter President Phil Joseph and Christina Chillino



From left: Pat Stake, Lou Di Rico and Christine Lupo



From left: Robert Di Rico, Chapter President Ellen Leone and Mauro Caputi and Jason Nappi.

MERRIMACK VALLEY, MA

A charity golf tournament was held at the Haverhill County Club as the Chapter's annual and only fund-raiser. The event raised another \$35,000.

The co-chairmen of the event, Larry Ardito and Al Torrisi and their golf committee worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

According to Al Torissi, "we distributed over \$35,000 to organizations and individuals this past year alone. While we do have a great time playing golf, especially on such a beautiful day, it's only through the generosity, dedication and hard work from the golfers, members, volunteers and sponsors that really make the difference between success and failure. It is very important to our Chapter and to the benefactors that this event continues to raise the money we need to support the community."

UNICO Merrimack Valley had pledged \$25,000 over five years for the Lazarus House to support their capital campaign. We have already donated \$15,000 and expect to give another \$5,000 this year.



First Place team from left: Frank Coccoluto, Frank Deplano, Jim Scaia and Dick Vitale.



Second Place team from left: Rob Schena, Mike Smith, Peter Carbonbe and Costa Sideridis.



Third Place team from left: Bob Lee, Tony Longo, Frank Coppola and Tom Manzi.



Fourth Place team from left: Bernie Kavanaugh, Ned Williams, and PJ McGinty.

The Merrimack Valley Chapter recently installed two new members. Each had an opportunity to introduce themselves, their occupation and membership goals. Jeri O'Sullivan found himself explaining his Irish name and eligibility for membership since his wife is Italian.

UNICO Merrimack Valley is celebrating its 25th year as a Chapter of UNICO National and recently announced that it has raised and distributed over \$800,000 to local charities. UNICO Merrimack Valley currently enjoys the fellowship of approximately 60 members.

To learn more about UNICO visit www.unicomerrimackvalley.org. For more information please contact Frank Firicano, ffiricano@gmail.com



Chapter President Frank Firicano (center) installed Jeremiah O'Sullivan (left) and Leverett Zompa (right).



Frank Firicano (L) president of Merrimack Valley installed George Fantini (R). The ceremony was held during a monthly meeting on October 8th at the Coliseum Restaurant.

TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

Here are the UNICO National Exclusive Offer Codes you can use when booking your air travel to the 2015 Convention!

LAX, SNA and ONT Airports

American Airlines- Discount of 5% off published fares at www.aa.com/group Promotion Code A4775AY

Delta- Discount of 5% off published fares. Reservations and ticketing is available via www.delta.com. When booking online, select Book A Trip, click on More Search Options and enter the meeting code NMKAN in the box provided on the Search Flight page. Reservations may also be made by calling Delta Meeting reservations at 800 328 1111 Mon-Fri 7am-7pm CDT.*Please note that there is a direct ticketing fee for booking through the reservation number above.

United Airlines- Discount of 5% off published fares (8% off Business & 13% off First Class) when booking on line at www.united.com. Enter ZTK7168209 in the Offer Code box when searching for flights.

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



From left: Dominic Massaro, Joseph Sciamè, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Ralph Contini.



From left: Marie-Rose and Ralph Contini and UNICO National President and First Lady Richard and Manuela D'Arminio.



In front of St. Patrick's Cathedral.



New York Chapters.



The Nutley Chapter.



Past National President Chris DiMattio serenades Ralph Contini.



The National Float.



The Scranton Chapter.



Joe Iula and Giuseppe Pampena carry the banner for the National President.



The Hackensack Chapter.



First Lady Manuela and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



National President and District officers enjoying Italian dinner celebration at Anthony's Restaurant after their march in the Basilone Parade in Raritan.



From left: Joe Iula, Anthony Bengivenga and Richard and Manuela D'Arminio.



The Brick Chapter.



The D'Arminio's and Nicastro's.



Brick Members enjoy the day.



Past National President John Alati visits the Brick booth at the Seaside Festival.



The UNICO National Float at the Seaside Parade.



Parade Participants.



Mel Persi enjoys the parade in his antique car.



Past National President Renato Biribin and members of the Plainfields' Chapter get ready to march.



UNICO National celebrates Columbus Day!



Parade Participants.



Anthony D'Alessio gets ready to join the parade.



Seaside Parade Chairman Michael Blandina and his committee.



HILLSBOROUGH, NJ



Miss Hillsborough UNICO Sabrina Lombardi driven in a 1989 Corvette by Anthony Ferrera.



From left: Steve Szrako, Mariann Cialdella, Ethan Cialdella, Anthony Ferrera, Sabrina Lombardi, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio Jack Genchi and Johnny Lombardi.

PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT II

Keystone member, Mark E. McDade was recently installed as District Governor of Pennsylvania District II. He recently presided over the first District meeting. Along with Mark, Pennsylvania II District Officers attending included Jerry Arnese, Felix DeSio, Mary DePalma, Cathy Gerard, Michele McDade and Ray Tropeano.

Among the 80 members present were Chapter Presidents Barbara Wahila, Greater Binghamton Chapter; Brian Durkin, Carbondale Chapter and James Mack, Keystone Chapter. Also in attendance were Chip Calabro, Joe Carachilo, Felix DeSio, Tom Gatto, Peter Noto, Peter Pettinato, UNICO National Director of the Cooley's Anemia Committee and Past National President Glenn Pettinato. Special guests were UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and First Lady Manuela. As guest speaker, President D'Arminio gave a rousing motivational presentation on

UNICO National, with his agenda and expectations during his tenure as UNICO National President. After his presentation, Mr. and Mrs. D'Arminio were presented with memento's to remember their visit to Pennsylvania District II.

Felix DeSio presented District Governor McDade with the District Governor Pin. Tom Gatto was recognized for his years of service to Pennsylvania II and was awarded the Pennsylvania II Service Recognition Plaque by District Governor McDade on behalf of all the members of Pennsylvania II.

Deceased Pennsylvania II Members were acknowledged, including Charter Member Angelo Zucco of Greater Binghamton Chapter and Charter Member Joseph Gentile of Keystone Chapter.



Members of Pennsylvania District II honored Tom Gatto with a District Governor Service Plaque. Seated from left: Tom Gatto, Richard D'Arminio, UNICO National President and his wife, Manuela. Standing from left: Mark E. McDade, District Governor; Past National President Glenn Pettinato, Chip Calabro, Felix DeSio, Joe Carachilo and Peter Pettinato, all of whom were Past District Governors.



Current and past Chapter Presidents of UNICO National Pennsylvania District II gathered for a picture with National President Rick D'Arminio and First Lady Manuela at the District II meeting at Al Mia Amore.



UNICO Members gathered with Al Mia Amore owner Mike Catalano at the Pennsylvania District II meeting from left: Glenn Pettinato, Michele McDade, Manuela and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Michael Catalano and Maggie and Peter Pettinato.



Members of the Carbondale and Keystone Chapters, the oldest and newest Chapters of Pennsylvania District II made the trip from Pennsylvania to participate in the 2014 Columbus Day Parade in New York City.

PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



The Passaic Valley Chapter's Immediate Past President, Robert Appaluccio (L), is welcomed by the current Chapter President John Barbieri. Bob was presented with his Past Chapter President Pin at the October Monthly Meeting. All of the Chapter's pictures can be seen on the Chapter's website www.PVUNICO.com.

MARIN, CA

MARIN CHAPTER NEWS

Our annual awards dinner was held September 10 at Marin Joe's in Corte Madera, California. Awardees were:

- St. Rafael Church
- Italian Community Service Agency
- Marin Medical Reserve Foundation
- Marin Catholic High School
- St. Patrick's Church
- Whistlestop
- Museo Italo-Americano

These organizations were presented with a donation in recognition of their vital services to the community and joined our membership in a very festive Italian meal prepared by manager Ralph Delasantina, the son of owner Romano Delasantina.

Our annual Bocce Ball fund-raiser was held October 5. A beautiful Indian summer day in San Francisco along with a great lunch and wine donated by our host restaurant Marin Joe's of Corte Madera. Janet Benjamin, along with Christine Anastasi coordinated the many logistics of the event.



What a team! Ray and Christine Erlach with Jim Raccanello.



Taking a break: Members Barbara Lombardi, Jim Scatena and President Ron Benjamin.



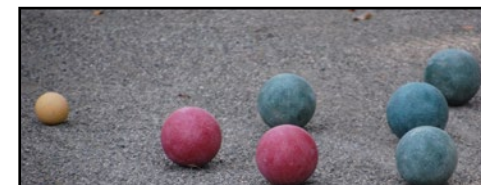
Our English-Italian Paul Seaward tutoring new member Cody Bersaglieri.



Veteran bowler Jim Raccanello working his magic.



Our senior member and godfather Romolo lavarone and family.



ST. JOE'S H.S. MONTVALE, NJ

The St. Joe's H. S. Montvale Chapter enters its second year of existence with great expectations. The Chapter is now officially the third largest Chapter in all of UNICO, but we are not resting on our laurels and are moving forward every day. You can find out more about our Chapter online at www.SJRUNICO.org or Facebook at www.Facebook.com/sjrunico.



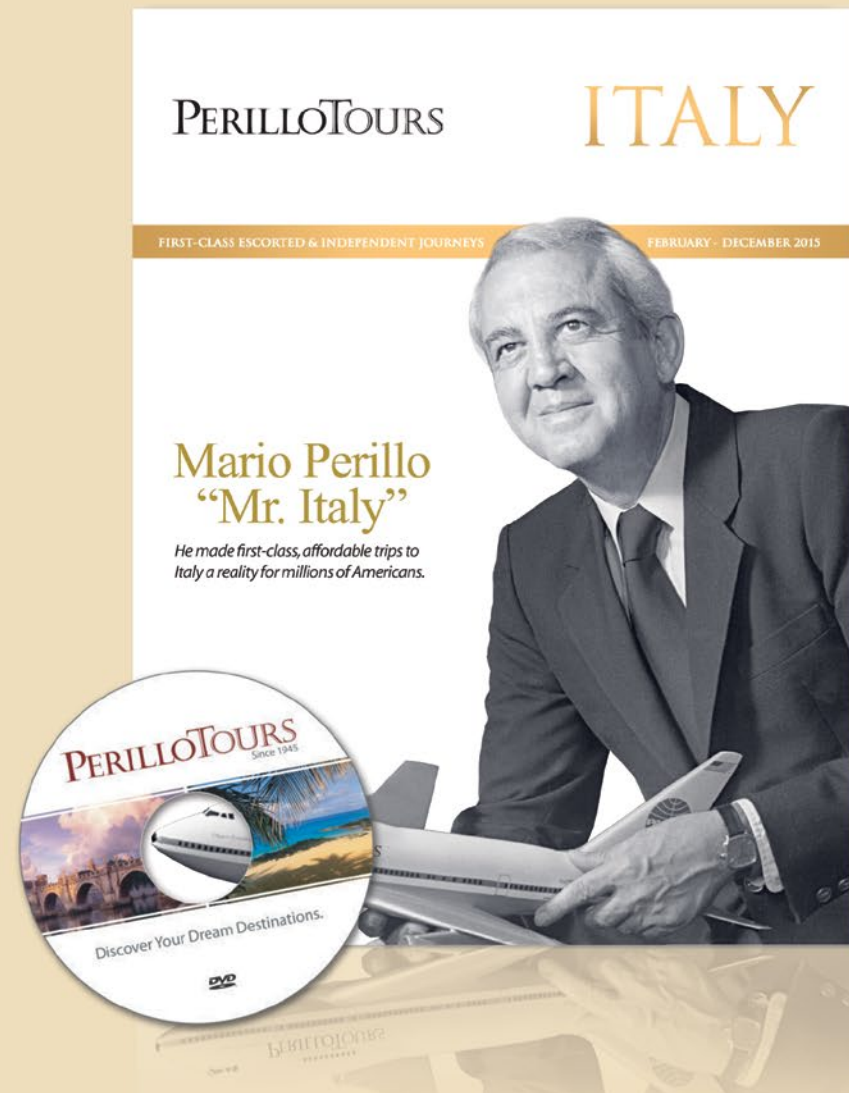
The St. Joe's H. S. Montvale Chapter President Robert Kievit was named chairperson of the National Youth Chairman at the National Convention at the Breakers.



Chapter members raised money for our local scholarship fund with a clothing and household item in conjunction with St. Joseph's Regional home football game.



The ACES took center stage at back to school night at St Joe's serving Italian ice to the large crowd of parents and students in attendance at the UNICO table. Principal and honorary member Barry Donnelly stopped by for some refreshments.



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PERILLO TOURS RETURNS AS A MAJOR SPONSOR OF UNICO NATIONAL

UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio is proud to announce that Perillo Tours has returned as a major corporate sponsor of UNICO National after being a 1999 and 2000 UNICO National Convention sponsor.

Steve Perillo of Perillo Tours has agreed to be the lead corporate sponsor for the 2014/ 2015 fiscal year. Perillo Tours has been offering Travel, Escorted Tours and Vacation Packages to Italy from America since 1945 and over three generations of the Perillo family.

"UNICO National and Perillo Tours Perfect Together. I was very fortunate to have known Mario Perillo "Mr. Italy" as I served as UNICO National Convention Chairman in 1999. Thanks to our National President, Richard D'Arminio, our long standing relationship has opened the doors with another generation, namely, Steve Perillo, President of the Perillo Tours organization," said Ralph Contini. "We look forward to the future with an appreciation of our past relationship. It's a win, win situation for all. The biggest name in travel to Italy, Perillo Tours, and the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States, UNICO National, have come together," said UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.

"UNICO National members will receive a 5% discount on any Perillo Tour by mentioning Promo Code: UNICO" stated Steve Perillo. While offering a variety of escorted, independent and custom group vacations around the world, Italy continues to be Perillo's flagship



destination and their "first love". Contact Perillo Tours at 1-800-431-1515 or visit at PerilloTours.com or see your Professional Travel Agent.

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UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and First Lady Manuela D'Arminio.



From left: UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, First Lady Manuela D'Arminio and May D'Arminio.



Past National President Paul Alongi presents the First Ticket to the National President.



The Past National Presidents are pictured with UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and May D'Arminio.



From left: Ralph Contini, UNICO National President Richard and First Lady Manuela D'Arminio.



The Orange/West Orange Chapter.



The Greater Ramsey Chapter.



The Hackensack Chapter.



The Garfield Chapter.



New Jersey District X.



The Paramus Chapter.



The Westwood Chapter.



The Bayonne Chapter.



The President and First Lady.



Past National President Chris DiMattio presents a gift from the Scranton Chapter.



Secaucus Chapter President Ed Rucki presents a gift from his Chapter.



Roseto Chapter President Frank DeFrank presents a gift from his Chapter.



Past National President Joe Agresti presents a flag that flew over the Capital.



From left: Frank Greco, Jr. Andre' DiMino and Father Bob Wolfee.



UNICO National President Richard D'Armino.



From left: UNICO National Vice Presidents Dominick Nicastro and Tom Vaughan.



Past National Presidents Joe Agresti and Sal Mangano present the President with a plaque from New Jersey.



Past National President Sal Mangano and Executive V. P. Ann Walko.



The D'Arminio girls Nicole and Erica.



From left: Past National President Mike Ferrara, Richard D'Arminio and Ralph Contini.



A view of the room!

NORTH SHORE, LI, NY

On Sunday, September 28, the North Shore LI chapter participated in New Jersey District XI's Annual Bocce Tournament. Our team players and cheerleaders enjoyed the hospitality of New Jersey District XI and everyone was a winner as money was raised for the Jimmy V Foundation.



From left: Robert Di Rico, Elsa Di Rico, Ellen Leone, Lou Di Rico, Hayley Rothman-Di Rico, Leyla Oklu and Joe Sclafani



From left: Michael Mucaria, New York District II District Governor Joe Corsini, North Shore LI Chapter President Ellen Leone, Ralph Contini, Brian Santana and Queensboro Chapter President Phil Joseph.

UNION, NJ
**34TH ANNUAL
RICHARD J. GALANTE SR.
HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The Union Chapter held their annual Humanitarian of The Year Award on Saturday September 20, 2014 at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park, New Jersey.

This is the 34th time the dinner dance was held. Named after Richard J. Galante Sr., a past Union UNICAN, Charter Member, President and District

Governor, the award is bestowed to those who the committee best fulfills the spirit of the unselfish and unconditional dedication that Richard J. Galante Sr. devoted to the community and those in need.

The Chapter, after the 1980 passing of Richard Galante Sr., asked the Galante Family if Richard's name could be added to the "Humanitarian of the Year award" in his honor. Past awards, recipients include Mayors, State Legislators, Businessman and women.

After a vetting by the nomination committee, the Chapter membership overwhelmingly and unanimously approved Frances Corcione and Daniel Zieser, for their contribution to their fellow man. Over 300 members, guests, family, and friends attended and celebrated this landmark achievement with Frances and Daniel.

For more information, please contact our press committee chairperson at sppanunzio@gmail.com. Alternatively, visit our website at www.unionunico.org



Presentation from the New Jersey State Legislature by Assemblyman Joseph Cryan honoring Daniel Zeiser and Frances Corcione. From left: Union Chapter President Joe Almeida, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, Honorees Daniel Zieser and Frances Corcione.



At the 29th Annual "UNICO Bowl" Elizabeth triumphed. From left: Joe Almeida, President Union Chapter passes the trophy to Lou Bani, President of Elizabeth Chapter.

SAN ANTONIO, TX

From left: Tony Arabia, Michael Mangiapane, Rosie Arabia meet with new member Jennifer Veltri and Lou Faiel-Dattillo at Mandola's in Austin.



From left: Rosie Arabia, Liz and Bill Kelly, Tony Arabia and Mike Mangoapane at CIAO ITALIA event with John O'Larnic waving in the background!

HILLSIDE, NJ

The Hillside Chapter joined with local Knights of Columbus and Italian American Civic Association organizations in remembering Christopher Columbus at the monument named in his honor.

UNICO spearheaded the drive to establish the monument in 1992, which commemorated Columbus' 500th documented discovery of America. Each year floral wreaths are placed at the Conant Park site in his honor.



Members present from the three organizations were: Garrett O'Connor, Bill Pelletiere, Bob Trotte, Steve Wholer, Rocky Genova, Jim Welsh, Andy Wnukowski, and Angelo Bonanno.

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD, NJ

The St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival celebrated their 40th anniversary with record crowds. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter has partnered with St. Bartholomew The Apostle Church in Scotch Plains since 1974.



The King meets The Crew. Mark Reno delighted the crowd with an Elvis tribute at The St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival.



Holy Cannoli, the staff manning the pastry booth delighted the crowd with fresh Italian desserts and pastries at the 40th Annual St. Bartholomew/UNICO Italian Festival.



On October 2nd, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter held a charity basketball game against the Harlem Wizards. Despite some stiff competition by the Scotch Plains All-Stars, the Wizards were victorious and entertained the crowd.



The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter continues the winemaking process. Paul Raphael and Rob Nardone pour grapes into the press.



Jeff Blanck pours the last of the grapes into the press.



On Saturday, October 11th, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter held a Columbus Day dedication ceremony at the Scotch Plains Town Hall. As part of the festivities, two local students from the St. Bartholomew Academy were chosen as winners for an essay contest. Pictured with the students and their families in the back row are from left: Scotch Plains Mayor Kevin Glover, Sal Perillo, who served as Master of Ceremony and Chapter President Paul Raphael.

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The 2014-2015 Executive Committee.



From left: Past National Presidents Sal Mangano, John Alati and Paul Alongi.



Lou DiRico greets Cooley's Anemia guests Antimo and Carl DeGennaro.



Standing from left: Joe Almeida, Anthony Bengivenga, Bob Tarte, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Joe Kovacs. Seated: Anthony Lancia, Celeste Pandolfi, Ralph Contini and Carol Cannata.



From left: Lou DiRico, Antimo and Carl DeGennaro and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



From left: Mike Pisano and Past National President Joe Agresti.



Easter Regional District Governor Elyse Buonomo addresses the session.



First Lady Manuela D'Arminio.



Connecticut II District Governor Geno Avenoso.



Francine Nido and Nino Randazzo.



Roseanne Buckleman makes an entrance at registration.



Anthony Lancia and Richard D'Arminio.



Alina Nicastro and Manuela D'Arminio.



From left: Frank Greco, Marge and Ralph Spataro and Frank DeFrank.



From left: Mark and Michele McDade, Celeste and Lou Pandolfi and Frank DeFrank.



Paul Alongi and Steve Pelonero.



Thursday night dinner crowd.



From left: The Andreykos, Deanna DeMarco and Mike Colucci.



Members a take time to relax over drinks.



Terri Pettinato and Carol Cannata.



From left: Grace Gynn, Bob Buonomo and Bob Gynn.



Anthony Bengivenga and Andre' DiMino.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



Rutherford UNICO sponsored their annual canteen for special needs guests. Chairperson Barbara Laborim, DJ Andre' DiMino and UNICO members ensured a fun time for all.



From left: Patty Hirsch, Jenny DiMino, Dolores Gennaro, Rosa DiCapua and Barbara Laborim.



In celebration of Italian Heritage Month, Rutherford UNICO presented a display in the Community Library window.



Rutherford Chapter enjoyed wine and vinegar making lessons at the October meeting. Outstanding homemade wine and refreshments were sampled.



Members get a chance to sample the homemade wine and vinegar.



In commemoration of the historic contributions of Christopher Columbus, Rutherford UNICO dedicated this monument in his honor on October 12, 1992. Each year, a wreath is placed in observance of Italian Heritage Month.

WILKES-BARRE, PA

The Luzerne County Italian American Association celebrated an Italian flag rising at the Luzerne County Courthouse, followed the next day with a Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Pittston, immediately followed by a ceremony at the statue of Christopher Columbus in Pittston, and a banquet that evening, where the awards were presented:

Italian American Man of the Year
John Terrana
Lifetime Achievement Award
Lori Nocito
Italian Heritage Award
Charles Valenti

Numerous other UNICO members were past recipients of these awards in past years.



John Terrana's acceptance speech for Luzerne County Italian American Association "Man of The Year."



From left: John Terrana's family, Dr. Levin McHale, Dr. Katie McHale, John Terrana, Julie Terrana, John Charles Terrana.



From left: UNICO members in attendance, Angelo Decesaris, Carmen Magistro, Chapter President Robert DiPetro, Greg Sheplock, John Charles Terrana, John Terrana, Leo Sperrazza, Angela Sperrazza, Joseph Augello and Joseph Desoye.



From left: Blaze Dente, Donald MacRae, Lori Nocito, John Terrana and Charles Valenti at the Columbus Day Ceremony.

PARAMUS, NJ



From left: James Tedesco, Joe Iula, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Joe Ruggiero.



The Paramus Chapter of UNICO swears in new members at the Columbus Day Meeting on October 13th. From Left: Anthony and Maryanne Polimeni, Joseph Mecca, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Paramus Chapter President Lois Iula

PEQUANNOCK, NJ

REMEMBER 9/11

Pequannock UNICO with, families of the community, members of fire and first aid department, local boy scouts, town clergy, town council members and veterans from the American Legion and Color Guards were all on hand to gather together for an annual memorial ceremony and continue to be reminded of the many lives lost on September 11th in addition to all the lives lost since then fighting the tenacious war on terror. The ceremony was initiated with the singing of the Star Spangled Banner sung by Hailey Grimes.

The history of the memorial service all started when one of UNICO's original members, Tony LaNeve, who then worked at the Tilcon Quarry was helping to transport equipment to and from the World Trade Center to help in the search

for survivors. On September 14th after being there for three full days and nights, Tony asked an iron worker for a piece of steel for which he had special plans. Immediately, a 9-11 Memorial committee was formed within UNICO and the first order of business was to create a monument using the steel that was received from that iron worker. Additional donations were received from Cedar Crest, concrete from Raya Concrete, and other donations and funds that were raised by Pequannock UNICO which were pooled together to create the monument that rests in front of the town's Municipal Building, and serves as a solemn reflecting place to remember all those lost. It is UNICO's honor and privilege to have this monument on display for the benefit for all of our members and citizens of Pequannock.



Presentation of the Wreath by Town Cub Scout Troop with Perry Russo.



Pequannock Chapter President Bob Diana addresses the crowd on the History of the 911 Memorial. From left: Pequannock Township Mayor Melissa Florence-Lynch, Perry Russo and Bob Diana.



The Pequannock Chapter held their annual Hoe Down. From left: Chapter President Bob Diana, Perry Russo, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio, Joe Iula and Steve Pelonero.



From left: Anthony Grieco, Rocco Sellitti, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Perry Russo man the membership booth.



Members prepare food for the event.



PLAINFIELDS', NJ

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO swore in its new Chapter President, Connie Kozachek, its Board of Directors and new members during its reorganization meeting at Giovanna's in Plainfield. The Chapter membership has now surpassed 100.



Several new members were sworn into the Plainfield's Chapter. From left: Mary Albani, John Riggio, Joe Abate, Fran DeAndrea, Plainfields' Chapter President Connie Kozachek, Past National President Renato Biribin, and Willie Bernauer Jr.



The Plainfields' UNICO Board of Directors was also sworn in. From left: Plainfields' UNICO Board of Directors, Mary Timko, Debbie Boyle, Tina Dubas, Lina Esposito, Dorothy Lodato, Bob Bengivenga and Renato Biribin.



The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO swore in its new Chapter President, Connie Kozachek, its Board of Directors and new members during its reorganization meeting at Giovanna's in Plainfield. From left: Jason Risoli swears in new Chapter President Connie Kozachek.



Plainfields' UNICO participates in annual UNICO/St. Bartholomew's Italian Festival in Scotch Plains. From left: Willie Bernauer Jr., Gilda Bello of the Mother Cabrini film project, Sebastian D'Elia, and Renato Biribin, UNICO National Past National President.



Members of the Plainfields' Chapter held their annual Columbus Day Flag raising on Columbus Day at the South Plainfield Senior Center. From left: South Plainfield Councilman Rich Rusnak, South Plainfield Board of Education member Debbie Boyle, Past National President Renato Biribin, UNICO District X Governor Courtney Villani, Bengivenga, Bob Bengivenga, Councilman Alex Barletta, Mayor Matt Anesh, Councilman Derryck White and Councilman Rob Bengivenga.



Members of UNICO raise the flag.



BLOOMFIELD, NJ

The Bloomfield Chapter recently held a successful Heritage and Culture Event. Members and guests were treated to Italian delicacies and family treasures from Italy.



Members of the Bloomfield Chapter gather for a picture at the Heritage Event.



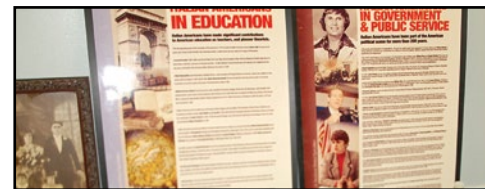
Tom Pelaia welcomes the guests to the event.



Dominick Ferrara talks about Italian Opera.



Past National Presidents Paul Alongi and Andre' DiMino.



SPARTA, NJ

SPARTA UNICO BRINGS THE CIRCUS TO TOWN

On Saturday, September 20th, Sparta UNICO brought back The Zerbini Family Circus to Sparta at the Mohawk School front lawn, where they thrilled and entertained children of all ages with two almost sold out shows again this year.

Jeff Paniccuci, Circus Chairman was at the gate greeting attendees along with Chapter President Ken Carafello.

Sparta UNICO hopes to continue the circus as an annual event as in years past, with new acts and excitement evident in this year's show.

Sparta UNICO is a non-profit organization, the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States, helping local charities, the needy and scholarships for area High School graduates among other causes. Our Motto is "Service Above Self".

Meetings are held at the Sparta Ambulance Building, lower level, every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm and you can contact them at spartau-nico@yahoo.com.



Sparta Chapter President Ken Carafello and Circus Chairman Dr Jeff Paniccuci.

SPARTA UNICO ANNOUNCES 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Sparta Chapter announced the winners of the 2014 college scholarship. Congratulations to Frank Cutrone (Pope John), Megan Lepore (Sparta), Lauren Waselik (Sparta), Zachary Kayal (Sparta), and Laurie Buruchian (Vernon) who were all acknowledged at a recent Sparta UNICO meeting by scholarship chairman Louis Criscuoli and Chapter President Ken Carafello. This highly

competitive scholarship is based on a combination of academic performance and community service along with an essay narrative of future goals and ambitions. For more information on Sparta UNICO please contact Chapter Secretary Laura D'Uva at spartau-nico@yahoo.com. For more information on UNICO International please visit www.unico.org



Sparta UNICO awards five \$1000 scholarships to local high school students. From left: Sparta President Ken Carafello, Frank Cutrone, Megan Lepore, Lauren Waselik, Zachary Kayal, and Louis Criscuoli.



Sparta UNICO sponsored a used clothing drive. This is our second annual drive and we raised \$1,000 surpassing last year's total. From left: Allen Perugino, Gary D'Uva, Chapter President Ken Carafello, Blessed Kateri Squires and John Cambell.



Sparta UNICO donates \$2,500 to the "I LOVE LILLY FUND." Lilly Batche is a 3 1/2 year old local cancer patient. From left: Allen Perugino, Lilly Batche, Mom Kristi Batche and Chapter President Ken Carafello.



Senator Steve Oroho was among the attendees at the Flag Raising along with several members of the Sparta Chapter. The event was held at the square in Newton, New Jersey on Columbus Day morning.



Sparta UNICO teamed up with the Pequannock Chapter to celebrate Sparta Day, serving Sausage and Peppers, Zeppole and Ribbon Fries to the crowd.

UNICO NATIONAL OFFICE



The UNICO National Staff receives training on the new ComUNICO format. We hope you enjoyed our first issue!



From left: Andre' DiMino, Pat Pelonero, Sue Anzelmo, Mary Racila and Lisa Adubato.

WESTFIELD, NJ



From left: Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga installs new member Carmela Juliano as Mike Colucci looks on at Westfield Chapter's September meeting.



On the UNICO National float at the John Basilone Parade in Raritan from left: Deanna DeMarco, Mike Colucci and Miss Hillsborough UNICO Sabrina Lombardi.

NEW FEATURE

The UNICO National Office has had many requests from members wishing to participate in Novenas that require publication. These types of Novenas appear in other publications such as The Italian Tribune, FraNoi and local community newspapers.

We are now offering this feature to our readers. If you would like to participate, please send a check for \$20/issue and your initials to:

ComUNICO Prayer
271 US Highway 46 West
Suite F-103
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004



The Westfield and Union Chapters played together on the Presidential team of National President Rick D'Arminio at District XI's Jimmy V Bocce Tournament. From Left: Union Chapter President Joe Almeida, Westfield Chapter member Mike Colucci, UNICO National First Lady Manuela D'Arminio, UNICO National President Rick D'Arminio, Westfield Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga, and Rachel Bengivenga.



Westfield Chapter marches with Banner on Fifth Ave in the Manhattan Columbus Day Parade. From left Fred Esposito, John DeAndrea and Chapter President Anthony Bengivenga.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin



NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL — (1X) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. (3X) Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3X) Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal, you who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. (Say this prayer three consecutive days and after three days, your request will be granted. Publication must be promised.)

LAA SA AD TFP
IPP SP JD

TO OFFER A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER send a Check for \$20, made out to UNICO and your initials to:
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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (Requester Publications Only)

1. Publication Title: **COMUNICO**
2. Publication Number: **0064-7765**
3. Filing Date: **10-24-2014**
4. Issue Frequency: **BI-MONTHLY**
5. Number of Issues Published Annually: **5**
6. Annual Subscription Price (If any): **\$25.00**
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®):
**271 US HWY 46 W SUITE F103
FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
**271 US HWY 46 W SUITE F-103
FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): **SAME AS ABOVE**
Editor (Name and complete mailing address): **PATRICIA PELONERO
271 US HWY 46 W SUITE F-103
FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): **SAME AS ABOVE**
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)
Full Name: **UNICO NATIONAL INC**
Complete Mailing Address: **271 US HWY 46 W SUITE F-103
FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box: ☒ None
Full Name: **N/A**
Complete Mailing Address:
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates). (Check one)
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:
☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)
PS Form 3526-R, July 2014 Page 1 of 4 (See instructions page 2) PSN 7530-09-000-9055 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

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FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer):
**271 US HWY 46 W SUITE F-103
FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): **SAME AS ABOVE**
Editor (Name and complete mailing address): **PATRICIA PELONERO
271 US HWY 46 W SUITE F-103
FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004**
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): **SAME AS ABOVE**
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LITTLE ITALY: The Story of Cultural Continuity in a Changing World

By Matthew Cucino

Although most students learn primarily about academia and other intellectual pursuits in college, while at Fordham University in Bronx, NY I have been fortunate enough to learn more about my Italian heritage. Fordham University, located a few blocks away from Arthur Ave, the real Little Italy of New York City, has been an experience of cultural exposure and immersion. While walking down the streets of Arthur Avenue it is not uncommon to hear Italian being spoken. Besides the language Arthur Avenue is a cultural mecca, especially in regard to the food. While on Arthur Avenue I imagine myself in a world like that of my grandparents, with individual Italian-family owned stores. There is a macelleria, a pescheria, a pasticceria, etc. all in which cultural Italian items are sold. Through these stores I have been able to experience a small part of what it meant to be an Italian immigrant. My great-grandparents and grandparents came to the United States in pursuit of the American dream with only the clothes on their back. Due to economic constraints, when they were able to purchase meat, it was the cuts of meat that were “undesirable” such as tripe, pig’s feet, chicken liver, chicken gizzards, and calf’s liver. Arthur Avenue still carries these foods in abundance. As a result, I have been able to experience my heritage via cooking and include other family members in the process, such as my cousins, aunts and uncles. Although life is different now, having unlimited access to an ethnic enclave that the tides of time seem to have forgotten has allowed me to learn about my cultural identity and feel secure in it. While some students may struggle to define themselves in college, I am able to proudly identify myself as an Italian-American. There is no struggle or uncertainty, I have a heritage to be proud of.

In addition, I have found myself closer to my extended family as a result of my proximity to this Italian neigh-

borhood. For every family gathering, I receive phone calls a few weeks prior under the premise to catch up, but really the calls are to deliver a shopping list. Everyone seems to want espresso beans, coffee, fresh bread, hand rolled cigars or some combination of the sort. The discussions around the dinner table are all about the best places to go on Arthur Ave and how some specific item that I brought along reminds my parent’s generation about their childhoods. As a result of my Italian heritage and my unique college experience with it, I have grown closer to my family. Sometimes I think that we have family get-togethers just so that I can bring along the specialty items everyone wants, although my family has yet to openly admit this.

The individual success of each Italian store owner is inspiring. The hard-work and dedication is evident in each store, as witnessed by the early morning starts of each owner. For instance, you can call up Addeo Bakery at 5am and sure enough someone who is there baking the bread will happily answer the phone. Hard-work, happiness and success go hand in hand. Every store and its customers become an extended family. When I walk into Addeo, if Margie, the woman who normally assists me, is there I ask about her family. She just became a grandmother, and despite the hard-work and long hours she puts in as an employee she always has a smile on her face and a vibrant positive attitude. Hard-working and happy are synonymous on Arthur Avenue. As a pre-med student who is starting medical school at the Hofstra North Shore-LIJ School of Medicine this year, the connection between the Italian work ethic and happiness is not only rousing but also reassuring. I know that despite wearisome weeks and tough work, I am a member of a prideful community; and that as a group of people Italian-Americans have always overcome obstacles with grit and determination. After a tough week of school work nothing is better than a stroll down Arthur Avenue for reassurance.

In modern America, the traditional family dynamic in which family comes together, has broken down. However,

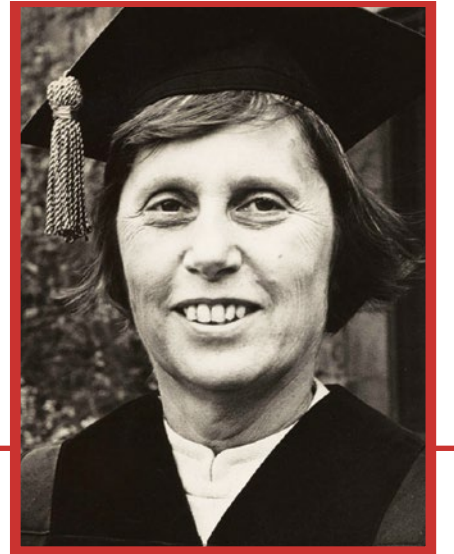
strong Italian roots provide a steadfast safeguard against this. Although it is true that seeing the tree in Rockefeller Center is a symbol of holiday magic, I would argue that walking down Arthur Avenue with your family is more of an experience of the holidays. Generations of Italian families are present, all gathered together to prepare for the holidays. However, despite the economic nature of Arthur Avenue that allows it to thrive, the holidays for Italian-Americans are not cheapened by commercialization. Although families have come together under the premise to shop, the real reason they are there is a pre-holiday celebration in which the jubilant mood is front and center. Families wait on long-lines and interact with other families in positive ways. The outside world where people are fighting for the first spot in line seems like a distant memory as strangers talk, laugh and joke about our shared Italian heritage and unique American experience. Everyone is on -line with relatives who ask the same questions; about school, work, or when is the last time you visited your grandmother at her house. This is the real family holiday experience. Holidays here start as a family experience, and turn into an adventure. After a day of shopping nothing is more enjoyable then grabbing a bite to eat. The rushing that seems to isolate people from their social connections isn’t evident. It isn’t even a thought. The Italian-American holiday experience is a magnificent one, and regardless of how many hours away family members are, they always come back home to be together.

It is hard to know where you are going if you do not know where you came from. In a world where we perpetually look forward, Arthur Avenue celebrates the Italian-American story. I am specifically referring to the music in the stores. Whereas most outside businesses play some version of Ryan Seacrest’s Top 40 Hits, the music of Arthur Avenue merchants is music with a culture and a message. Old meets new as your ears are delighted by artists from Pavarotti, to my personal favorite Il Volo. There is a sense of continuity on Arthur Avenue in which the world

has a context. Here it is possible to eat a pasty outside on a spring day and get advice from another person sitting at the table next to you. The other person, in my case, often years older and wiser than I, has experiences that they are willing to share so that I may learn from their past. Just like the Italian music connects the old and the new, so does the Arthur Avenue experience. Arthur Avenue makes it clear that the Italian-American community is one with an identity that does not need to change to stay relevant, because it has such a storied history that it is pervasive. Everywhere in the world has been touched by Italian culture because of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance. The foundation of the American Republic was even influenced by the structure of the Roman Republic. As a result, the world’s culture can trace some of its origins to Italy, so no matter where modern culture may go it can never lose its Italian connection.

The Italian-American experience is a special and unique one which I am fortunate to be a part of. It seems that no matter where in the United States one may go, Italian-Americans all have something in common: overbearing relatives, an aunt who was a chef in a past life, and a ridiculously large and ever-expanding holiday dinner table. No matter how far our relatives may go, they always come back for the holidays and every holiday we seem to squeeze one more person at a table that we deemed far too small many years ago. The Italian-American experience set me up to succeed in a world in which some may describe as difficult. However, this is not the case. Knowing that the first generation of Italian-Americans overcame economic disadvantages and racism when they arrived in America, seems to dwarf the challenge that young Italian-Americans such as myself face today. I am fortunate to have community organizations like UNICO that support me in attaining my goals. I cannot help but to feel culturally privileged because I not only have my family fully supporting me, but I also have the strength and support of my Italian-American community. As I prepare to enter the Hofstra North

Shore-LIJ School of Medicine, many of the customer’s where I work are thrilled to see a young Italian-American enter the medical field. It is because of the cohesive nature of the Italian American community that my lineages were able to establish themselves in American and create a foundation for my successes. Although my great-grandparents and grandparents generation has passed, I feel as though I am the living embodiment of the dream they brought with them across the Atlantic.



ELLA T. GRASSO LITERARY SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED 2012

*“It is not enough to profess faith in the democratic process;
we must do something about it.”*

— Ella Tambussi Grasso

Through her dedication and commitment to service, Ella Grasso positively impacted the lives of many Americans.

Born in Windsor Locks, Connecticut on May 10, 1919, Ella was the only child of Italian immigrants, James and Maria Oliva Tambussi. Her parents highly valued education, and instilled in their daughter the love of learning. A gifted student, Ella won a scholarship to the prestigious Chaffee School. Upon graduation, she attended Mount Holyoke College, on scholarship, where she earned her BA, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1940; her MA in 1942. Following graduation, Ella served with the War Manpower Commission of Connecticut as Assistant Director of Research. She married Dr. Thomas Grasso; they had two children, Susanne and Jim.

In 1970, Ella Grasso won election to the Congress of the United States from the Sixth Congressional District of Connecticut by over 4,000 votes. Her outstanding performance in Congress was acknowledged; she was re-elected in 1972 with over 60% of votes cast.

One of the most significant pieces of legislation Grasso supported and influenced was the National Cooley’s Anemia Control Act of 1972. This Act established programs to assist patients dealing with the serious blood disorder that primarily affects people of Mediterranean descent.

Ella Tambussi Grasso was overwhelmingly elected Governor of the state of Connecticut in November 1974. Inaugurated in January 1975, she became our nation’s first woman to hold a state governorship in her own right. She won re-election in 1978. Ill health forced her resignation in December 1980. Ella Grasso succumbed to cancer the following February.

UNICO National has established the Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship to honor the accomplishments of an extraordinary Italian American. This scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate college student, submitting an original short story or essay celebrating their Italian heritage.

UN VIAGGIO DI CONOSCENZA ... A TRIP OF KNOWLEDGE

By Timothy V. Curcio

In my academic life, it all begins with Dante. I booked our train at the same time as my Divine Comedy mid-term, but I successfully pleaded with my study abroad professor to allow me to take my exam early. As I hurriedly scribbled my responses in that cold dark classroom in Piazza Santo Spirito, I had no idea that I too was about to embark on a voyage to a world unknown. After jotting down the most succinct responses possible, I handed in my exam, wished my professor a “Happy Easter” and took to the street in a full sprint back across the Arno. My brother had our bags prepared for a 9:09 departure from S.M.N. Firenze towards Benevento. I arrived at my flat on Via Della Scala in a sweat. One glimpse of my brother’s red face conveyed to me that we may miss our train. He threw the bag against my chest without uttering a word. We scurried to the train station only to find our train delayed. I could breathe again and no longer had to suffer hostile glances from my disapproving older brother.

With ten minutes to spare, we did what any Florentine resident would do, found a nearby café and ordered an espresso. We quickly entered the bustling café. We were warmly greeted by a blue-eyed, blonde hair barista with a fair complexion. Her serene smile put us at ease. We drank our espresso, thanked the barista, and returned to our track.

With blind faith we boarded the train and began our descent armed with only a few instructions from my grandfather’s paesano Marcello. He warned us that the bus runs only once a day and to get off at the last stop in front of the only gas station in town, “You cantta miss itt!” I remember his enunciation cloaked in a stereotypical Italian accent. With the clickity clack of the tracks my brother and I occasionally exchanged glances.

Finally, he broke the silence, “Hey, show me those pics of Grandpa John in Italy!” To this day I cannot recall a feeling of trepidation as acute as the

one provoked by that imperative. I responded by putting my head down on the tray in front of us. Words were unnecessary.

“Don’t tell me you forgot the one thing you brought here to Italy and have been saving three months for when I got here!” he scolded me much like a father to a son. “This is what you’re gonna do. When we get to Benevento, you are going to contact Mom and get her to scan more pictures and find an Internet Café to print them.”

On a whim, like our trip, we found a hotel for the night in Benevento. We passed a sleepless night with many things still left unknown. With the help of a curious concierge and our elementary Italian, we established the location and time of the bus for Castelvetero in Val Fortore, the last provincial town of Benevento. Reinvigorated, we scoured the city bright and early in search of a needle in a haystack. We were far from the sprawling urban centers of Northern Italy. After an hour of vehement search, and as the bus departure neared, we finally located a café that had opened its internet capabilities that same day. In fact, we helped them set up their new printer. In perfect, crisp color, we printed out six, 30-year-old photographs of my grandfather’s various sojourns in Castelvetero with his cousins.

So, our difficult descent began to look up as we boarded what was more like a rickety old school bus. I peered out the windows the entire trip up and down uninhabited yellow and green rolling hills. In a stupor, I recall being startled once again by the voice of reason, “Eh! I think this is the stop, there’s the gas station ... Get your ass up!”

Reality set in as us two Americans, in shorts and t-shirts with our red overnight bag in hand, stepped off the bus. In the cool dry midday air, I looked around at the desolate town perched on top of a hill. With no sign of life, we looked at each other and said in unison, “Now what?”

Down the street we noticed an old man with white hair sitting alone. He glared at us as if two aliens had just landed. Despite my Italian study, I was

at a loss for words. Fortunately, my brother, although less competent in Italian, managed to utter a few phrases and asked the elderly man if he knew a certain Antonio Scrocca. In a bothered and rather unwelcoming manner, the old man said that Scrocca’s house was only a few steps ahead of us. He apprehensively guided us towards the residence, staying a few feet behind us, while calmly strolling with his hands crossed behind his back. We gesticulated anxiously, is it this one? This one? We finally reached the desired door. It was a brown wooden door that looked like it hadn’t been opened in years. We knocked, but there was no answer.

The man finally murmured in a dialect familiar to me in sound and rhythm, but barely comprehensible because of my limited study of Italian, “He’s not there. He lives in campagna.” To my untrained ear, I understood the region Campania which led me to believe Scrocca lived elsewhere, instead of campagna, the Italian word for countryside. Concluding this uncomfortable exchange, he explained that Antonio’s brother Giuseppe, on the other hand, lived nearby.

Once again we are escorted by the weary old man. We arrived at another door, but this time an older woman in dark garb with a rough exterior answered our tentative knocks. With our pictures doing the majority of the talking, we asked the gruff woman if she knew our grandfather Giovanni. She didn’t know how to react. Is this some sort of joke? She screams upstairs beckoning someone. Before us appears a disheveled man who had just been awakened from his midday nap. We pose the question again to him. He takes a brief gander at the photos. He stops at one in particular. He looks up at us and looks back at the photo and back at us again. With a perplexed look he says, in strict dialect, “This is me!” We then point out our grandfather sitting next to him in the photo. He recognizes him as Gianni instead of Giovanni, as we thought he would have been known.

This was the turning point of our adventure. With one ring of the tele-

phone a younger man shows up and without saying much he grabs our bag and throws it in the trunk of his car. Like two confused lamb, we shrug our shoulders and get in the car. The man of few words became our guide and drove us to a woman’s home. We were customarily greeted with some cookies and espresso by a woman with a gentle face and an uncanny resemblance to our Aunt Terry. We sucked down our espresso and did the best we could to communicate. The woman went to her cabinet and took out a photo. It was a picture of our grandparents, both deceased for a number of years, which they had previously sent to her. Finally, we were at ease.

Our stoic guide took us on numerous short visits to every known relative of our grandfather remaining in the small town. Each brief meeting was a fond exchange with some sort of offering, whether it was a shot of brandy, an espresso, small candies, or tiny bitter sodas. At the end of each stop we bid our farewells and swapped two kisses, one on each cheek. After a long day, our host prepared us a feast: dried sausage from the pig they slaughtered a few months earlier, homemade cavatelli (a tradition that remains in my family today), fresh cheese, homemade bread, their own vintage of wine, and a salad dressed only in olive oil, so pungent that only after asking three times was I convinced there was no lemon or other ingredient on it. Once completely stuffed, our guide brought us to a room to sleep, the same room where our grandfather had stayed on his visits.

In the dark of night, moments of clarity present themselves. After an unimaginable day, my brother and I reflected on the gravity of this unbelievable experience we were amidst. While in the suburbs of northern New Jersey, a casual affirmation that we would retrace our roots was not enough to encapsulate what it meant to actually be doing it. Laying there in bed, we still did not have a full grasp of everything: Who was the old lady who lay paralyzed in bed for 10 years? How were the man and woman with the same nose as our great grandmother related? Who was the sickly man adorning the

winter hat who recited our Mom and Aunts’ names so lucidly? Our most ignorant question of all, who exactly is the family we are staying with? It was just too soon to process everything. It pained us greatly to not understand every detail of the stories that started off, “uu nonn ... your grandpa ...” which were recounted with exuberant joy on each storyteller’s face. With my mind racing in the darkness, I fell into a heavy and satisfying slumber.

Day two was once again filled with an abundance of food and a grand tour of the town that my great grandfather left behind just prior to World War I. It began with a pleasant stroll through the corridor of the Sunday market while our guide greeted everyone in town and gave a proud introduction to the americani. We visited the historic part of town which was a treacherous uphill trek. Lunch followed with another banquet of homemade food, and a tour of the garden, animal coops, grape vines, olive trees, and wine cellar. To conclude our momentous visit, a group of fifteen relatives gathered at the local restaurant for an unforgettable dinner. Amongst smiling faces, after countless glasses of wine, and finally understanding the answer is always ‘yes’ when asked if you want second and third helpings, within two days the americani were accepted as part of the family.

After dinner, the oldest man and the patriarch of the group, insisted that we call our mother. We drive once again from the house in the countryside up the windy roads into town. We follow the man, and he leads us to that first wooden door we knocked on! He takes us upstairs, we call home, quickly debrief our mother on the incredible experience, and he asks to speak to her. The first thing we hear is, “Io sono Antonio Scrocca ...” My brother and I immediately make eye contact and finally realize we were hosted the entire time by the man we were originally seeking!

With a new outlook, we boarded our train and ascended back toward Florence. Yet, our voyage was not over. Before leaving, we were told that a cousin of ours, Immacolata, works in a café in the train station, and that

she would meet us upon our train’s arrival. Anxiously, we exited the train and through a sea of people saw a blue-eyed, blonde hair woman with a pale complexion waiting. Alas reader, would you believe it was the gracious barista from just a few days earlier! She embraced us enthusiastically. She would act as an angel on my shoulder for the remainder of my stay in Italy. Immacolata showed me a perspective of Italy and of my roots otherwise impenetrable as an American tourist.

It was a trip that led to knowledge and understanding, one of which I am extremely grateful. I sorely miss my time in Italy and the acquaintances I made. Yet, some things are unforgettable and imprinted on my memory. I can still picture the view of Florence from atop Piazzale Michelangelo when the city is illuminated by the pale light of the stars.



As a Reminder

Scholarship Packets
will be e-mailed to
District Governors,
Chapter Presidents and
Scholarship Chairs
(where we have the information.)

Look for the e-mailed information
to be sent out from the
UNICO National Office
late November/early December.

Packets will be
mailed upon request.



HALLOWEEN AT THE EASTERN REGIONAL



Ralph Contini



Mike Pisano



Anthony Bengivenga



The Winning Dessert baked by Jack Ring!



Can you guess the UNICO National Vice President?



Rick and Manuela D'Arminio.



John and Angela DiNapoli.



Lou and Celeste Pandolfi.



Elyse and Bob Buonomo.



Joe Almeida and Francine Nido.



Frank and Linda DeFrank.



Marilyn and Joe Nasello.

HALLOWEEN AT THE EASTERN REGIONAL



Ed and Joy Ebel.



Elsa and Lou DiRico.



Glenn and Terri Pettinato.



Ralph and Marge Spataro.



Andre' and Jenny DiMino.



Anne and Brian Guarco.



Criss Mangano and Ann Walko.



Bob Tarte.



Bob and Grace Gynn.



Joe Kovacs and Mary Ann Olsen.



Marilyn Nasello.



Domingos Campos and Francine Nido.



Alina Nicastro.



From left: Celeste Pandolfi, Frank Greco and Patty Hirsch.



From left: Marlene Veselka, Tom Vaughan and Mike Veselka.



UNICO Members celebrate the Mille Grazie Winner Gene Valicenti, NBC News Anchor and Radio Host from Rhode Island.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Ralph Contini display the Perillo Tours Sponsorship.



From left: Manny Alfano, Mille Grazie Winner Gene Valicenti, UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio and Andre' DiMino.



UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio (R) presents Joseph Sciame with the Joseph Coccia, Jr. Heritage, Language and Culture Award.



From left: Past National President Joe Agresti, Elisa Coccia, Joseph Sciame, Lou DiRico and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



From left: Past National President Joe Agresti, Elda Coccia, Joseph Sciame and UNICO National President Richard D'Arminio.



◀ 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The Vietri story began in 1983 when a mother and her two daughters traveled to Italy and fell in love with colorful, hand-painted dinnerware made by local artisans. Today, Vietri is the largest U.S. importer of exclusively Italian, handcrafted ceramics. Working only with families of Italian artisans that use centuries-old techniques, Vietri imports pieces that are truly unique. The award-winning maestro behind Vietri's Old St. Nick Collection is Alessandro Taddei. With more than 30 years of experience and training at the Montelupo School for Ceramics, Taddei is a visionary in the ceramic world. www.vietri.com

The Old St. Nick Bambini Set features St. Nick enjoying Christmas cookies. The set includes a plate, bowl and mug, and is hand-painted by Maestro Taddei. \$115

The Old St. Nick Holding Candies Boxed Ornament is made of glass, hand-painted by Maestro Taddei and packaged in a clear box for gift giving. \$37

The Old St. Nick Biscotti Jar is hand-painted by Maestro Taddei. \$228

The Old St. Nick Square Platter is hand-painted by Maestro Taddei. \$101

The Old St. Nick Red Hat Mug is hand-painted by Maestro Taddei. \$44

The Old St. Nick of Tuscan Village was inspired by Vietri's Old St. Nick Collection. Italian artisans and Lynn Haney designers combined their talents to create this holiday centerpiece. Handcrafted and signed. \$365





▲ **MICHAEL BENDER**

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

Filippo Brunelleschi died on the night of April 16, 1446, at the age of sixty-nine. The grateful citizens of Florence laid Filippo to rest under the floor of the Cathedral itself. The epitaph can be found just inside the Cathedral's entrance: 'Both the magnificent dome of this famous church and many other devices invented by Filippo the architect bear witness to his superb skill. Therefore, in tribute to his exceptional talents, a grateful country that will always remember buries him here in this soil below.'

**Waiting for Filippo:
The Life of Renaissance
Architect Filippo Brunelleschi**
by Michael Bender

- **Pages:** 10
- **Cost:** \$49.16 new, \$11.95 collectible
- **ISBN:** 1-85793-765-1
- **Visit:** www.amazon.com

Eye-popping HISTORY

by Judith Anne Testa

Only a few books intended for children hold an equal appeal for adults, and this volume is one of them. "Waiting for Filippo" is a brief, accessible biography of the great Renaissance architect and engineer Filippo Brunelleschi, the man who solved the seemingly intractable problem of building the dome of Florence's cathedral. The contents will be of interest to just about any child, thanks to the colorful pictures. What makes this book so exceptional, however, isn't the text but the series of ingenious "pop-ups" that illustrate not just the cathedral dome but other buildings designed by Brunelleschi, as well as many aspects of life in 15th-century Florence. Readers of any age with an interest in the art-rich city will be enchanted by these delightful, interactive illustrations.

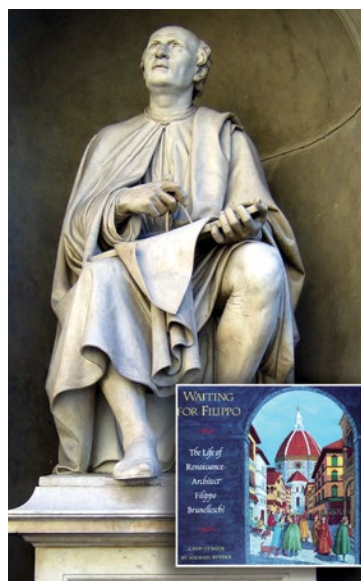
Efforts to describe in understandable terms how Brunelleschi's dome is constructed can tax any writer. In this book, the reader is able to open up the dome by means of two flaps that part the roof and give us a look at the structure inside. Along with the interactive picture there is also a numbered list of the main features of the dome, with the corresponding numbers printed on the picture of the dome. Plenty of architectural historians have spent whole chapters trying with no great success to explain how Brunelleschi built this dome — maybe they should consider adding pop-ups to their scholarly tomes.

The book is about much more than just the dome of the cathedral. It begins with a short description of Florence in the 1400s, followed by a section on

Brunelleschi's early life, each taking up less than a page and separated by an illustration of the exterior of a building that can be opened to show a panorama of Florentine life: a notary at work on the left, an artist's shop on the right, and in the middle a scene no doubt meant to represent the moment shortly after Filippo's birth: a woman holds a yowling, squirmy baby while its smiling mother rests in bed. The scene is based on numerous Renaissance paintings of the Birth of the Virgin Mary and the Birth of John the Baptist, but it doesn't matter if you know that — the scene is charming in its own right.

We then follow Filippo into his apprenticeship as a goldsmith, through his growing interest in sculpture and architecture, his invention of one-point perspective (which is very well explained); his commission to construct Florence's Foundling Hospital; and eventually to his greatest triumph, the cathedral dome. But the book doesn't end there: we also see Brunelleschi's later buildings, including a disastrous bit of military engineering that includes a dramatic pop-up of a fortress with a tower. (Kids will LOVE that one!)

Naturally a book intended for children will over-simplify, but none of the text is grossly inaccurate, and it's never patronizing. But I do want to correct one point. The plaque in the cathedral that praises Brunelleschi, mentioned in the excerpt above, is modern. Brunelleschi's body does indeed lie in the "soil below," in the crypt beneath the church. Down there, a visitor can see the tomb and read the simple, original Latin epitaph, which translates as: "Here lies the body of the great ingenious man Filippo Brunelleschi of Florence."



Musical JESTER

by Otto Bruno

As the host of a radio program for almost 15 years now, I'm still surprised at the songs for which certain singers are best remembered. Rarely are they the vocalist's best efforts. For example, these days Lou Monte is remembered for the cute little Christmas ditty, "Dominick the Donkey." As a kid, we owned Monte's Reprise album that included his Top Ten hit, "Pepino the Italian Mouse." I wore that album out! As much as I loved Monte as a kid, I'd never even heard of "Dominick the Donkey." Now, every year around Christmastime, I get requests to play "the donkey song."

Monte was born Louis Scaglione in New York City in 1917. He began playing the guitar as a kid and honed his skills as a musician, singer and comedian prior to entering the military in World War II. Following the war, he continued to perform in nightclubs in and around the New Jersey area. In 1953 he made a recording of an old tune called "The Darktown Strutter's Ball" but gave it an Italian immigrant flavor. The recording sold well and helped to launch Monte's career as an ethnic, musical comedian.

Lou Monte was to Italian America what Allen Sherman later became to Jewish America. In both cases, their humor was based on an "inside joke" type of understanding with fellow immigrants while still being funny enough in its own right to appeal to other ethnicities. The difference between Monte and Sherman is that Monte was actually an accomplished musician whereas Sherman was a comedy writer. There are certain songs Monte sings straight, without comedic overtones, that work wonderfully as purely musical pieces like

"Chitarra romana" and "Comm' è bella 'a stagione."

Monte's career was one of contrasts, for while he was primarily a nightclub performer best known in and around the New Jersey area, he also got booked into clubs in Chicago, Boston and other cities with large Italian-American populations. In addition, he made appearances on national television programs with Perry Como and Ernie Kovacs and sold mil-



lions of records on the RCA and Reprise labels. Monte's humor appealed to a very specific niche audience: the working-class children of Italian immigrants. The generation who went to college and earned degrees might have been a little embarrassed by Monte's coarse, ethnic humor while the immigrants themselves would not really have understood many of his American references. However, as a kid, I loved the fact that he rewrote history by having George Washington speak to his troops in a combination of English and Italian. When Monte told me on his record to ask "Giusepp' the barber just what Georgie said when he crossed the Delaware," I could actually do that because my barber was named Joe! And when I asked him, he confirmed Monte's story, telling me Washington had said, "Madon', it's cold!"

Today, much of Monte's humor might seem politically incorrect to a more ethnically enlightened America, but it's a valuable and entertaining time capsule that preserved the spirit of a culture in transition. Someone once said, if you want to understand a culture, listen to its popular songs, and during the 1950s and 1960s, Lou Monte taught America what a certain portion of Italian America was about through humor and music.



▲ **IN THE SPOTLIGHT** ▼

THE VERY BEST OF LOU MONTE

There are a variety of Lou Monte CDs available on websites like amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, but none are comprehensive collections from labels such as RCA or Reprise. In fact, it's difficult to find much of Monte's Reprise material on CD.

"The Very Best of Lou Monte" is a CD put out under the Taragon label and includes a decent collection of Monte's biggest hits from both RCA and Reprise, including the early "Darktown Strutters' Ball (Italian Style)," the holiday favorite "Dominick the Donkey," and the ultimate Monte classic, "Pepino the Italian Mouse."

Taragon's "The Very Best of Lou Monte" is a safe bet to begin your Monte collection; the material comes from "original master recordings," according to the liner notes. There are some lousy Monte CDs out there. I know because I've bought one or two, so to be guaranteed a master recording is a definite bonus.

Be forewarned that this CD contains some real dogs like "Elvis Presley for President" and the weak follow up to Pepino, "Pepino's Friend Pasqual (The Italian Pussy-Cat)." However, you'll be more than amply rewarded with Italian favorites like "Eh Marie," "Chitarra romana" and "Comm' è bella 'a stagione" as well as another priceless Monte parody, this time on the classic "Sheik of Araby," which Monte turns into "The Sheik of Napoli."

Visit www.amazon.com

◀ **ACQUA UPGRADE**

The famous Roman “nasoni” water fountains are going hi-tech. Thanks to a partnership between the city and energy company Acea, one hundred electronic fountains will be placed all across Italy’s capital over the next three years. The fountains use the same water as the nasoni, but it is filtered and cleaned through an ultraviolet sensor. While citizens and tourists fill up their bottles with still or sparkling water, they will also be able to recharge their smartphones or laptops thanks to outlets provided on one side of the machine. The best part? It’s all free! The city of Rome estimates reducing yearly waste by 1,800 tons (the equivalent of 40 million plastic bottles) while an estimated 5,000 tons of carbon dioxide could be cut every year.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME? ▶**

Walk into any supermarket and you’ll find dozens of so-called extra-virgin olive oils, but are they really deserving of the EVOO label? The Italian group Assofrantoi — which represents oil mill owners across the country — doesn’t think so. To combat lower-quality oils masquerading as the real deal, the group teamed up with agricultural giant Confagricoltura to produce the special label “L’extra vergine 916.” The number refers to the weight of real extra-virgin olive oils, and the project aims to offer the best oils along with full traceability from tree to bottle. Only available in Italy at present, the products can be selected from specific regions and even mills, or chosen from a set of characteristics that enable the customer to pick the olive oil that suits them best. (www.extravergine916.com)

READY TO RUMBLE ▶

One of Italy’s top motorcycle manufacturers is back in the game! Piaggio-owned Aprilia recently announced its return to the prestigious Grand Prix motorcycle racing class. Based in Noale, near Venice, Aprilia will try to chip away at Honda’s dominance while battling against rival Italian manufacturer Ducati. The company is far from being a newcomer, though. With 52 world titles, 294 victories and 38 championships in its trophy cabinet accumulated since 1992, Aprilia is bound to scare a few competitors. After all, some of today’s champions all rode Aprilia at one point in their careers, including Valentino Rossi and Max Biaggi. Founded right after World War II by Alberto Beggio, the company is known for its popular scooters and powerful RSV4.

◀ **HUGE DISCOVERY**

In early October, archeologists digging up the remains of giant statues near Oristano were astonished to find one completely unbroken. Known as the Giants of Monte Prama, these 8-foot-tall statues once stood guard on the hillsides around the Sardinian city of Cabras, scaring off invaders coming from the sea. That is, until the Carthaginians decided to destroy everything they encountered around 900 B.C. Aside from Egyptian sculptures, the Sardinian statues are among the oldest known works of stone art in the Mediterranean area. Made of chalky sandstone, the giants also guarded local cemeteries where ancient mummies have also recently been found. The first statues were found in 1975, but none had been in such good shape as the one found in October. A number of patched-up giants are on display at the Museo Archeologico Nazionale in Cagliari.



Goodbye, MR. NICE GUY

by Jim Distasio

▲ **STEVE CARELL**

A family man and devout Catholic, he dug deep into the dark recesses of his psyche to dredge up an Oscar-worthy performance as a tormented murderer in his latest role.

was aggressively courted by the film’s director, Academy Award nominee Bennett Miller (“Moneyball” and “Capote”), who developed the story for almost six years before the cameras rolled.

“The notion of casting somebody who is perceived habitually in a benign way, meaning you don’t expect these characters to be capable of doing the things that this character does, is something that was said about the real John du Pont,” Miller told Variety. “The little bit I got to know Steve before we decided to go down this road together, I got a very quick impression that he has another side, as I think many comedic actors do, that rarely gets aired out, and he had a willingness to approach this in a serious way.”

Miller’s directorial instincts proved astute. “Foxcatcher” has received massive critical acclaim and is expected to be a front-runner at the next Academy Awards in several categories. Not surprisingly, Carell’s performance is also at the top of many prognosticators’ lists for a Best Actor Oscar.

The praise being sung over Carell’s “Foxcatcher” turn will come as little surprise to fans of the massively popular and influential NBC comedy “The Office,” which ended its nine-season run

Continues on page 66 ...

Actor Steve Carell is best known as the funnyman star of “The 40-Year-Old Virgin” and TV’s “The Office” — and not so well known for his Italian lineage. (More on that later.) But the 52-year-old actor is currently redefining himself in a way few actors have done before with a game-changing dramatic turn on the big screen.

If you haven’t heard by now, Carell is giving the performance of the year — and maybe of a lifetime — in the true-story drama “Foxcatcher,” which opened in theaters on Nov. 19.

(SPOILER ALERT! Skip to the next paragraph to avoid reading major plot points for this nonfiction film.) Carell plays the mentally troubled John du Pont, a scion of one of the richest families in America, who was convicted of the heinous murder of former Olympic wrestler and colleague Dave Schultz in 1996. Schultz was employed by du Pont as a wrestling coach for an amateur athletic program du Pont hosted on his Foxcatcher estate. The film, which spans nearly a decade, tries to piece together what led du Pont to shoot Schultz in a fit of paranoia. (A jury would eventually find du Pont “guilty but mentally ill” for his crime.)

Buried beneath makeup and prosthetics that took three hours to apply each day, Carell is equally frightening and electrifying as a disturbed man who truly believes his wealth and social status place him in rarefied air.

“I was off-putting. I was someone you didn’t want to be with,” Carell told The Hollywood Reporter of his physical and emotional transformation to play du Pont.

Todd McCarthy, film critic for The Hollywood Reporter, perhaps summed up Carell’s loathsome-yet-compelling onscreen creation best. “From the beginning, you can’t take your eyes off Carell; as if by some secret alchemy, the actor makes you believe that his character is



an entirely uncharismatic man while delivering a completely charismatic performance,” he writes.

Carell is highly regarded as one of Hollywood’s most humble and good-natured actors. He’s been married to the same woman for nearly 20 years, is a devout family man to his children and has asserted his Catholic faith as a guiding force on several occasions. So this seemingly effortless channeling of du Pont for the screen is something of a revelation, even for longtime fans of the actor.

This was a creative journey Carell didn’t seek out for himself. Instead, he

in 2013. Carell played the clueless-but-endearing office manager Michael Scott for seven seasons, and racked up six Emmy nominations in the process (with sadly no wins). Michael Scott wasn't just a comedic creation (even if his character once accidentally burned his foot in a George Foreman Grill), but rather a man-child with deep-seeded emotional scars that Carell imbued with humanity and eventual growth.

Both before and after "The Office," Carell mostly stuck to comedy, including a popular stint as a correspondent on "The Daily Show" and turns in the films "Date Night," "Anchorman" and as the voice of the lovable villain in the animated "Despicable Me" movies. But Carell also dipped into dramatic waters with respectable turns in "Crazy, Stupid, Love" and "Little Miss Sunshine," but the actor says playing in a drama as bleak as "Foxcatcher" was never on his radar.

"It wasn't something I had in my mind. 'You know, I need to do a very, very dark drama.' That just sort of came

along, and I went for it," Carell told The Playlist.

Carell says he isn't motivated by awards nor any urge to avoid typecasting as a comedic actor, a move he finds "pretentious" — instead, it's all about embodying fascinating people.

"If you have the opportunity, choose stuff that makes you happy, that is exciting, that gives you the opportunity to work with good people. That's the reason to do it," Carell told The Playlist.

Much of Carell's easygoing attitude and sunny outlook can be attributed to his close-knit family and upbringing. Hailing from suburban Massachusetts, Carell is the youngest child of four born to parents Edwin, an electrical engineer, and Harriet, a nurse. The duo grew up in the Great Depression, and Carell says that experience helped them impart a sense of family values to their four sons.

While Carell also counts both German and Polish ancestry, he is Italian on his father's side, though you wouldn't guess it from his last name.

"The family name was Caroselli, and

it was changed in the mid-'50s," Carell told The Guardian. "I think they wanted to assimilate, which was pretty common, although I love the name Caroselli. I think it's beautiful, and it certainly wouldn't be mispronounced and misspelled as much as Carell has been over the years."

For Carell and his wife, also a Hollywood actress, their most important roles in life have been as parents. Both work hard to instill those same notions of humility and an appreciation for life's gifts in their two children, who are growing up amid wealth and fame neither of them could have imagined.

"My wife's from a family of six kids, and everybody didn't get everything they wanted," Carell told The Guardian. "That's OK; that's life. You're doing your kids a disservice if they do get everything they want because that's not the way life's going to go, and I think kids have to have some reality. My children don't expect to get everything, and I think our greatest achievement so far is that they respect us and listen to us."

In praise of BUTTER

by Dolores Sennebogen



When it comes to holiday cookies, butter is better. That is, butter lends a distinctive and superior taste to baked products that is more noticeable in homemade cookies than in any other baked goods. I can hear some of you saying that grandma always used shortening, so shouldn't we? Well, one reason your Italian grandma may have used shortening is the origin of her recipes. If she was using handed-down recipes from Southern Italy, lard was probably the only choice available to the original baker. Northern Italians may or may not have had the luxury of butter, but lard from the fat of pigs was a staple in rural regions. In American grocery stores, immigrants found canned vegetable shortening with the same properties as lard. Grandma may have also chosen shortening or lard because she knew it would make her cookies very tender. But in addition to the unbeatable flavor of

butter, we are now conscious that butter does not contain hydrogenated fat, while some canned shortening does. Hydrogenation is the source of unhealthy trans fats. I understand the love of tradition that makes bakers unwilling to change anything about their family's tried and true recipes, but I hope you will add some of these buttery recipes to your Christmas celebration. Buon Natale a Tutti!



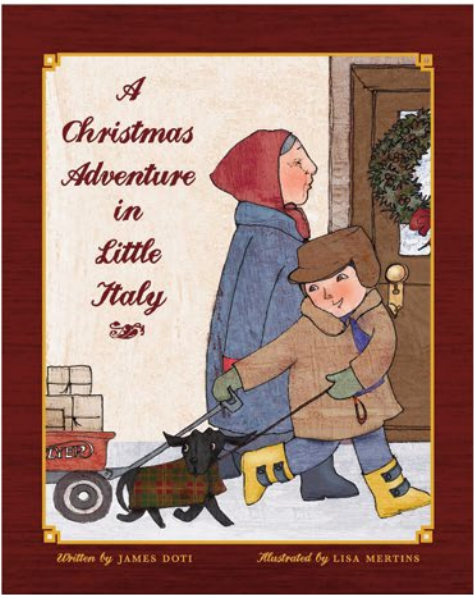
STELLE

(Star-Shaped Butter Cookies)

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1/2 cup plus 6 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg
- 3/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Maraschino cherries, halved

Cream the butter and sugar. Beat in the egg and extract, mixing well. Reduce the mixer speed to low and gradually add the flour combined with the salt. Chill the dough for about 30 minutes, and then use the star disk of your cookie press to place stars on cookie sheets. Alternately, you can use a pastry bag and a 1/2-inch star tip to pipe 2-inch mounds of the dough onto the cookie sheets. Place one half of a Maraschino cherry in the center of each star. Bake the cook-

Continues on page 68 ...



A Christmas Adventure in Little Italy

An enchanting family story set in a 1950s-era Italian neighborhood.

A Sons of Italy National Book Club Selection

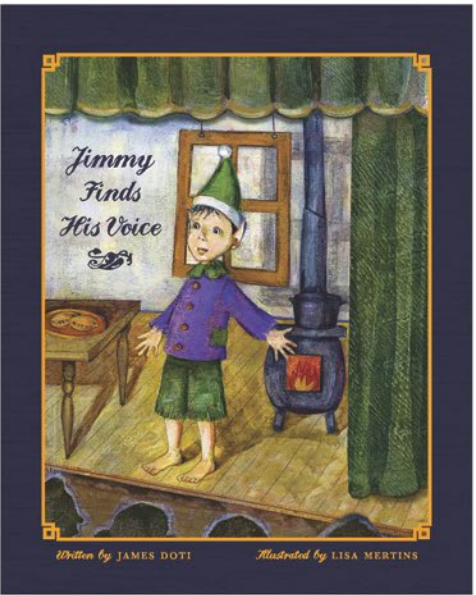
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Kirkus Reviews



Jim Doti, president of Chapman University, grew up in Chicago's Little Italy and writes endearingly of his childhood experiences that evoke the sights, sounds and traditions of an Italian-American family.

The perfect gift books this holiday season for the Italian in all of us!
Available at bookstores online and near you. Also at iTunes.

ies in a preheated 375-degree oven for 8 to 12 minutes, or until they are lightly browned around the edges. If using two cookie sheets, rotate them from front to back and top to bottom about half way through the baking time. Cool completely and store in a covered tin. Recipe may be doubled.

Note: For the holidays, you may use both red and green cherries for a colorful cookie tray.

— Dolores Sennebogen

ZALETTI

(Cornmeal Cookies)

- 3/4 cup golden raisins
- 1/4 cup grappa or brandy
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup fine yellow cornmeal
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 12 tablespoons (1-1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1-1/2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Soak the raisins in the grappa for one hour to plump them. Combine the flour with the cornmeal and salt in a medium bowl and set aside. Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg, lemon zest and vanilla, blending well. Reduce the speed of the mixer and gradually add the dry ingredients. By hand, mix in the raisins and their liquid until well blended. Refrigerate for at least two hours.

On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a 1/4-inch thickness. Cut the dough into diamond shapes,



about 1-1/2 to 2-inches long and about 3/4-inch wide. Place the cookies on two unbuttered baking sheets. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven on the middle shelf for 12 to 15 minutes. The zaletti should be lightly browned around the edges. Remove from the oven and set aside for 2 minutes. Remove to cookie racks to cool completely. Store the cookies in covered tins. These may be sprinkled lightly with confectioners’ sugar at serving time, if desired.

Note: In the Veneto region, these are traditionally made with small currants instead of raisins. Use them if you prefer.

— adapted from Michele Scicolone

BISCOTTI AL BURRO SEMPLICE

(Simple Buttery Cookies)

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 5 rounded tablespoons confectioners’ sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour

Cream the butter and sugar until well combined. Beat in the vanilla extract. (Sometimes I add a little extra extract — to taste.) Gradually add the flour. Roll into balls the size of small walnuts. Dip a fork into some flour and press down on each ball, flattening it slightly and leaving tine marks on the top of each cookie. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven until golden on the bottom and around the edges. Start checking them after about 10 to 12 minutes. Dust with confectioners’ sugar before serving.

— Linda Lucatorto

CANTUCCI

(Almond Spice Biscotti)

- 3/4 cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 stick butter, softened
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 teaspoon orange zest
- Egg wash

Toast the slivered almonds in a preheated 275-degree oven until lightly golden, about 20 minutes. Cool. In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, salt and spices. Set aside.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugars. Add the eggs, one at a time, and then beat in the orange juice and zest. Reduce the mixer speed and gradually add the flour mixture until well combined. Stir in the toasted almonds by hand. Refrigerate for one hour.

Divide the dough into four parts. Lightly flour your hands and roll each piece into a snake about 12 inches long. Place on two lightly greased air-cushioned baking sheets. Flatten slightly to form 4 loaves, about 1-1/2 inches across.

Beat an additional egg with 2 teaspoons of water and brush a little on the surface of each loaf. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 20 to 22 minutes, until lightly golden. Cool for about 15



to 20 minutes, and then slice diagonally into 1/2-inch biscotti. Lower the oven temperature to 300 degrees. Return the biscotti slices to the oven and bake about 5 minutes per side. Traditional cantucci are very hard, so if desired you may bake them longer. I prefer them softer. Sometimes I omit the second baking, since they will get a little harder after a day or two. Cool on wire racks.

— Dolores Sennebogen

OCCHI DI BUE

(Filled “Bulls-Eyes”)

- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup mascarpone cheese, softened
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- Sugar

Filling

- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 6 (1-ounce) squares bittersweet chocolate
- 2 tablespoons butter

Cream the sugar with the 1/2 cup of softened butter in a large bowl on medium speed. Add the egg, softened mascarpone and almond extract and continue beating until well mixed. Reduce speed to low. Add the baking powder and salt to the flour and mix into the butter mixture gradually, until well combined. Divide the dough in half and wrap each half in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 2 hours or until firm. Work with one half of the dough at a time, keeping the other half refrigerated. Roll out



the dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/8-inch thickness. Cut out cookies with a 1-3/4-inch round or scalloped cookie cutter. An upside down glass will work in a pinch. Leave half of the cookies whole and remove a 3/4-inch round patch from the middle of the other half. Sprinkle the cookies with a cut-out middle with sugar. Place the cookies on baking sheets and bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 6 to 8 minutes or until lightly browned on the edges. Transfer to wire racks to cool completely.

Place the whipping cream in a small saucepan and heat on low until bubbles form around the edges. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the bittersweet (not unsweetened) chocolate and 2 tablespoons of butter until smooth. Pour the filling into a small bowl and place the bowl inside a larger bowl filled with iced water. Stir occasionally for about 15 minutes, until thickened. Spoon about 1 teaspoon of the filling onto each uncut cookie and top with the cut-out cookies, sugar-side up. Let stand until the filling is set.

— adapted from Land O’Lakes Butter

BOCCONCINI DOLCI

(Sweet Morsels)

- 1/3 cup toasted coconut
- 1/3 cup toasted slivered almonds, chopped
- 1/3 cup milk chocolate morsels
- 2 sticks butter
- 1/2 cup confectioners’ sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- Additional confectioners’ sugar
- Cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Spread the coconut on a baking sheet and place it in the oven. Toss several times to prevent burning. When golden in color, remove it and let it cool. Crush the toasted coconut with your fingers. Set aside.

Raise the oven temperature to 350 degrees. Toast the slivered almonds in the oven as with the coconut. When lightly golden, remove them. Chop them when they have cooled. Measure the



milk chocolate morsels and set aside.

Beat the butter until creamy. Add the confectioners’ sugar and continue beating until light. Add the egg and extracts and beat another minute. Add the flour a little at a time until it is all incorporated. Mix in the coconut, almonds and milk chocolate morsels with a spoon, combining well.

Drop the mixture by the teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheets about 1 inch apart and bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 15 to 18 minutes. It is best to change the position of the pan from the lower to upper oven shelf after 8 minutes.

Cool completely. Roll in confectioners’ sugar and store. Before serving, sprinkle with additional confectioners’ sugar and a very light dusting of cinnamon.

— Ann Sorrentino



Recipes for baked goods often call for softened butter. Hard butter does not mix easily with sugar, flour, and other dry ingredients. Let the butter sit on the kitchen counter for about 60 minutes. To speed up the process, cut the butter in small pieces. Softened butter should hold its shape but dent slightly when pressed. If you over-soften the butter your cookies will spread too much and not hold the correct shape.



Unraveling A MYSTERY

by Mary Ann Esposito

Mention torta Barozzi in the town of Vignola — a thriving city just outside of Modena that's known for its Moretta cherries — and the residents there will enter into an argument as to the ingredients that go into this sinfully delicious chocolate cake.

The ingredients for this cake have been a well-kept secret all these years, and I was very curious about them when I encountered it in my travels to Modena. I was determined to find out what the secret ingredient was. Some say that it is peanut butter, but I beg to differ since Italians do not have peanut butter.

This much I do know. This is a dense, flourless chocolate cake flavored with rum, coffee, almonds and something else. After much research, I have to conclude that aceto balsamico tradizionale di Modena, is the secret ingredient, and that is a very expensive item.

Do not try and make this cake using balsamic vinegar from the grocery store; it is nowhere near the same thing. And I don't expect you to go out and buy a bottle of aceto balsamico tradizionale di Modena just to make this cake. Substitute a flavoring of your choosing if you do not have or want to purchase the real thing, but do not expect this cake to taste the same. You have been warned.

Here is my interpretation of this dark-as-midnight cake. Some important points before you begin: Use high-quality

semisweet chocolate; beat the sugar and egg yolks very well; do not over beat the egg whites; and, most important, do not over-bake the cake. It should remain moist and a bit “wet” when a cake skewer is inserted into the center.

TORTA BAROZZI

Serves 8 to 10

Coat a 9-inch-by-2-inch spring form pan with butter or cooking spray. Dust



with cocoa, tapping out the excess, and fit a sheet of parchment paper in the base of the pan. Butter the paper. Set the pan aside. You also can line the pan with a sheet of dampened parchment paper, allowing the excess to overhang on the sides.

1 cup sliced almonds, toasted
7 tablespoons unsalted butter
9 ounces of bittersweet chocolate,
cut into small pieces

4 large eggs, separated
1 cup sugar
2 tablespoons balsamic condimento
(aceto balsamico tradizionale di Modena)
or flavoring of your choice
1/4 cup strong coffee
1 tablespoon sweet ground cocoa*
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
or almond-flavored confectioners' sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grind the almonds to a powder in a food processor and set aside. Melt the chocolate and butter in a bowl set over hot water.

Beat the yolks and sugar until lemon-colored and very fluffy. Stir in the almonds, chocolate mixture, rum and coffee and set aside. Beat the whites in a separate bowl until soft peaks form. Fold into the chocolate mixture.

Pour the mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted in the center is slightly damp. Remove the pan from the oven and set on a cooling rack.

Cool completely. Carefully run a butter knife along the inside edges of the pan and release the spring. Remove the pan sides.

Place the cake on a serving dish. Combine the cocoa and confectioners' sugar in a small sieve and dust the top of the cake.

Cut into thin wedges to serve.

* — Ghirardelli makes a good sweet cocoa.
*Recipe from “Ciao Italia Family Classics”
by Mary Ann Esposito.*

CASTLE for the ages

by Judith Anne Testa

*“I was taken into a gloomy dungeon
that swam with water,
and was full of big spiders
and many venomous worms.*

*They flung me a wretched mattress
of coarse hemp,
gave me no supper, and locked
four doors upon me.”*

— Benvenuto Cellini,
“Autobiography”

What's in a name? Plenty, when the name is Castel Sant'Angelo. The huge circular mound of masonry that stands near the west bank of the Tiber, not far from the modern road that leads up to the front of St. Peter's, has had many names and many uses during its nearly 1,900 years of existence. Although it began as a tomb, it later became a fortress, a prison and then a papal apartment complex. The most recent transformation turned it into a museum. It's been the site of murders and battles, theatrical productions and opera acts, fireworks and firing squads.

The original purpose of Castel Sant'Angelo was as a tomb for the em-

peror Hadrian (117-138 A.D.) and members of his family. Work probably began in the 120s, about the same time as construction commenced on the Pantheon. To imagine both these gigantic structures underway at the same time for the same patron (in addition to Hadrian's huge, rambling Villa at Tivoli) gives some idea of the resources at the disposal of a Roman emperor. The tomb wasn't finished when Hadrian died; it was completed in 139, during the reign of his successor, Antoninus Pius.

The idea of a man building himself a grandiose tomb while he's still alive would strike most of us today as morbid, but Hadrian had ample precedents. About a century earlier, Rome had swallowed up Egypt, site of the grandest funerary monuments of them all — the Pyramids — which Hadrian had seen on his travels through the empire. Furthermore, in Rome the tomb of the emperor Augustus stood nearby, to the northeast of the site Hadrian chose for his own tomb. The mausoleum of Augustus was a round structure faced with marble, crowned with a mound of earth planted



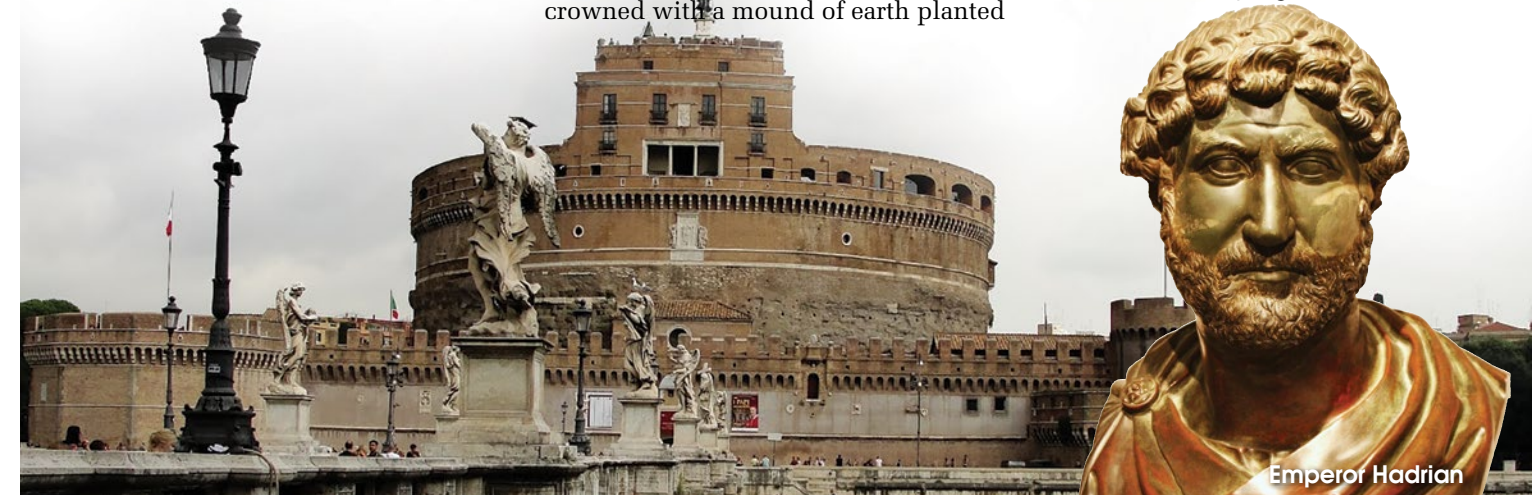
▲ CASTEL SANT'ANGELO

The site of battles and theatrical productions, fireworks and firing squads, it now doubles as a museum and one of Rome's most recognizable landmarks.

with cypress trees and topped with a bronze statue of Augustus. The same features appeared on a much larger scale in Hadrian's funerary monument. The dismal remains of Augustus's tomb, surrounded by Fascist era buildings, today form the center of one of Rome's least attractive squares: Piazza Augusto Imperatore.

The spot Hadrian chose was on the opposite side of the Tiber, on the edge of a desolate area called the “ager vaticanus,” or Vatican Fields. A few hundred yards to the west was the Circus of Nero, originally a racecourse of that infamous emperor, but also used on occasion for the executions of Christians. Nearby were scattered burial sites, including one said to be of the Jewish fisherman whose faith that Jesus of Nazareth was his

Continues on page 72 ...



Emperor Hadrian

people’s Messiah had brought him from Galilee to Rome, and who had died about 65 AD, crucified upside-down in Nero’s Circus. Although Hadrian was of course unaware that he was building his family mausoleum a few hundred yards from the grave of St. Peter, this coincidence would eventually link Hadrian’s tomb with the papacy and determine much of the monument’s future history.

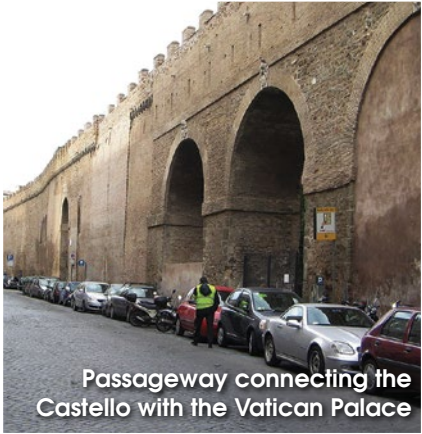
So many changes have been made to Castel Sant’ Angelo over the centuries that nobody is sure of its original appearance. What remains of the original structure is a 300-square-foot concrete base surrounding a massive cylinder made of travertine stone only slightly smaller in diameter and nearly 70 feet high. Whatever was above has disappeared, but archaeologists believe the cylinder was once sheathed in white marble and decorated at its upper perimeter with relief sculptures and statues. It probably resembled a gigantic planter, with an earthen hill covered with cypress trees on top, and surmounted by a huge gilded four-horse chariot driven by an equally colossal golden statue of Hadrian.

The building’s function as a memorial to Hadrian lasted little more than a hundred years. In about 271 the emperor Aurelian had defensive walls constructed around Rome, and he ordered his masons to incorporate anything in the wall’s path that might serve the city’s defense. Hadrian’s immense tomb was in the way of the wall, and thus began the second and longest phase of the structure’s history: as a fortress. As its defensive capability obscured its original purpose, it became known as the “Castellum Adriani,” and by that name it was pressed into service in Rome’s defense. Its first known use for this purpose came in 359, and in 537 defenders used the statues adorning the tomb as weapons, hurling them down (quite effectively) on the invaders, one of the few instances in history of death by works of art.

Another name came into use in the sixth century — “Carceres Theodorici” — because the Ostrogothic occupier-ruler

of Rome, Theodoric, adapted the underground chambers of Hadrian’s tomb for use as a prison, a purpose the building served only too well. Prisoners were incarcerated there by princes and popes throughout succeeding centuries and, from the late 19th century until 1901, by the Italian government. The cells were terrible places where condemned men were forced to crouch because there was neither enough height to stand nor enough length to lie down.

The Castello’s prison has a grim



Passageway connecting the Castello with the Vatican Palace



history. Executions of prisoners, often without trial, were common. Crescentius, who briefly gave his name to the site (as noted below), was beheaded there. Several early popes also lost their lives within the Castello: John III (561-74) was starved to death, John X (914-28) was suffocated, and Benedict VI (973-74) was dragged inside and strangled. Cardinal Michiel, a nephew of Pope Paul II Barbò, was poisoned there, and in the 1620s Giacinto Centini was beheaded, having been found guilty of trying to kill Pope Urban VIII Barberini with magic spells. The Castello was also a favorite place of execution for the Borgia pope Alexander VI, whose victims numbered in the hundreds.

Many well-known figures of Italian history were prisoners in the Castello, and at least some lived to tell about it. They include Alessandro Farnese, the future Pope Paul III, and Giampietro Carafa, who became Paul IV. A less fortunate prisoner was the scholar and freethinker Giordano Bruno, who was burned at the stake in 1600. The most famous prisoner was the 16th-century Florentine goldsmith, sculptor and man about town Benvenuto Cellini, whose

autobiography recounts his imprisonment in 1537 in harrowing detail. During their early 19th-century occupation of Rome, the French also used the Castello as a prison and place of execution. Opera lovers will remember the upper terrace of the Castello from the tragic final scene of Puccini’s “Tosca,” set in that period. Later in the 19th century numerous rebel-patriots of the Risorgimento, Italy’s liberation and unification movement, also spent time there.

The present name, Castel

Sant’Angelo, goes back to the late sixth century and a legend concerning Pope Gregory the Great (590-604). During a plague epidemic, the pope led a procession through the stricken city, praying for divine intervention. Near Hadrian’s tomb he had a vision of the Archangel Michael atop the structure, in the act of sheathing his sword. The pope interpreted this as meaning the plague would end, which it did. The Romans attributed their salvation to the intervention of St. Michael the Archangel, and so a new name came into being: “Castellum sancti angeli.” Italianized, this became Castel Sant’Angelo. In the 900s the structure was further fortified by an ambitious local warlord named Crescentius, from whom the tomb received another name: “Castellum Crescentii,” a title that persisted along with Castellum sancti angeli up through the 1400s.

For more than a thousand years, whoever held Castel Sant’Angelo was the master of Rome, and nobody understood this better than the popes. When the papacy returned to Rome in 1378 after its nearly 70-year exile in Avignon, a condition stipulated by the reigning pope was that the city government return the Cas-

tello to the papacy. The delegation that came to meet the returning pope carried a silver platter containing not the keys to the city, but to Castel Sant’Angelo.

The four towers that flank the Castello were commissioned by various popes during the Middle Ages. In the late 1200s Pope Nicholas III Orsini had the papal palace on the Vatican Hill connected to the westernmost tower of Castel Sant’Angelo via an above-ground covered passageway constructed of stone. Its purpose was to allow the pope to escape



to the safety of the Castello during war or civic unrest. It proved useful many times. In its last such use it saved the life of Pope Clement VII Medici, who made a dash through it to the Castello during the Sack of Rome in 1527.

Not everyone who controlled the Castello used it for bloody purposes. The genial Leo X Medici made it the site of theatrical entertainments, and Paul III Farnese had the modest papal apartments atop the structure expanded and refurbished, turning them into a luxurious suite adored with worldly fresco cycles. In the early 20th century the Italian army often used the upper terrace for displays of fireworks, despite the fire hazards this created.

Although the fate of Hadrian’s ashes is unknown, his empty tomb chamber can still be seen. The visitor approaches the chamber by a long, circular ramp that leads down into the heart of the Castello. The marble facings of the room have long ago disappeared, which makes the space look stark and primitive, very different from how it must have appeared originally. In modern times, somebody attached to one of the walls a tablet containing the brief, poignant poem the

dying Hadrian composed, addressed to his own soul. This memorial is the only remnant of the emperor left in his tomb.

The founders of the modern Italian republic succeeded in breaking the link between Castel Sant’Angelo and the Vatican and requisitioned the Castello for their own use, but they did little to restore or preserve it. As with the Colosseum, it was Mussolini who really got things done: In about 1933 he ordered the Castello restored and adapted for use as a museum, the purpose it still



serves today. The surrounding area was cleared of later structures, providing an unimpeded view and permitting visitors to appreciate how immense the building really is.

The gigantic bronze angel in the act of sheathing his sword that crowns the highest point of Castel Sant’Angelo is one of Rome’s most famous landmarks. The present angel is the sixth in a series of guardians and is relatively new — it’s the work of the 18th-century Flemish sculptor Pieter van Verschaffelt. The angel underwent a renovation in 1983, during which time it was transported to the restoration studio and then replaced in its lofty location, both times by helicopter.

Despite its many names and purposes over the centuries, Castel Sant’Angelo in essence remains a monument to the emperor Hadrian. Its enormous size and the imposing qualities of its simple, circular shape, looming up as the visitor approaches it across the Ponte Sant’Angelo, are unforgettable. Like Hadrian’s Pantheon, it stands as a witness to Rome at the height of its power and to Rome’s remarkable ability to survive.

▼ TRAVEL TIPS ▼



WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

Castel Sant’Angelo is close to St. Peter’s. If you’re returning from a visit to St. Peter’s, walk straight down to the end of via della Conciliazione to see the Castello looming up on your left. Alternatively, if you enjoy walking and have a map, you can meander along what used to be the papal processional route: Leave Piazza Navona at its south end and turn right. Go though Piazza Pasquino onto via del Governo Vecchio; bear slightly left in Piazza dell’ Orologio and then follow via dei Banchi Nuovi, which blends into via del Banco di Santo Spirito. This takes you to the Tiber and the bridge that leads to the entrance to Castel’ Sant’Angelo. A more direct route is to walk along Corso Vittorio Emanuele II to the Tiber, then turn right and walk to the Ponte Sant’Angelo.

WHAT SHOULD WE SEE?

Keep in mind that a visit to Castel Sant’Angelo is quite strenuous. There are a lot of ramps and staircases to climb, some of which are rather dark and steep, and there are no elevators. Within the Castello, the highlights are Hadrian’s tomb chamber, the sumptuous papal apartments decorated for Pope Paul III, and the terrific views across the city from the upper terrace. Art exhibits are held from time to time in some of the rooms.

DINING DELIGHTS

There’s a small cafeteria on one of the upper levels. The food isn’t great but views from the outdoor tables are marvelous!

Holiday HAVEN

by Nicola Orichuia

Christmas is the most treasured season for the citizens of Bressanone. Starting in late November and running throughout December, a Christmas market fills the city’s central square with the joyous atmosphere of the holidays. The market is so well known, in fact, it has been voted among Europe’s best. But this town of 21,000 set in the central Alps, just a few miles south of the Austrian border, was famous for a very different reason long before Christmas was even a holiday. The Romans likely used the area to prepare their troops against barbarian invasions from the

north, but the first written testimony of Bressanone’s existence dates back to 901 A.D. That year, the bishop of nearby Sabiona was gifted the land on which Bressanone stands today by King Ludwig IV, the last of the Carolingians. For the next two centuries, the town flourished as it was passed on to a succession of dukes. Bressanone really made it onto the map on June 26, 1080, when some 30 bishops gathered in St. John’s Baptistry to pledge allegiance to Antipope Clement III and abandon Pope Gregory VII. Papal shenanigans aside, the city

grew to become a vital cultural center with a wealth of architectural gems. In addition to the imposing Duomo and the 1,000-year-old St. Michele Church, one should visit the Torre Bianca (White Tower), which holds a 43-bell carillon that can produce up to 100 different melodies. To warm up during your visit, try the local canederli. These large bread dumplings are often infused with cheese and the region’s favorite cold cut, Speck. Enjoy with a glass of wine made by the monks of the nearby Abbey of Novacella.



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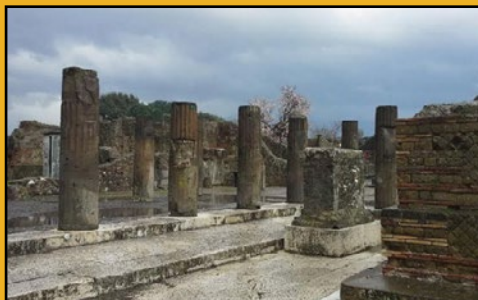
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