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**“SERVICE
ABOVE SELF”**

***Eastern Regional
Meeting
Pg. 12***



***Rutherford UNICO
Celebrates 40 Years!
Pg. 10***

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The Premier Italian American Weekly Newspaper Since 1931

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The Many Faces of Columbus



Wishing All Our Readers
 a Happy Columbus Day
 "May the memory of Christopher Columbus inspire you to great things
 and an ambition to bring forth better generations in the world than he had
 the opportunity to see (strongly and not of our own tongue)"
 -Benjamin Franklin

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Italy Celebrates National Day

Italy celebrated its National Day on September 2nd, 2014. The day is a public holiday and is marked by various events and ceremonies across the country. The Italian flag is prominently displayed, and many people participate in parades and cultural activities. The day commemorates the birth of the Italian Republic in 1946.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

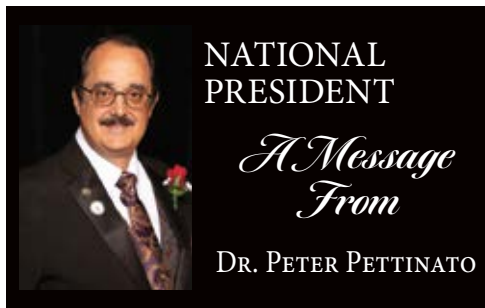
March 24-26, 2023: Mid Year Board Meeting

July 26-30, 2023: 100th UNICO National Convention

July 28-August 1, 2024: 101st UNICO National Convention

For more events, visit www.UNICO.org

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As I write this, it is about two weeks until Christmas. Pennsylvania has quite the coating of snow on the ground, holiday music fills the air, and Christmas decorations light up the night. So why am I having trouble catching the Christmas spirit this year?

Ebenezer Scrooge had it easy. He had three ghosts literally guide him along his path. Perhaps that's what I need as well. I could pour myself a glass of extra-fortified eggnog, sit back, close my eyes and wait.

Perhaps when I open my eyes a cheery apparition will show me scenes from the past – not mine but UNICO's. He would show me a church in Waterbury, CT where a group of businessmen gathered for the specific purpose of making their community a better place. He would show me cities and towns across the country follow their example and begin to bring Christmas type spirit to their communities all year long. He would also show me young people assisted in their studies with scholarships that go on to give back to others many times over.

A second, boisterous guide in festive attire might show me everything you are doing now. There would be plenty of scenes of toy drives for children, as well as food baskets, meals and clothing for the needy. There will be countless examples of efforts made to help those young and old that require extra attention in their daily lives and even more scholarships to ensure that the good works go forward.

I can only hope that a third ethereal guest would show me a future with Cooley's Anemia and cancer wiped

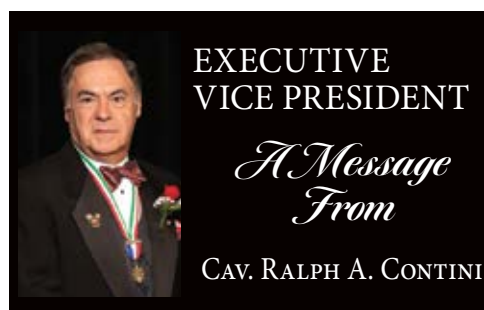
away, everyone treated with mutual respect and caring for those less fortunate upmost in everyone's mind.

It's highly unlikely that I or anyone will get to experience that type of journey – no matter how well we fortify our eggnog. However, if it's the Christmas spirit you're seeking, I do have a suggestion. Contact the National Office and ask them for a copy of the recent Chapter Reports. They are full of all the wonderful things our members are doing – not just at Christmas, but each and every day. If you read through these as I have, you'll soon catch all the spirit you need.

As we begin 2023, I want to thank you for all you have done to make last year better in your local community and across the country, and for ensuring that I could never really lose the Christmas spirit, because after all, I am a member of UNICO National.

Ci vediamo,
Peter

Please Support ComUNICO's Sponsors



Season's Greetings to you and yours! As I write this message, it's hard to believe that we are in the last weeks of 2022. As we approach the end of another year, I've been taking some time to reflect on all the things for which I am grateful. By the time you receive this issue, Christmas and New Year's Day will have come and gone. We sincerely hope you enjoyed this Holy season, and that this finds you

and your family safe and in good health as we welcome 2023!

Italian family Christmas traditions are among the richest reflections of Italian life. We Italians honor our Christmas and enjoy the beautiful time- honored traditions and customs associated with this special holiday. Family and tradition are of utmost importance, especially those associated with Christmas Eve. We hope that during this Holiday Season you were able to strengthen relationships with family and friends by observing our precious traditions.

In November, we, along with the committee, were happy to host a now annual tradition, the Cigar Night Dinner Fundraiser. This event, which was held at the Brick House, Wyckoff, New Jersey, benefits the UNICO National 100th Annual Convention. We had an absolutely amazing turnout! Attendees came from near and far. It was an awesome evening filled with great food, raffles and much more. A special thanks to the huge group of non-UNICAN's in attendance who supported the UNICO National's 2023 Convention. If anyone has an idea or wishes to sponsor a fundraising event for the Convention, please let us know. Our fundraising efforts are ongoing.

We continue to move ahead in the revamping and social media integration of the National website. This has been a substantial project. The new website will look cleaner, be better organized, offer new tools to assist our members, let others know who we are, offer more resources to our members, and, hopefully, encourage membership interaction. We plan to move to the next step in the process of development by accessing a beta version for testing which will be focused on gathering useful feedback from a group of users. By the time you receive this issue of ComUNICO, we hope to announce

the completion of this major project, and that by early 2023, we will have a completely redone UNICO National website up and running.

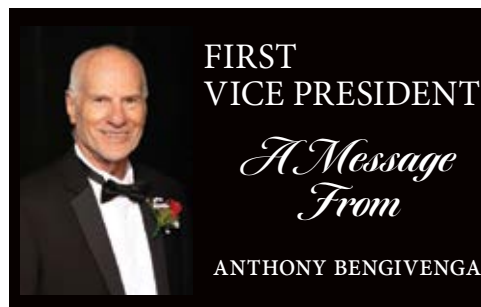
I am a proponent of office automation and giving our national office the tools to be more efficient, thereby providing our membership with the best possible resources and service. To this end, we recently established a remote access system which will allow our treasurer and executive director access to our financial system, thereby further streamlining our coordination.

Breaking News in Philadelphia! Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court has ruled the Marconi Plaza Columbus statue cannot be removed by the city. The Columbus statue in South Philly has been unboxed. The Italian American Community is indebted to, and grateful to attorney George Bochetto and President Basil Russo of the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations, for their persistent and successful resolve. This court decision can have a significant impact nationally which could well turn the tide and aid the Save Columbus movement.

With regard to the UNICO Convention to be held at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott & Spa in Fort Myers, July 26-30, we are pleased to report that the site of the UNICO National 100th Annual Convention is open for business! In early December we were able perform a site visitation and meet with management. We were pleasantly surprised with the very impressive and substantial progress being made in the restoration of the facilities. With resilience and optimism, restaurants and amenities continue to come online. It is hoped that you plan to attend the Convention; you may even consider inviting a friend or family member who wishes to enjoy what will be a very memorable UNICO Convention. Sanibel Harbour and UNICO perfect together!

May 2023 bring you all much health, wealth, and new blessings as we work together to continue the great work of UNICO in this our 100th year of "Service Above Self". I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Productive Anno Nuovo.

Ciao for now and "Sempre Avanti".



Felice Anno Nuovo a tutti. Wishing all our UNICO family a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2023. We bring all our Italian American passion into our 101st year as we continue to promote our charitable causes and promote our great Italian heritage and language. Our National President, Peter Pettinato, along with his team of Vice Presidents and national officers have guided us well through a successful first half since last summer's convention.

Now that all the festivities of the Christmas season are behind us, we approach once again our favorite mid-winter festival, Carnevale. Although Tuesday, February 21 is the date for this year's "Martedì" Grasso, the Carnevale festivities are traditionally held during the several weeks preceding Ash Wednesday. Although the Carnival of Venice is the most famous, there are many other noted parades and celebrations of Carnevale in such cities as Viareggio, (Tuscany), Putigliano (Puglia), Acireale (Sicily), Ivrea (near Torino), and Cento (near Ferrara). Our

UNICO Carnevale parties give our members a chance to enjoy music, great food and camaraderie and brightens us up during the cold of winter just before lent. If there is a Chapter or district holding a Carnevale celebration, please consider attending. Please consider reserving a small portion of your February meeting to do a brief presentation about the history of Carnevale in Italy.

As your National First Vice President, I will continue to reach out to our District governors, so please check your emails. If you have any questions at all or if you wish to make any suggestions, please send me an email, or call me anytime. If you have any Chapters in your district who seem to have any issues, please don't hesitate to let me know. I also encourage the districts to submit your electronic reports of your in-person meetings or zoom meetings. These reports can be filled out and filed right on the UNICO website and can be found in the members' section of the website. I look forward to hearing from you or meeting you at one of our UNICO events.

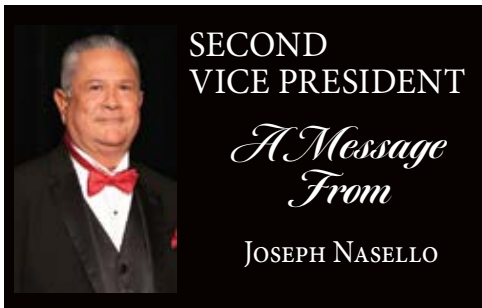
Baci e Abbracci ...hugs and kisses to all.
Telephone: (732) 310 6031
Email: anthony@bengivenga.com



Don't forget

to visit the UNICO
website for the latest news
and information:

UNICO.org



SECOND
VICE PRESIDENT

*A Message
From*

JOSEPH NASELLO

Happy Holidays to all. Thank you to all the Chapters for sending reports in, I truly enjoy reading about the great things each Chapter is doing. There were some IT issues, but they have been resolved. Please continue to submit your Chapter reports via the UNICO National website. I truly enjoy reading about each Chapter event held. This form is always available on our website www.unico.org in the "members section". In the form, don't forget to include dates, times, and locations of your monthly meetings. Heritage days should be held on an annual basis. Recently, a few Chapters that were struggling have reached out and I was able to assist and give suggestions to make things better. If any Chapters are struggling, please feel free to reach out, I am always available to help each Chapter meet its highest potential.

It was great seeing everyone at Meet the President, and some of the Chapter Christmas parties that I have attended. I am so happy to see more Chapters doing different events to keep the members involved.

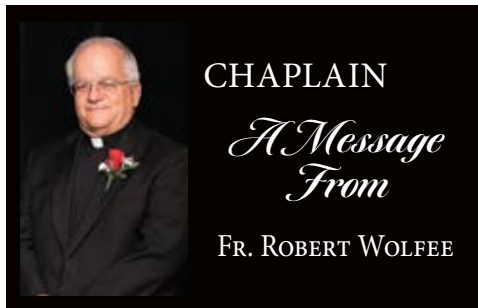
Best wishes to you all and your families.

Joseph Nasello Sr.
201-394-0793
jmnasello@aol.com

Don't forget

to visit the UNICO
website for the latest news
and information:

UNICO.org



CHAPLAIN

*A Message
From*

FR. ROBERT WOLFEE

On New Year's Day, the Catholic Church celebrates "Mary, the Mother of God," which is the oldest Marian feast, dating back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. This feast's title reminds us that Jesus, as the son of a human being, is truly and fully human. To say that Mary was the Mother of God is to say that Jesus is also truly and fully God.

Many people make New Year's resolutions in the hope of becoming better people. With the onset of a new year, we see an opportunity to begin again with courage, enthusiasm and hope to live up to the resolutions that we make. The best way to become a better person is to strive to become the person that God wants us to be. How do we know what God wants us to be? Praying quietly is the first step in becoming who God intends us to be.

In our fast-paced world, we spend a good part of our time doing things in a hurry. That can make silence and reflection seem like luxuries. However, if we look at Mary's life, we are reminded that if we are to face the challenges that may occur, we have to make the time to let God take root in our hearts. Mary teaches us that people of faith reflect upon what they believe. She also teaches us that faith requires that we respond to God's will as it is revealed to us in Scripture and also in the Church's teachings.

The message born in a stable in Bethlehem two thousand years ago is the same message given to us today: Our Savior has come! God is good! We have been given a chance for a new start, no matter what our mistakes or

sins have been in past. We have been blessed with a new year that brings with it another chance to change our ways and rid ourselves of anything that interferes with our relationship with God. We can look to the future with hope, confidence and joy.

God bless,
Fr. Bob Wolflee



SCHOLARSHIP
DIRECTOR

*A Message
From*

JOAN TIDONA

Nuovo Anno, Nuovo Inizio! New Year, New Start!

Felice Anno Nuovo Fratelli e Sorelle. Wishing you a very happy, healthy and successful 2023.

As always, we will continue to celebrate our illustrious heritage and work to make things better. The New Year offers us the opportunity to become stronger; to accomplish more. Hopefully, the difficulties of the recent past are behind us, as we move forward to even greater success.

Un buon inizio fa una buona fine. Italian Proverb.

A good beginning makes a good ending.

The 2023 scholarship season is off to an excellent start. Complete information, detailing our offerings and the online application procedure, was sent to members in mid-November through Constant Contact. Response has been very positive.

We are now accepting applications for our most recent offering. The Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Seminarian Studies will provide four scholarships valued at \$1,000 each, to students currently enrolled as seminarians, attending full time an accredited Catholic Seminary in the United States. A candidate must hold United States citizenship and be at least 18 years of age. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities. Another scholarship, now in development, is expected to be presented soon. Further information to follow.

Chapters and Districts are encouraged to consider sponsoring candidates for the UNICO Foundation scholarships. While the primary purpose of our Scholarship Program is to assist deserving young students, the publicity generated by participation is a valuable way to strengthen awareness of our national identity and may increase local interest. PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to complete applications is March 1 for the DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarships; April 18 for all other programs.

Some Chapters wish to use the National application form for local scholarships. Since the online procedure does not allow Chapter access, we have posted an application template on the Members Section of our website. This model can be edited to meet Chapter requirements.

While our many past accomplishments are a tremendous source of pride, UNICANS are committed to even greater progress. Our members work hard to ensure success. 2023 offers us the opportunity to become stronger; to accomplish more. We are certainly off to a great start!

Joan Tidona,
Scholarship Director



Ciao a Tutti!

Happy New Year! Now that the craziness of the holidays is over, it's time to refocus our energies on the growth and success of UNICO. In the midst of our 100th year, it is more important than ever that we remain relevant and inviting to new ideas and the expansion of our mission. While it is still important to grow in the East, it is my belief that stressing the importance of rediscovering our Italian Heritage to the pockets of some of our forgotten areas is key. I am reaching out to Chapter Presidents and District Governors on potential leads in the Midwest and California. I would like to establish a connection with former members in San Antonio. We need to invite eligible individuals across the country to join UNICO and to establish local Chapters to unite Italian-Americans in service and heritage. We can accomplish this together.....let us show them what we got!

Please reach out to me with any questions or suggestions at ncarpinelli06@gmail.com or 973.809.4294.



I would like to wish a very Healthy and Happy New Year to all our members and readers! The year is going by so quickly and I would like to help you capture all the highlights from your great events and fund raisers. Please remember to take photos with the thought of using them for a ComUNICO article. Photos should be clear, in focus and close enough to be able to see the faces of the people in them. There are guidelines printed in every issue explaining how photos and articles should be sent. Please refer to them when you prepare to send your submissions to ComUNICO. UNICO National will be publishing a 100th Anniversary edition. We are aiming for July for the issue to be distributed. I will be asking all National Officers and Members to participate in sending in older photos from events they attended in years past. The older the better. I will be asking each Past National President to submit an article highlighting what happened in the year they served. The intent is to tell the story of UNICO National during its 100 years of existence. More information will follow.

Hope to see everyone at the Mid-year Board meeting in March.

Pat Pelonero
ComUNICO Editor



Don't forget

The Deadline for the
April 2023 issue is

March 17, 2023



**CANCER
RESEARCH
CHAIR**

*A Message
From*

DR. FRANK DE FRANK

Ciao a tutti!

Hope and pray that everyone had a happy and healthy Holiday season! Below is a summary of Cancer Research and Prevention Committee Updates and Reminders:

- Cancer research continues to be one of UNICO's major charitable endeavors. Since 1999, UNICO National/Foundation (largely through our members) has contributed approximately \$850,000 to help fight this dreaded disease.
- In early 2022 UNICO provided a grant of \$25,000 each to the Madeline Fiadini LoRe Foundation for Cancer Prevention in Bayonne, New Jersey and to "Peggy's Pathways" for research on uterine cancer at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Subsequent to the July 2022 approval of our Foundation trustees, in November 2022 \$50,000 was granted to the Siteman Cancer Institute of Washington University in St. Louis to aid in their research on personalized cancer vaccines. Special recognition goes to Paula Varsalona-Marino and Joseph Marino for their major effort in securing donations for this grant. Paula has chosen the grant to be in honor of Eileen Youtie, recognizing her work with the Ashkenazi Jews born with the BRACA Gene.

As always, we would humbly and respectfully ask that you make room in your hearts, minds, checkbooks, and Chapter/District budgets for donations to help with Cancer Research and Prevention; no gift is too small (or large!).

Once again, thank you for all you do for your local communities, UNICO National, and Italian-Americans everywhere!

Molte grazie e Dio vi benedica!!

Frank N. De Frank, M.D.
Past President, UNICO National
UNICO National Cancer Research and
Prevention Committee Chairperson



**HERITAGE &
CULTURE**

*A Message
From*

MARY TERESA
MORRISON

EVVIVA La Musica (seguito):

In the 19th Century (l'Ottocento) the great Paganini (1782-1840) wrote compositions for violon; and recreating the "Opera Buffa" Rossini gave us the ever popular "il Barbiere di Siviglia", among others.

The "Bel Canto" (placing emphasis on the voice rather than musical instruments) dominated the first half of the 19th Century (Donizetti – Lucia di Lammermoor" and "l'Elisir d'Amore"; Bellini – "I Puritani" and "Norma")

To round out the century we must credit Verdi, one off the musical giants of all time ("Rigoletto", "il Travatore", "la Traviata", "Aida",Leoncavallo, composer of the world renown "Pagliacci"; Mascagni, whose greatest success was the one-act opera "Cavalleria Rusticana"; and of course, Puccini, famous for his melodies and dramatic harmonies ("La Boheme", "Tosca", "Madame Butterfly", "Turandot" – with a particularly favorite aria "Nessun Dorma"....)

The Birth of Jazz:

The turn of the century (il Novecento) saw many immigrants from Italy arriving and leaving a rich history

in New Orleans. The majority of those came from Sicily where the sea was part of their heritage; and where a decent-sized community had previously been established dating back to the French era. To preserve customs and provide a support network, social clubs and benevolent organizations were founded, which became integrated into the society: two Italian American mayors, the founding of the "Progresso" soup company, the Monteleone Hotel (still family run)...

The history of Jazz cannot be reviewed without the name of Nick LaRocca (1889-1961), early jazz musician and leader of the "Original Dixieland Jazz Band" and composer of the most recorded jazz classic of all time "Tiger Rag"; and Louis Prima (1910-1978), whose hits can still be enjoyed.

The next segment we will explore the familiar Italian American tunes with which we are so familiar.



*The Largest
Italian American
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United States*

UNICO National

100th Annual National Convention



Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa
17260 Harbour Pointe Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908

July 26 - 30, 2023

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RUTHERFORD UNICO CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RUTHERFORD UNICO HISTORY



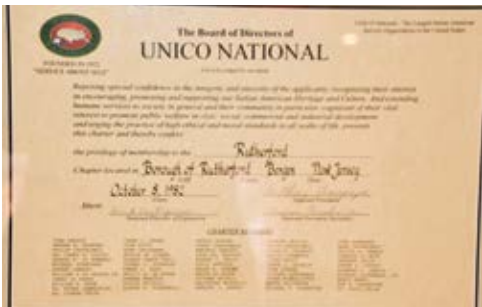
UNICO National President Dr. Peter Pettinato presenting the Distinguished Service Certificate to Rutherford Chapter. Accepting is Past National President and Chapter President Frank Tidona.



Rutherford Charter Members were recognized for continued service. Pictured L to R: Lou Miceli, Dr. Jim Cuozzo, Jim Basile, Ralph LaRossa, and Presenters Pat Hirsch and Chapter President Frank Tidona.

RUTHERFORD UNICO CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF

RUTHERFORD UNICO HISTORY



Rutherford Chapter Members

Eastern Regional Meeting

Shawnee Inn & Golf Club, Shawnee on the Delaware, PA



November 6-7, 2022

Eastern Regional Meeting



Eastern Regional Meeting

Shawnee Inn & Golf Club, Shawnee on the Delaware, PA



NATIONAL NEWS

PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN FLORIDA

Past National President Michael Spano, Linda Spano and Past National President Cav. Joe Agresti get together for a Christmas visit at the Villages Country Club in Florida.



ITALIAN AMERICAN MUSEUM NYC AMBASCIATORE AWARDS



Pictured are all the Ambasciatore Awardees given by the Italian American Museum of NYC.

UNICO NATIONAL OFFICE PARTY



The Italian American Museum of NY held their Ambasciatore Awards ceremony and banquet at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury NY on Nov 13. Santi Buscemi of the Hillsborough NJ Chapter (NJ District X) was one of the proud recipients. Santi is a retired professor at Middlesex College NJ for 50 years and translates Italian literature. In the photo First Vice President Anthony Bengivenga congratulates proud recipient Santi Buscemi.

BELLEVILLE, NJ

Belleville UNICO Chapter Food Drive in the Shoprite of Belleville on Washington Avenue. It was a very successful event. In the group picture, from left to right you will see Sheri, Volunteer; Josephine DeVivo, Chapter President; Peter E. Caggiano; Patricia Yuksel; Volunteers Anthony and Sal.



L to R: Patricia Yuksel and Roger Caruso

GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of UNICO gathered to help others in need for Thanksgiving. Members met at the sports complex in South Philadelphia to assemble 130 bins containing just about every food item necessary for a perfect Thanksgiving dinner. Bins were donated by Home Depot, and at the end contained: turkey, potatoes, vegetables, stuffing, animal crackers, among other food items. Once all baskets were assembled, members delivered them to local families in need.



BLOOMFIELD, NJ

BLOOMFIELD CHAPTER CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER



Forty members and five of our Interns attended our Christmas Get Together on December 15th at Bella Napoli's Restaurant in Bloomfield. What a great night it was!!! Chapter members brought unwrapped toys to be donated to the Bloomfield Police Youth Division. The Youth Division officers distribute the toys to Bloomfield families in need. The Chapter also welcomed two new members: Dene and Marco Vitali, who were inducted by Past National President Paul Alongi.



GARFIELD, NJ

GARFIELD CHAPTER ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKETS DONATIONS



CARBONDALE, PA

The Carbondale Chapter served a free pizza party for residents of the Carbondale Apartments. Members serving pizza are Bernadette Lepre, Lillian Leo and Marie Gretto, Angel Masco.



THE ALL WRAPPED UP Holiday Extravaganza is the Carbondale Chapters annual fundraiser for local charities. Pictured are the officers who manage the welcome table and ticket sales.



L to R: District Governor PAII Terri Pettinato, UNICO National President Peter Pettinato, Joe Masco and Carbondale Chapter President Nathan Masco.

TINSEL TOWN TRAIL!

The Carbondale Chapter sponsors a Christmas tree for the Tinsel Town Trail. This a fundraising event for the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce and Catholic Social Services toy drive. The UNICO tree with an Italian theme is surrounded by members Linda Gabriel, Angel Masco, Carbondale President Nathan Masco and Mary Lynn Brannon.



The Carbondale Chapter gives back to the community by having free pizza parties for the residents of the city's senior apartments. This event allows UNICO members to mingle with the residents and talk about the value of UNICO in the Carbondale area.



L to R: Ann Boyle, Joe Carachilo, Housing Authority Director, Alicia Zazzera, Patty Morrell, Mary Lynn Brannon, Barbara Campanella.

Carbondale Members volunteer at the FallBrook Healthy Aging Campus, United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Chapter members who managed the Chili Cook Off Contest are L to R: Linda Gabriel, Mary Ann Kearney, Lillian Leo, Ann Boyle, Mary Lynn Brannon, Angel Masco and Carbondale President Nathan Masco



Don't forget...

UNICO Merchandise can be ordered by contacting the national office.

973-808-0035

UNICOnational@UNICO.org



CLARK, NJ

Clark Chapter President Joe Arancio, Fran Parisi, Jackie Venezia and Margaret Conforti celebrate the season by decorating the annual UNICO tree at town hall.



Clark UNICO celebrated and gave honor to our Veterans on Friday, November 11th, Veterans Day. After a brief ceremony members placed a wreath next to our fallen Veterans. Shown here are Ralph Bernardo, Bill Smith, Anthony and Ed Bogash, Jackie Venezia, Chapter President Joe Arancio, Jimmy Minitti and Angel Albanese.



The Clark UNICO Chapter suffered a double loss these past 2 months as long-time members Angie House (left) passed away in November and Sam Liff (right) passed away December 12th. Both had long illnesses and passed away. Angie was a happy soul and the life of the party. Always with a smile and always volunteering for the UNICO Chapter in every capacity that was given to her. There wasn't anything Angie wouldn't do for UNICO. Laughter was always guaranteed when you were with Angie. Terry Spangola (center) is Angie's sister and a Clark UNICAN.

Sam Liff was a long-time member of the Clark Chapter joining in 2001. He served as President of the Chapter from 2005-2006, then remained on the Board of Directors and held various positions. Sam was involved in every aspect that the Chapter offered, attending and working at every event, meeting, travel, etc. His wit, charm and personality made it easy to like him. He loved his Steelers and was well known for always wearing the team's jacket. This photo was typical of Angie and Sam's devotion to the Chapter working the Annual Italian American Feast.

Both of our friends will be sorely missed, but their memories will remain in our hearts forever.

Clark UNICO prepared 400 bologna and cheese sandwiches for Saint Joseph's Mission in Elizabeth. Fifteen members came out to make the sandwiches.



Mark Conforti and his daughter Cassie.



Ralph Bernardo was on hand with Fran Parisi who set up the event.



"SERVICE ABOVE SELF"



EASTON, PA

Easton UNICO sold hot dogs and drinks at the RIZZ Container Sunday Funday Festival last September. Volunteering their time at the tent (L to R) are Treasurer Dave Corpora, Vice President Ty Corallo (on the grill) and Secretary Bill Palaferro.



Opening night crew for Easton UNICO this past summer for the cheese steak stand at Palmer Days Festival in Easton. Front (L to R): Bill Palaferro, John Corpora, Azzalina. On the grill (L to R): Nat Amato and Patrick Corpora.



Retired police officer and actor Paul Failla (right in costume), with Easton Chapter President Tony Curto and his wife Marlene, performed his one-man play "The Class of Life" on November 19th for the Easton Chapter as a fundraiser.



FARMINGTON, CT

Our annual Sal DiMauro Italian Sunday Dinner fundraiser returned this year after a two year suspension. This event was chaired for many years by Sal DiMauro, a Charter Member when Farmington UNICO was established in 1970. Thanks to the generosity and support of our members and sponsors the event was very successful. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner highlighted by our famous meatballs and homemade desserts. Sevioli Foods donated the pasta and sauce served at the dinner. All proceeds (\$3000) from the raffle held at the event were donated to the Bristol Police Heroes Fund in memory of Lt. Dustin DeMonte and Sgt. Alex Hamzy. Farmington firefighters Don Antigiovanni, John Driscoll and Russ Nelson were honored as Farmington UNICO's Persons of the Year for their dedication and service to the Farmington community.

Members gathered for our Christmas Party held at Five Corners Bistro. Lea Marcello organized the annual Christmas gift collection for families in need and delivered a Jeep full of gifts to the Klingberg Family Center.



Doug Alexander, Sal DiMauro, Tom Filomeno.



All hands on deck at Meatball Night preparing 1200 meatballs to be served at the Sunday Dinner.



Joe Capodiferro, Don Antigiovanni, John Driscoll, Russ Nelson, Mike Demicco at the Persons of the Year Presentation.



Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Luciano, Mr. & Mrs. Enzo DeDominicis, Mr. & Mrs. David O'Leary at the Christmas Party.



Lea Marcello and President Tom Magro with gifts donated for Klingberg Family Center.



President Tom Magro welcomes new members Giustina Lamoureux, Peter and Chris Andrews.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

It was with great joy that the Greater Binghamton NY Chapter joined members, families and friends to celebrate the holiday season on December 9th, 2022 at Celebrations on the Avenue, Endicott NY. Attendees brought toys for the Toys for Tots drive and holiday baskets were raffled off for continued support of the monthly charities. Our PA District II Governor Terri Pettinato and her husband Past National President Glenn joined us for the festivities and presented the Chapter achievement award to the club.



Richard Wahilla, Dot Marinaccio, Lorraine Rogers.



PA District II Governor Terri Pettinato, President Nick Pianella.

New members Laurie Adams and Teresa Arcodia were inducted by Chapter President Nick Pianella at the Greater Binghamton NY Chapter November dinner meeting.



The Greater Binghamton Chapter participated in the tree decorating at the Roberson Museum and Science Center in Binghamton, NY. This is an annual event that promotes the many education opportunities for history, art, and science. Private citizens as well as many school groups visit the mansion this time of year.



Ron and MaryBeth Salamida, Terri and Glenn Pittanado, Nick, Tyler, Molly and Carolyn Pianella.



President Nick Pianella, past presidents Mike Marinaccio, John Barbieri, Barbara Wahilla, Jean DeSio, Ron Salamida and Felix DeSio.



Donna Lupardo, Dot Marinaccio, Carolyn Pianella, Lorraine Rogers.

Don't forget

The Deadline for the April 2023 issue is

March 17, 2023



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UNICO National
100th Annual
National Convention

July 26 - 30, 2023

**Sanibel Harbour Marriott
Resort & Spa
Fort Myers, FL 33908**

GREATER ORLANDO, FL



The first annual Cultural and Heritage event for the Greater Orlando Chapter, held in October. Frank Lo'Re Florida District I Governor is seated at the table.



Jeana Scalo at Greater Orlando Chapter Cultural event.



A gift being presented to Frank Lo'Re Florida District I Governor.



Photo of musicians Nova Era performing at greater Orlando Cultural event

KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone Chapter members and friends volunteered at the Family-to-Family Thanksgiving Food Basket Distribution on Thanksgiving Eve. Feeding the hungry is one of our priorities. There are so many people in need!!! No one should ever go hungry!!!



Pictured are some of our volunteers. L to R: President Louise Ligi, Maria and Rose Ann LaRosa, Michele and Mark McDade, Caitlyn Cole, Eileen Kovatch, Nanine Gramigna, and Bob Kovatch.



L to R: Olivia Zehel, Michele McDade, Nanine Gramigna and Bob and Eileen Kovatch.

Keystone conducted their annual Toys for Tots Christmas Party with Recognition Awards at Fiorelli's for this 11th consecutive year. Over 100 toys were brought in by the membership with the Marines present to receive them. Chapter President Louise Ligi also presented two recognition awards. Mary Ann Coviello was recognized for her outstanding leadership as President during the past two years and Mark McDade was recognized for his extraordinary service over the past eleven years.



Veterans and UNICO Members gather with the U.S. Marines holding some of the toys collected. Sallie and Peter Noto chaired this event with President Louise Ligi at far right.



Immediate Past President Mary Ann Coviello and Chapter Charter President Mark McDade receive their awards from Chapter President Louise Ligi.

Visit the UNICO website for the latest news and information:

UNICO.org

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ

On December 15, 2022 Greater Westfield UNICO hosted their annual Christmas party at Lorenzo’s Italian Restaurant in Garwood, NJ. It was attended by members and guests including NJ District X Governor, Bob Bengivena.



Members of Greater Westfield Chapter pose by the banner.



Greater Westfield Christmas Party members and guests at the table.

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ



At our afternoon Christmas party on December 11th, Hillsborough UNICO finally got a chance to taste our “Tre Navi” wine started in 2021 and bottled in June 2022 and it turned out to be an excellent vintage! We all had fun with a fiercely competitive Christmas trivia contest with President Mariann Cialdella in the role of game master! The food was excellent at Café Venezia in Martinsville, NJ and a good time was had by all!

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

COMEDY NIGHT

UNICO Hillsborough Chapter partnered in this charity event with Somerset Treatment Services (STS) of Somerville. The mission of Somerset Treatment Services is to seek to provide quality treatment and prevention services to all persons suffering from or at risk of suffering from the physical, emotional, or psychological consequences of substance abuse or HIV-related illnesses. Their goal is to assist clients to achieve healthy, productive, and meaningful lives. The agency serves as a model of community partnership to promote these goals.

Raritan Valley Country Club, Bridgewater was our venue for the Hillsborough UNICO Chapter comedy night on November 19th. The event was billed as an evening of laughter and guests participated in a charity auction for gift baskets.



L to R: Chapter President Mariann Cialdella, Vice President Frank DelCore



Photo of audience at the event.

LIVINGSTON, NJ



Veterans and UNICO Members gather with the U.S. Marines holding some of the toys collected. Sallie and Peter Noto chaired this event with President Louise Ligi at far right.



Students at Aquinas Academy participated in the annual Italian Heritage Essay Contest. The Livingston Chapter of UNICO presented certificates and a gift card to the winners. L to R: Andy Cassese, Mia Francois, Sophie Pateyuk, Juliette Rosenberg, Omolara Adefowokan, and Cheryl Francione.



The Largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States

KEARNY, NJ



KEARNY CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER

On December 13th members of the Kearny Chapter enjoyed a Christmas Get-together Dinner at The Lido Restaurant in North Arlington, New Jersey. Everyone (including young Danielle) enjoyed the good food and each other's camaraderie.

KEARNY CHAPTER AT THE ERM

The Kearny Chapter had representation at the Eastern Region Meeting held at the Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort. Pictured L to R: Celeste Pandolfi, Dennis Latushko and Chapter President Anna Marie Latushko.



KEARNY CHAPTER DISTRIBUTES COLLECTED FOOD

On Saturday, November 5th, members of the Kearny Chapter distributed food that had been collected by the Chapter at the Kearny Food Pantry at the First Presbyterian Church. Pictured L to R: Dennis Latushko, Celeste Pandolfi and Chapter President Anna Marie Latushko.



LODI, NJ

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE LODI CHAPTER OF UNICO NATIONAL ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY.



Lodi UNICO members pictured along with, seated with (L to R) Cav. Ralph Contini, UNICO National Executive Vice President; Gary Laurita, Chapter President; Maggie Pettinato, UNICO National First Lady; Dr. Peter Pettinato, UNICO National President; Salvatore J. Mangano, Past National President; standing are two of the original charter members, Mike Giamo and John Maccarone, including Annamarie Latushko, New Jersey VII District Governor.



Pictured L to R: UNICO National Executive Vice President Cav. Ralph Contini, Mike Giamo, John Maccarone, two of the original charter members, and UNICO National President. Dr. Peter L. Pettinato

MANCHESTER, CT

Manchester UNICO Honors our 2022 Volunteer of the Year, Larry Fiano for his outstanding contributions to our Chapter and to the community.



Any members interested in signing up for a Constant Contact account under our partnership can sign up through this link <http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp?pnuniconational>

Don't forget

to visit the UNICO website for the latest news and information:

UNICO.org



UNICO NATIONAL

2023 MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, March 24th thru Sunday, March 26th, 2023



Embassy Suites by Hilton Alexandria Old Town
1900 Diagonal Drive, Alexandria, VA 22314

TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION BY PHONE CALL

- **1-800-362-2779**
- IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS BEING PART OF THE **UNICO** GROUP
 - GIVE THE AGENT YOUR ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE DATES

ONLINE at [UNICO National Board of Directors 2023](#)

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE **Tuesday, February 28th**

UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE

\$189 + tax (Single/Double)

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Check-in time is 3 PM & Check-out time is 12 PM

Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.
Cancellations can be made up to 24 hours prior to arrival at no charge.

**NEXT - FILL OUT YOUR MID-YEAR MEETING REGISTRATION FORM
AND SEND IT WITH PAYMENT TO:**

UNICO NATIONAL

271 US HIGHWAY 46 WEST, SUITE F-103 FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004-2458
Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail - uniconational@unico.org



2023 UNICO National

Mid Year Board Meeting March 24 - March 26, 2023
Embassy Suites by Hilton Alexandria Old Town
1900 Diagonal Drive, Alexandria, VA 22314

Registration Form

Due by March 15, 2023

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

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

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Chapter: _____ District: _____ Office: _____
(i.e., National, District, Chapter, Delegate)

- **Weekend Package per Person: \$175.00**
INCLUDES: Registration and Saturday Night Dinner

Number of Persons _____ x \$175.00 = \$ _____

Choose Dinner Menu:

- _____ NY Strip Steak 10 oz, broccolini, Russian fingerling potatoes
- _____ Chesapeake Crab Cakes, with herb remoulade sauce, whipped potatoes
- _____ Chicken Parmesan cherry tomato with spaghetti and homemade tomato basil sauce.
- _____ Fire Grilled Vegetable Platter assorted seasonal vegetables with edamame with farro

or

- **Meeting Registration Only: (For Members not taking the Weekend Package)**

\$50.00 per member X _____ = \$ _____

Total Paid \$ _____

Make check payable to: **"UNICO NATIONAL"** or, if you prefer, use one of the following
(Circle one below)

MasterCard ~ Visa ~ Discover ~ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp Date _____
Security Code _____ (3 or 4 digit on back)

Signature /Name on Card _____

Completed form should be mailed, emailed, or faxed to:

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271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F – 103, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458

Tel: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 or email to: uniconational@unico.org

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley, NJ Chapter celebrated Italian-American Heritage Month (October) with its annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Columbus statue in front of Nutley Town Hall followed by the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade. A group of members also walked in the NY City Parade, including Don Russoniello and Pasquale Pisani, who carried the Chapter banner. The guest speaker at the Chapter's October dinner meeting was Tony Pasquale, Senior Production Manager of ICN Radio. He spoke about his arrival in the United States, crossing under the Verrazano Bridge and seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time.

The November dinner meeting focused on recognizing our veterans. Chapter members honored were Peter Ardito, Dominick Cucciniello, Bob Montanino, Joe Zarra, Charlie Kucinski, John Kelly and David Ingrassia. The guest speaker was Ron Negra, author of *Waves of Hope*, a book describing his mother's correspondence to the families of WW II prisoners of war captured by the Germans informing them that their loved ones were still alive.

Activities: A Bocce Tournament coordinated by Frank Russo was held on Oct. 30 raised over \$3,000 for Chapter activities. On Dec. 10 the annual Children's Breakfast with Santa was held. Thanks to Sal Ferrara, Alan Genitempo and Vito "Santa" Scarpelli. In lieu of a Dec. dinner meeting members enjoyed the food at Nanina's in the Park, Belleville, NJ., and the music of member, John Cafone, at the annual Christmas Party on Dec. 13. Debbie Bellucci and her committee did a great job with this event that also include a collection of Toys for Tots and food items.



Past Presidents of the Nutley, NJ Chapter at the Columbus Wreath Laying ceremony. L to R: UNICO National Second Vice President Joseph Nasello, Marie Solimo, Joe Scarpelli, Phyllis Coldebella, Anthony Malfitano, Frank Cocchiola Jr., and Tom Sposato.



Nutley New Jersey Veterans honored by the Chapter at its November meeting.



All the Anthony's at the Nutley, NJ Chapter October dinner meeting.



L to R: Nutley, New Jersey Chapter President Dan Carnicella, Len Gugliemello and Tom Sposato at the Chapter's bocce tournament.



Frank Cocchiola, Ron Negra guest speaker at Nutley, NJ Chapter November meeting, Dan Carnicella Chapter President, and Danielle Manganello.



New members sworn in at the Nutley, New Jersey September dinner meeting.




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

ROSETO, PA



The Ladies of the Roseto Chapter had our annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

MONTVILLE, NJ***MONTVILLE UNICO FOUNDATION AND TURKEYS 4U
DISTRIBUTE 340 TURKEYS FOR 2022 THANKSGIVING***

Turkeys 4U, a non-profit student organization in its twenty-first year, in conjunction with the Montville UNICO Foundation, once again distributed turkeys and food certificates to needy families, food pantries, churches, and soup kitchens throughout northern New Jersey in November. Fifteen students from Kinnelon High School raised funds to purchase 340 turkeys. The participants delivered the turkeys to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morristown, the Father English Center in Paterson, Saint Peter's Church in Parsippany and the Church of the Nazarene, Butler. Turkeys were also delivered to the Pine Brook Firehouse for distribution to 21 local families in need, along with \$2125 in food certificates, in time for Thanksgiving dinner.

My Limo, in Mount Olive, donated a bus to transport the students to the distribution locations. Lincoln Park ShopRite transported the turkeys to the various food pantries and distribution locations. Lincoln Park ShopRite discounted the price of the food certificates as well as donated a cooked turkey for a family without a stove. Montville High School teacher Dorothy Lovenguth also volunteered her services.

Montville UNICO Foundation members Debra and Larry Casha have tirelessly spearheaded the Turkeys 4U fundraising drive and distribution of turkeys since its inception in 2002. Last year, Turkeys 4U raised over \$10,600 and distributed 400 turkeys and \$2500 worth of food certificates. This year Kinnelon High School students Jack Ahart, Mia Corigliano and Andrew Garcia solicited funds from the OLM congregation. The generous donors contributed \$1746.00.

Turkeys 4U has raised over \$270,000 and donated over 17,400 turkeys and thousands of dollars in food certificates. Food needs occur throughout the year, so donations are always appreciated to meet the demand. Tax deductible donations are appreciated and can be made payable to Montville UNICO Foundation, (Turkeys 4U in the memo section) and mailed to PO Box 788, Montville, NJ 07045. 100% of the funds raised are utilized to purchase turkeys and food certificates.



Kinnelon High School students and members of Turkeys 4U, a non-profit student run organization that has teamed up with Montville Chapter's Foundation to raise money for the purchasing and distribution of turkeys and food certificates in the Montville area, shown with some of the 430 turkeys they distributed to local families, food pantries, churches and civic organizations.



Turkeys 4U Chapter liaison Debra Casha, Chapter President Michelle Maddalena and Chapter Charitable Goals Chair Vivian Cleffi with the Members of the Turkeys 4U organization from Kinnelon High School at Pine Brook Fire house distribution center.

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ComUNICO's Sponsors**

OAKVILLE WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville-Watertown, CT Chapter of UNICO National and the Watertown, CT Park and Recreation Department hosted a pasta supper for the Watertown Area Association for Special Citizens, at the Senior Center on Falls Ave in Oakville on Monday, December 5th. The members of UNICO are pictured L to R: Bruno DiSisto; Bob Ruscitto, Chapter President; Rick Sarandrea, Rich Gubbiotti, Joe Masi, Vin Dorso, Mary DiSisto, Mark Gubbiotti, behind Mary, partially hidden; Mike Daddona, Joe Polletta, Steve Malenda, and Bill Breg.



A special appearance was made by Santa pictured here with Joe McGrail, head of the Special Citizens.

Don't forget

**The Deadline for the
April 2023 issue is**

March 17, 2023

OAKVILLE WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville Watertown CT Chapter and the Waterbury CT Chapter of UNICO National held a combined Christmas party at Verdi's Restaurant, 660 Park Rd., Waterbury, CT on Sunday, December 18th at which time new members were installed.



Pictured L to R: Bruno DiSisto, new Oakville-Watertown member; Mary DiSisto, new Oakville-Watertown member; Bob Ruscitto, Oakville Watertown Chapter President; Justin Muccino, new Waterbury member; Francine Nido, President Waterbury Chapter; and Dawn Maiorano, Waterbury Chapter.

ORANGE WEST ORANGE, NJ

Italian Flag Raising at West Orange Town Hall.



President Frank V. Gonnella installs new members.



PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



At the Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter Christmas Dinner was Francesca, an Italian Dancer, with Chapter dinner Chair John Morano. Francesca delighted everyone with some authentic Italian dances which brought many members to the dance floor and smiles to everyone.



At the Passaic Valley UNICO Chapter Christmas Dinner was a Christmas song singing along. It was led by from L to R: Christina Castillo, Joyce O'Hara, John Barbieri.

PARAMUS, NJ

The Paramus Chapter of UNICO held its Evening of Wine Tasting & Buffet Dinner on Friday 12/9 at Ridgewood Country Club. The attendees enjoyed a great venue, outstanding food, and great wine selections. Fun had by all.



L to R: Maria Bifulco, NJ IX DG Steve Bifulco, Joe Iula, Paramus Chapter President Lois Iula, UNICO National President Dr. Peter Pettinato, First Lady Maggie Pettinato, UNICO National Exec VP Cav. Ralph Contini, Maria-Rose Contini, Roseanne Heytink, PDG NJ IX Gerry Heytink.

Don't forget

The Deadline for the April 2023 issue is

March 17, 2023

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Each month the members of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter donate to a worthwhile local charity.

In November, food and Shoprite cards were collected for the families of St. Gregory's Pantry, as this Chapter has done for the last 20 years.

This year the members that delivered the bags of food noticed that the little children were peeking in the bags to see what they were going to get to eat.

So moved by these sweet needy children, Chapter President Diane Grabowski decided that in December when families come to pick up their food, each child would get a toy or gift as well.

In appreciation, President Diane hosted an open house for everyone to drop off these gifts and have a chance to informally socialize with their fellow members and enjoy appetizers and cavatelli and broccoli. As a result, St. Gregory's received 20 bags filled with toys and a shopping bag full of gift cards, due to the overwhelming generosity of our members.

Tis the Reason for the Season----
Happy Healthy 2023!



Ron Agresta, John Porta, and Vin Levito packing cars with food to deliver to St. Gregory's Pantry.



Donna Gallina, Paul Viggiano, Donna and Vincent Papa, Diane Rollman, Maria Ciccone, and Kathy Fazzari are some of the members ,who dropped off gifts at Point Pleasant Open House and Toy Collection.

REHOBOTH BEACH, DE



Rehoboth Area Chapter Christmas Party



Richard Muti's enthusiasm as he talks about his book *Cent'Anni - Legend at 100*



New Members installed at October meeting, Sam Ratner, Tina Lambert and Mary Lou Hahn.

GREATER ORLANDO, FL



First Annual Greater Orlando Christmas Party. Chapter President Joe Scalo and Past National president Michael Spano with other Chapter members.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



Rutherford Members present a check for Social Concerns to St. Mary's Church. Pastor Reverend Michael Kreder accepted the check.

Don't forget

to visit the UNICO website for the latest news and information:

UNICO.org



MONTVILLE, NJ

On December 17, 2022, The Montville Chapter held its annual Christmas toy giveaway to local children in need. Over 300 toys were provided to the Chapter through its partnership with the Morris County Republican Committee, and the Chapter donated 90 \$25.00 gift cards to supplement the toys. Chapter President Michele Maddalena, Charitable Goals chair Vivian Cleffi and members of the Chapter pose with Santa.



**Please Support
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POINT PLEASANT BEACH AND BRICK, NJ

The Italian Cultural Clubs of Ocean Country hosted a joint holiday party inviting members of Point Pleasant Beach and Brick Chapters of UNICO. The event was hosted by New Jersey 1 District Governor Alan Floria, to bring together various Italian American organizations in the area to unite and socialize for their common goals. Special attendees from UNICO National were Anthony Bengivenga, First Vice President, Dr. Ann Walko, Past National President, and Bob Gynn, National Armed Service Chair.



UNICO National First Vice President Anthony Bengivenga, Past District Governor Grace Gynn, District Governor Alan Floria and Point Pleasant Chapter President Diane Grabowski at joint cultural event.



Point Pleasant members, The Antonellis and the Pollocks welcome UNICO National First Vice President Anthony Bengivenga, Past National President Dr. Ann Walko, and new member Sandy Giordano



Vincent and Andrea Levito with Diane Grabowski, Grace and Bob Gynn and charter member Victor Damato.

WATERBURY, CT

Waterbury UNICO Chapter Members and Friends enjoyed a Paint & Sip at their November Monthly Meeting. Led by local artist Eduardo Paredes, the group painted a simple winter scene while socializing and enjoying wine, cheese & crackers and Italian Cookies. Planned as a more interactive way to meet, the night was well received, and similar events will be scheduled in the future.



Waterbury UNICO Chapter partnered with La Strega Italian Deli to hold a "Breakfast Food Drive" for the local St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen. The items collected included hot and cold cereals, pancake mix, syrup, fruit cups and juice. Featured in Photo: Edwin Rodriguez (SVDP Director of Operations), Anna DeRocco (La Strega Owner), and Francine Nido (Waterbury President).



The Waterbury UNICO Chapter held a Trivia Night at a local tavern on November 30th. Hosted by UNICO Member Nicole Maiorano, the fun event attracted over 40 participants members and nonmembers. Prizes were awarded to the 1st - 4th Placed Teams and door prizes were also given. A fun night was held by all. Proceeds from the night benefit local projects.

QUEENSBORO, NY

QUEENSBORO UNICO ANNUAL TOY DRIVE & FUNDRAISER 2022

It only takes one moment of kindness to change a child's life.

On behalf of Queensboro UNICO Chapter we thank you all for your selflessness and generosity in making this one of the most successful "Toys for Tots" year to date! Merry Christmas and may God bless you all with endless health, love, and happiness.

The organization presented the U. S. Marine Corp sponsored Toys for Tots event with a \$500 donation & nearly 2000 brand new toys ranging from toys, bikes, games, and tech toys for all ages to give a Christmas wish to children in need!

We thank all that donated and contributed & special thanks to our several toy drop locations throughout Queens, Brooklyn and Nassau County! This only happens thanks to you all!

Special thanks to the Acevedo/ Mazzarella/Perna family for the huge Toy Donation. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family!



Queensboro UNICO Chapter held an annual Christmas party on Thursday December 8th led by the Chapter President Anthony D'angelo held at Hendricks restaurant attended by several members, friends & community leaders!

The Chapter honored immediate past Chapter President & District Governor Gaspare Mistretta with an award for leadership & community service to the Queensboro Chapter of UNICO National.



WAYNE, NJ

Wayne UNICO Chapter Halloween Party.



October Flag Raising.



Wayne UNICO Chapter Christmas Party.



Visit the UNICO website for the latest news and information:

UNICO.org

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ

SENIOR CITIZEN GAME DAY



Raritan Valley, NJ UNICO hosted, “A Gift Unwrap” NJ Trivia and Jeopardy game today at the Somerset County Senior Citizen Wellness Center in Bridgewater, NJ. Pictured L to R: Anna Ferrera, Tara DeLeon, Donna Filmore and Joe Ferrera.

DANBERRY CEMETERY CLEANUP



Tara DeLeon places a flag at the Ed Danberry Memorial.



Roger Delin clears away the leaves.



L to R: Tara DeLeon, Chapter President Donna Lish, Joe Ferrera, Anna Ferrera, Roger Delin, Maria Danberry, Bev Minetti and Ed Minetti.



Chapter President Donna Lish, Anne Delin and Bev Minetti preparing to place flags on the Veterans tombstones.

BLOOMFIELD, NJ

FALL FOOD DRIVE

On November 12th, members and Interns of the Bloomfield Chapter arrived bright and early at the Brookdale Shop Rite in Bloomfield. Volunteer members worked in hourly shifts to greet busy shoppers to encourage them to contribute items for our Fall Food Drive. It didn't take much encouragement!

The shoppers generously purchased enough items for us to donate an assortment of food, and a few Turkeys, to the Food Pantry at the Presbyterian Church on the Green, the New Light Baptist Church, both located in Bloomfield, and Mother Theresa's Soup Kitchen at St Augustine's Church in Newark.

It's amazing what can be accomplished in three hours when a community comes together to help others in need. It was a great day for Bloomfield UNICO and the Brookdale ShopRite.



L to R: Frank LoMonte, Judy LoMonte, Emily Haraka, Intern Camille Schiralli, Intern MaryLou Klenner and Carol Kane.



L to R: Jack Cowen, Paula Zaccone, Kathy Iacovone, Betty Salernno and Rocco Iacovone.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII



Joe Nasello UNICO National second Vice President, giving a donation to restore bocce courts to Lou Nicastro President of Elmwood Park UNICO.



SCRANTON, PA



The Ladies Auxiliary of UNICO National Scranton Chapter welcomed new members Deborah Solomon and Karen Clifford at the October membership meeting.



The Ladies Auxiliary of UNICO National Scranton Chapter recently held its Fall Luncheon and Mystery Purse raffle drawing at Fiorelli's in Peckville. Saint Joseph's Trinity Child Care Center received \$2,000, the proceeds from the Mystery Purse Raffle.



The Ladies Auxiliary of UNICO Scranton Chapter recently held a Bocce Fun Day in loving memory of Alice Vanston at the Victor Alfieri Society in Scranton. A check for \$1,585.00 was presented to The Ronald McDonald House. From left are Danelle Hogan, Jo Ann Verduce, Mary Lynn O'Bell, holding Grace Vanston, Gayle DeAntona, Warren Shotto, Mary Marrara.



La Radunata dinner.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X

Officers and members of NJ District X attend the charity comedy fundraiser sponsored by the Hillsborough Chapter at the Raritan Valley Country Club on November 19, 2022.



Members and Officers of District X representing The Plainfields' UNICO, Raritan Valley UNICO, Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO, and the Greater Westfield Chapter pose at the banquet table of the Comedy Show sponsored by Hillsborough UNICO.



L to R: Comedian Gemini, NJ District X Governor Bob Bengivenga, Miss Hillsborough UNICO, and UNICO National First Vice President Anthony Bengivenga. Anthony won one of the prize baskets at the Comedy Fundraiser which was sponsored by Hillsborough UNICO at the Raritan Valley Country Club.

SCRANTON, PA



Minicozzi Race Group.

WESTWOOD, NJ

The Westwood Chapter donated turkeys and all the fixings to The Hillsdale United Methodist Church Helping Hands Food Pantry for the Pantry to distribute Thanksgiving Dinners for people in need.



James Cleary Westwood Chapter President, Steve Bifulco New Jersey District IX Governor, Maria Bifulco, Laurie Wekar, Frank Di Dolci, Howard Snyder, Rosemary Heytink, Steve Wekar, Jerry Heytink, Lisa Heytink and Frank Lo Piccolo.

HOLIDAY WRAPPING



Don't forget

The Deadline for the April 2023 issue is

March 17, 2023

UNICO National 100th Annual National Convention



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SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD, NJ

Scotch Plains Nativity: Each year, the Chapter sponsors the nativity in front of the Scotch Plains Municipal Building. A donation of \$250 was given by the Chapter to sponsor the event.

Lights for Life: One of the Chapter's vendors, Joseph DiMartino, organizes the Lights for Life Christmas Light Display in Staten Island, NY in memory of his late wife, Debra Ann DiMartino, who was killed in the 9/11 terrorist attack. All proceeds from the attraction benefit pediatric cancer patients at Staten Island University Hospital. A donation of \$1,000 was given to the organization from the Scotch Plains Fanwood Chapter.

Scotch Plains and Fanwood Volunteer Rescue Squads: The Chapter approved a donation of \$250 to both the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Volunteer Rescue Squads.

On December 17th, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO Chapter participated in Wreaths Across America, a nationwide program in which wreaths are placed at veterans' graves to honor those who served and sacrificed. Started in 1992 with the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, the program has expanded to over 3,500 locations nationwide. The event, coordinated locally by the American Legion Post 209, took place at the historic Scotch Plains Baptist Cemetery with UNICO members present to place wreaths the Chapter has sponsored.

On December 4th, At the Scotch Plains Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting, Santa arrived on a fire truck and the Grinch also made an appearance. Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO members were present with giveaways for those in attendance. Pictured here are UNICO members with The Grinch - (L to R): Jeff Blanck, Daniela Sellinger, The Grinch, and Luciana Rodak.



On November 22nd, The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO recently welcomed two new members into its organization - (L to R): Serina Agosta Modica and Joseph Schiavo were sworn in by Geri Samuel UNICO National Membership and Retention Director, at the Chapter's November meeting.



Submit your quality photos to:
comunico@unico.org



Pictures and captions are only as good as what you submit!

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

In early December, the Chapter (represented by Matt Mustachio) donated many toys to the Marine Program “Toys for Tots” to help underprivileged children enjoy Christmas.



On December 10th the Chapter held our Annual Christmas Party at Caffe NaVona in Rockaway. The event included terrific Italian food, some fun games and prize raffles.



In addition, our Chapter donated \$11,500 to help fight Pancreatic Cancer, of which \$1,500 was given to the President of Biker’s Against Cop Killers (BACK) for one of their members who is fighting Pancreatic Cancer (this group has supported our Annual Motorcycle Event for St. Jude’s) and \$10,000 was given to the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research in honor of our Dan Bell Citizenship Award designee Marco DeFilippis’s brother, Antonio DeFilippis, who passed from Pancreatic Cancer.



Lastly, our Chapter continues to grow as we have had 5 more new members join in December.

In Memoriam



RAYMOND BASIL TAHAN

Raymond Basil Tahan passed away suddenly at St. Clare’s Hospital in Denville on December 30, 2022, at the age of 74.

Born and raised in Paterson, New Jersey, he was a 1965 graduate of Don Bosco Tech. He later lived in Belleville before moving to Rockaway Twp. 35 years ago.

Ray proudly served in the United States Air Force during Vietnam. Upon returning from the service,

he owned and operated “J & B Deli” in Bloomfield, and then the “Salad Bowl” in Belleville between 1970 and 1985. He later owned “Happy Time Travel Agency” with his wife Sarah in West Paterson. His passion for cars and entrepreneurial spirit lead him to establish “Marcella Cars” in Rockaway Twp. He was a devoted husband, father, Giddo (grandfather), brother, uncle, cousin, and friend to many. Ray was an active member of and involved in various local community boards and committees. His love of British sports cars contributed to his association with numerous organizations such as Jaguar Auto Group, New Jersey Triumph Club, et al. Those who knew him well understood that the only thing that was more important than cars, to Ray, was spending time with his grandsons and family.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 31 years, Sarah Diane (Roberts) Tahan in 2014.

Ray is survived by his loving children Tracey and her husband Andrew Chiurazzi of Waldwick, Tiffany Tahan of Rockaway Twp., and Sarah Elizabeth Tahan and her husband Nicholas Wilbur of Sparta. He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren Johnny and Nick Chiurazzi and Nolan Wilbur as well as his sisters Frieda, Mary and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X



First Vice President Anthony Bengivenga presents the 2023 UNICO Calendar to the Mayor and Vice Mayor of Terno D’Isola during the ceremonies of the annual December cultural exchange in the Isola Bergamasca region of Italy. In the photo L to R: Vice Mayor Angelo DegliAntoni, First Vice President Anthony Bengivenga, Mayor Gianluca Sala, Ex-Councilman Giacomo Pedrini, and Luke Meisenbacher of Skillman, NJ.

GREATER RAMSEY, NJ

COMEDY NIGHT

Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter proudly presented a special "Comedy Night" featuring Ramsey's own Jimmy Palumbo, with opening acts by Joseph Anthony and Bob Gonzo. Ramsey UNICO Chapter members, families, and friends enjoyed a laugh filled evening. Admission included a Gourmet Buffet Dinner with Wine, Beer, and Dessert. The proceeds benefited Ramsey UNICO Chapter charitable causes.



L to R: Donna Weber, Dorothy Verdone, Jimmy Palumbo, Featured Comedian & Chapter President Maria Arrabito, Past National President Rick D'Arminio

CHAPTER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Greater Ramsey Chapter of UNICO National held its annual Christmas Party at Marcello's Ristorante in Suffern, New York. Forty-two members and friends enjoyed an evening of great Italian food, music, and welcoming the holiday season. Several members donated toys for the "Toys for Tots" program.



Dorothy Verdone and Ramsey UNICO Chapter President Maria Arrabito.



Ramsey Mayor Dillon congratulating Dorothy Verdone.

The Mayor and Town Council of the Borough of Ramsey, New Jersey recognized Dorothy Verdone, Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter Member with a Certificate of Appreciation. During 2009, Dorothy was a consistent and effective volunteer involved in many of the Greater Ramsey UNICO's community and fund-raising events.

Mayor Deirdre Dillon presented Dorothy with the Certificate of Appreciation signed by the mayor and the six town councilpersons in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service and positive impact on the Greater Ramsey community through the Greater Ramsey UNICO Chapter.



Dorothy Verdone and Ramsey UNICO Chapter President Maria Arrabito.



Ramsey Mayor Dillon congratulating Dorothy Verdone.

Ramsey UNICO Hosted Christmas Luncheon at Ramsey Woodlands Senior Housing Community

The Greater Ramsey Chapter of UNICO National recently held a Christmas luncheon and fun afternoon for the benefit of the senior residents living at The Woodlands Senior Housing Community in downtown Ramsey. Morano's Gourmet Market of Ramsey catered an outstanding luncheon with plenty left over for each resident to take home for dinner. Entertainment was provided by The Hip Replacements, featuring popular music from the 40's through 80's including Italian language and popular sing along Christmas tunes. Each resident was given a ShopRite gift card and additional cards were raffled off. Together, the guest residents and the Ramsey UNICO Chapter volunteers enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of great food, music and dancing...everyone had a great time.



Ramsey UNICO volunteers ready to serve guests.



Woodlands residents enjoying luncheon.



Guests enjoying music and dancing

CLARK, NJ

The Clark Chapter of UNICO delivered a truck load of donated food from Featherbed Lane School to the Knights of Columbus in Garwood who will distribute to needy families. Chapter President Joe Arancio and Mark Conforti picked up the food and made the delivery.



The Clark Chapter of UNICO invited over 150 volunteers and UNICO members to a “thank you” dinner for volunteering their time in helping with the 15th Annual UNICO Italian feast that was held Columbus Day Weekend. Chapter President Joe Arancio said, “We could never run the feast without all the volunteers that help”. The food was catered by Petosa’s in Cranford. Over 75 people were in attendance.



Google CALENDAR!



Joseph Nasello Second Vice President has set up a Google Calendar for all Chapter Presidents to utilize for all their meeting and events.

The calendar is a good way for the National President and the Vice Presidents to see what the Chapters have scheduled.

Chapters should open a google browser, click on google apps.

Go to dots on the right and sign in with your UNICO credentials that Joe Nasello will be sending every Chapter President.

unicoChaptermeetings@gmail.com is the sign in and Joe will issue you the password so you can add your information. If you are having trouble at first please contact Joe Nasello or the National Office for assistance.

HAZELTON, PA



Our Chapter members supporting our member Allison Barletta Antolick's journey with breast cancer. This was a Halloween Surprise event!



Hazleton UNICO Chapter kicked off the holiday season with a Murder Mystery Dinner at Sands Springs Golf Club.



Jeff Collura, Cindy Mirarchi, Donna Delehanty and Renee Cherico making soup for our fundraiser benefiting our own member Allison Barletta Antolick.



Hazleton UNICO Chapter sharing a Christmas in the Park Event. It was a Great Community Event!



Pictured are Cheri Yannuzzi, Danny DeMelfi, Cathy Gasper and Allison Barletta Antolick. The Chapter is honoring Allison.

Don't forget
The Deadline for the April 2023 issue is
March 17, 2023

PEQUANNOCK, NJ



Past Eastern Regional Chair, Perry Russo presented a check to Pastor Stephen Prisk of Holy Spirit Church in Pequannock.



Pequannock UNICO President, Anna Lee, presented a check to Linda Wilson of the Pequannock Food Pantry at the recent Empty Bowls Event held in the Township.



The Borough of Lincoln Park thanks the Pequannock UNICO Chapter for the generous donation to the Food Pantry.



Submit your quality photos to: comunico@unico.org
Pictures and captions are only as good as what you submit!



COMUNICO RULES AND GUIDELINES

The following are ComUNICO Rules that must be strictly adhered to in order for a Chapter and/or a Committee's submissions to be included in an issue of ComUNICO:

- 1) Each Chapter is limited to 300 words per issue. This includes the number of words in a column and captions.
- 2) The only titles to be included in captions are for National Officers and Chapter Presidents. Do not identify other Chapter Officers by title.
- 3) If more than 10 people appear in a picture, do not identify each of them.
- 4. Abbreviations are not to be used. The only title to be abbreviated is Vice President (VP).
- 5) All articles and captions are to be submitted in Times New Roman font, 11 point font size and in black.

- 6) Photo File Name should be identifiable to the corresponding caption.
- 7) A Chapter is allowed a maximum of six pictures per issue for a regular event.
- 8) All award recipients (ie. Scholarship, Brian Piccolo) should be included in one picture. Do not send multiple pictures from an event with one recipient per picture.
- 9) Only pictures attached to an e-mail will be accepted. Pictures embedded in an e-mail will be returned to the Chapter and not included.
- 10) All submissions should be sent to comUNICO@UNICO.org. Submissions sent to any other office e-mail address will not be included.
- 11) The deadline for submissions is 5:00 PM on the designated day.

12) Photos coming in after a holiday will not be included in the next issue, if deemed to be untimely. ComUNICO should reflect the current time of year.

13) Articles cannot contain copy righted materials. All articles must be original and completely written by the person submitting the article. An article compiled from information that was cut and pasted from other sources is considered plagiarism.

The following are ComUNICO Guidelines for a Chapter to follow:

- 1) Photos should be sent in landscape not portrait form.
- 2) Do not send in blurry pictures.
- 3) Review all submissions prior to sending for grammar and punctuation.

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ST. JOSEPH'S HIGH SCHOOL, MONTVALE, NJ

The St. Joseph's High School, Montvale, NJ Chapter resumed the school year and have run many service projects to benefit community outreach centers. The monthly service drives are constant reminder of SJR's foundation "Service Above Self".

October 2nd UNICO Chapter hosted a table at the St. Joseph High School Open House. Aces handed out new member applications to prospective students.



THANKSGIVING DRIVE

The St. Joseph High School Montvale, NJ UNICO Chapter Aces loaded the food donations for 2 local outreach centers: 25 frozen turkeys and Thanksgiving sides were donated to St. Cecilia's Office of Concern, Englewood, NJ. 52 trays of frozen ziti (a SJR annual tradition), 4 bags of frozen chicken parts and 10 bags of canned meats were donated to Fr. English Community Center in Paterson, NJ.



St. Joseph's High School Elf Squad assembled Christmas bags, spread some holiday cheer to the children of Fr. English Community Center. Four elves delivered the boxes from Project Snowflake and the Christmas Gift bags to the Community Center and met with Catholic Charities Director, Carlos, to talk about their 2 projects.



HALLOWEEN DRIVE

Aces assembled 406 Halloween Candy Bags, 206 for the Veterans Home in Paramus, NJ and filled Halloween Pumpkin Bags for the Nurses. 200 Halloween Bags handed out to the children at Fr. English Community Center in Paterson, NJ.



DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PROJECTS

Chapter funded Christmas gift bags included books, coloring activity book, Christmas hat or headband, M&M filled candy cane, candy cane and other treats and a raffle basket for the Breakfast with Santa, St. Peters Catholic School in Belleville, NJ.



Project Snowflake, drive to collect donations of hats, gloves, and socks. Donations went to Mercy House, Archdiocese of Newark and Fr. English Community Center, Paterson NJ. 198 hats, 161 gloves and 478 were collected.



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ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

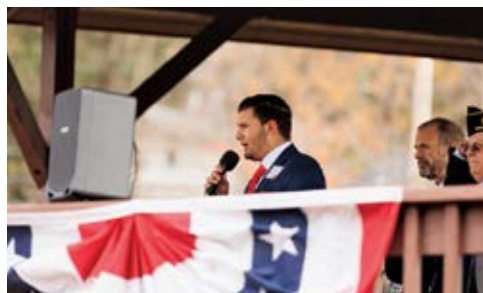


On November 12, 2022, the Rockaway Township UNICO, with the support of American Legion Post 344, Mayors Joe Jackson, and Tom Mulligan of the two Rockaways, and a task force of town employees honored a native-son, General Raymond T. Odierno and local veterans with a ceremony that included the unveiling of a commemorative stone in remembrance of a Rockaway hero, a four-star general whose troops captured Saddam Hussein in 2003 and who rose to become the 38th Army Chief of Staff. The black granite stone now stands at the gazebo near Parks Lake; it bears a likeness of the general and reads, "In memory of General Raymond T. Odierno, 4 Star General, Chief of Staff of the Army, Grandson of Italian immigrants, Rockaway Borough resident, Morris Hills High School and West Point Alumnus, dedicated by Rockaway Township UNICO."



Over two hundred residents and participants and twenty-six Odierno family members attended the event that could not be stopped by Hurricane Nicole. The program, led by Rockaway Township UNICO President, Nicole Capo, included the Star-Spangled Banner, sung by Vincent Paglucci and the military anthems played by ten-year-old boy scout, Christopher Iantosca, in recognition of the veterans in the crowd. The Cu'Chullain Pipe Band

accompanied the color guard from the American Legion Post 344 and the Rockaway Township Rifle Guard. UNICO member and retired Morris Hills teacher, Judi Ricucci, shared the story of the General's 2014 visit to Morris Hills High School and his impact on the staff and students. After the ceremony 150 veterans and guests, were treated to a luncheon at the American Legion that was offered by Rockaway Township UNICO and prepared by Bill Agnellino of the South Orange Reservoir.



ST. LOUIS, MO

In Memoriam



JOSEPH S. PALAZZO

On December 26, 2022, the St. Louis Chapter of UNICO National lost a wonderful member, Joseph Palazzo. He will be fondly remembered by his family and friends as a selfless man with a gentle soul who adored his wife, family, and friends. He always had kind words, the biggest smile, and an open ear to anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. UNICO was his passion. Joe served on the national level as a District Governor and on many national committees, on a local level Joe served as a Chapter President and as a board member. Joe was proud of his Italian Heritage. Joe honorably served his country in the U.S. Navy. Joe lived life to the fullest! He will be greatly missed.

Beloved husband for 56 years of Vita Palazzo (nee Monteleone); loving father of Gina (Dan) Hahn and Marco (Shana) Palazzo; dear grandfather of Gabrielle (Andrew) Pizzullo, Danny and Joe Hahn, Landen, Alayna, Gavin and Aiden Palazzo; dear brother of Ross (Anna) Palazzo and Josephine Byrne; dear uncle, brother-in-law and friend to many.

Memorials to American Cancer Society appreciated.

KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone Chapter UNICO National conducted its 11th annual Christopher Columbus Coloring Contest for all students in the second-grade classes at the Dunmore Elementary Center and Saint Mary's Parochial School. The student with the winning entry from each of the second grades received their artwork entry professionally framed and a \$25 Amazon gift card. Keystone UNICO Member Jim Mack is the Coloring Contest Chairman.



Pictured with the winners in the Annual Keystone UNICO Columbus Day Coloring Contest are Dunmore Elementary Center Staff and Keystone Chapter UNICO Members Mark McDade, President Louise Ligi, Coloring Contest Chairman Jim Mack, Frank Coviello, Mary Ann Coviello and Michele McDade.



Pictured in the front row is Vihaan Bansal, the winner in the Annual Keystone UNICO Columbus Day Coloring Contest from Saint Mary's Parochial School. In the back row from L to R: are Frank Coviello, Hannah Kozerski, Teacher; Mary Ann Coviello, Jim Mack, Keystone UNICO Coloring Contest Chairman; Louise Ligi, Keystone Chapter President; and MaryElizabeth Shattin, Saint Mary's Parochial School Principal.

The Keystone Chapter of UNICO National raised over \$1,500 for Saint Joseph's Center at their Sunday Bake Sale Tent during their festival. A host of Keystone UNICO members and friends donated their homemade delicacies for sale at the post-Covid return of this annual event.



Pictured are the first shift of Keystone UNICO volunteers. Front Row L to R: are Cesira Berardelli, Mary Lou Karliak and JoAnn Martarano. Second row L to R: are Mary Rinaldi, Toni DiVizio, Diane Beckage, Nancy Malone, Lenore Latarewicz and Mary DePalma.



Pictured are the second shift of Keystone UNICO volunteers with Saint Joseph's Center's President Maryalice Jacquinot. Front Row L to R: Cesira Berardelli, Sister Maryalice, and Mary Lou Karliak. Back row L to R: are Keystone Chapter UNICO volunteers Toni DiVizio, JoAnn Martarano, Nancy Malone, Tom Carlucci, Valerie Riggi, Kevin Cicci, Sheryl Lynn Sochoka and Frank Cicci.

The Keystone Chapter recently made a donation, as part of their "Random Act of Kindness" program, to Frances Willard Elementary School in support of their Scholastic Book Club Program. Pictured in the front row from L to R: are Mary Ann Coviello, Frances Willard Third Grade Teacher Kelly Guerra, retired Scranton School District Teacher Marilyn Vitali and Principal of Frances Willard Elementary Brandon Budd. Back Row from L to R: are Frank Coviello, Bob and Sylvia Tagert, Mark McDade, retired Frances Willard Kindergarten Teacher, Michele McDade and Toni DiVizio.



The UNICO Foundation Torracco Food/Shelter Fund recently donated \$1,000 to the Saint Patrick Parish Food Pantry. The UNICO Foundation is pleased to support such a worthy cause, especially in these challenging times. Pictured at the presentation from L to R: are pantry volunteers Fran Sowka and Teri Millard, Father Richard Fox, Pastor of Saint Patrick Parish, Michael Rescigno, UNICO Foundation Torracco Food Bank/Shelter Fund Committee Chair and pantry volunteer Joan Robinson.



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2022

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME TO UNICO!

BRISTOL

Debbie Lombardi

BROOKHAVEN

Margaret M. McAdorey

CLIFFSIDE PARK

Thomas Calabrese
Tracey Mascolo-Blomgren

ELMWOOD PARK

Francesca Barone
Michael F. Notarmaso

FAIRFIELD

Paul Cafone
Michael Jones
Anthony Mazzella

FARMINGTON

Christine Andrews
Peter Andrews
Giustina Lamoureux

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY

Gino Clemente
Gary Migliacci
Denise Price

GREATER ORLANDO

Mary Rose Denaro
Gregory Denaro

GREATER TAMPA

Joseph Anthony Camerieri
Dr. Rosemary Intili Ferdinand, Phd
Pietro Porcella

HACKENSACK

Anthony Riotta

HIGHLAND BEACH

Robert Colvin

KEYSTONE

Mark A. Cardoni
Steven R. Guccini
Anne Martino

LIVINGSTON

Rosie Bagolie

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Antonio Calvagno
Donato A. Denovellis
Vincent Greco
Frank Rubino

NUTLEY

Sharon Balsamo
William J. Cutillo
Joseph Trentacost

OAKVILLE/WATERTOWN

Bruno Di Sisto
Mary L. Di Sisto

PEQUANNOCK

Geryl Jo Ciccarelli
Frank Covelli
Joseph Gilfedder
Randy Van Duyne
Salvatore Vicenzino
Marianne Vicenzino

PITTSFIELD

Elizabeth Lapierre
Donna Maria Merletto
Anthony Scott Nugai

PLAINFIELDS

Moira Demico
Dominic Demico, Jr.
Keren J. Gigantino

PT. PLEASANT BEACH

Linda Pulitano
Joseph P. Stancati

QUEENSBORO

Lenny Bonanno
Anthony Campanella
Joe Cucchiara
Vincenzo Gattoni
Giovanni Napolitano
Joey Porretto
John J. Ricco

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

Marco Defilippis
Patrick Divitantonio
Thomas Trapasso

SCOTCH PLAINS/ FANWOOD

Serina Agosta-Modica
Gina Barber
Marla Mackey
Michele Saliola
Domenick Saliola
Joseph G. Schiavo III
Massimo Modica

SCRANTON

Nancy Genello
Jon J. Geraci, Sr.
Diane Gilchrist
Eileen Marzolino
Amil Minora
Enrico Vialetti, Jr.

SPARTA

Emma Deluca

ST. JOE'S HS MONTVALLE

James Griglio, Jr.
Anthony Apgar
Christopher Beja
Tyler Joseph Cusumano
Cesar Delossantos
Jake Fitzsimmons
Troy Greco
Johnny Lanari
Dante Mangarelli
Danny Montesano
Viktor Olori
Andrew Reilly
Rocco Chillemi Rodden
Angelo Ruscitto
Travis Sems
Declan Stacey
Suzanne Greco
John Greco
James Griglio

TORRINGTON

Amerigo Joseph Martino

VERONA

Dr. Christopher Tamburro

WESTWOOD

Jason D. Rattino

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BELLEVILLE, NJ



Peter E. Caggiano presenting a certificate of honor for allowing us to do the food drive.

L to R: Peter E Caggiano, President of the Belleville Chapter, and owner of the Shoprite of Belleville and Kelly Liquors, Hemal A Patel.

GARFIELD, NJ



Garfield chapter annual Christmas party.



President Charles Nucifora starting party.



Special guest District Governor Annamarie Latushko.



Past National President Dominic Nicastro presented with engraved stone.

Dear UNICANS and Friends,

On behalf of **The Greater Orlando Chapter of UNICO** and ourselves, we sincerely thank all of you who supported our inaugural fundraiser, our Raffle Trip to Italy, with the winner having been announced at our Inaugural Italian American Heritage and Cultural Celebration on October 22, 2022. Both the Raffle and the Celebration were extremely successful. We also wish to thank the Italy Trip organizer, Private Italy Tours, for planning such a wonderful trip and making a very generous financial contribution to our fundraiser. The owner, Mark Gordon Smith, has been working with the raffle winner, who is further customizing his trip. Please stay tuned for further announcements about our 2023 Raffle Trip to Italy entitled **"Italy is Calling"** also handled by Private Italy Tours, which will be even better than the fabulous 2022 Raffle Trip. Please visit the Private Italy Tours webpage at www.private-italy.com to learn more.

Grazie Mille,

Joe Scalo
President

Jeana Scalo
Raffle Chairperson



WATERBURY, CT

In Memoriam

JOSEPH LONGO JR.
 "PRESIDENT OF
 UNITED AUTO SALES IN
 WATERBURY"

JULY 24, 1951 - DECEMBER 25, 2022

Joseph Longo Jr., 71, of Waterbury, entered the gates of heaven on Christmas morning, where he was reunited with many family members and friends who passed before him. He was the loving husband and best friend of Kathryn "Kathy" A. (Spaulding) Longo of forty-six years.

Joe was born in Waterbury on July 24, 1951, son of the late Joseph L. Sr. and Ann (Bartoletti) Longo. Growing up in Waterbury, Joe attended Waterbury Public Schools and was a graduate of Wilby High School, and then went on to receive his associates degree from Post University and his Bachelor's degree from the University of New Haven. Many that knew Joe, knew him from his family business, United Auto Sales. Joe was president of the company and ran the business with his father and brother Charlie, with Joe operating the body shop for many years.

Throughout the years, Joe was a member of the Connecticut Auto Body Association, the Knights of Columbus, and Oakville-Watertown UNICO, where he also served as past treasurer. Being a strong man of faith, Joe always was a devoted Catholic and with his wife Kathy, the two of them were longtime parishioners of Saint John of the Cross Church in Middlebury. One of Joe's favorite passions was cooking, being known for his famous chicken soup that was always a request of friends and family. He embraced his Italian heritage and carried on these traditions throughout the years. Always wanting to be around those he loved, Joe enjoyed family vacations, especially to Cape Cod and loved going on cruises. Joe was also a hockey fan and loved attending all of his grandchildren's sporting events whether it was hockey, dance recitals, lacrosse or soccer.

All those who knew Joe could attest that he was simply a generous, caring, sweet, pleasant, gentle and happy man. Above everything else in the world, Joe absolutely adored his family, especially his grandchildren, and loved nothing more than spending time with them. Joe's memory will live on forever and he will be missed by everyone.

Besides his beloved wife Kathy of Middlebury, Joe leaves behind to cherish his memory his two sons, David J. Longo and his wife Jennifer of Watertown, Joseph Longo III and his wife Kim of Middlebury, a brother, Peter Longo and his wife Christine of Morris, and his four grandchildren whom he adored, Michael, Giuliana, Anthony, and Joseph. Joe also leaves behind his entire United Auto Sales Family, as well as many loving nieces, nephews, and friends. He was predeceased by his brother, Charles "Charlie" Longo.

CARBONDALE, PA



Past National President Glenn Pettinato and Terri Pettinato, PA District Governor were honored at the Greater Binghamton Chapter.



Glenn Pettinato Past National President and PA District II at the Carbondale Chapter's All Wrapped Up vendor fundraiser.

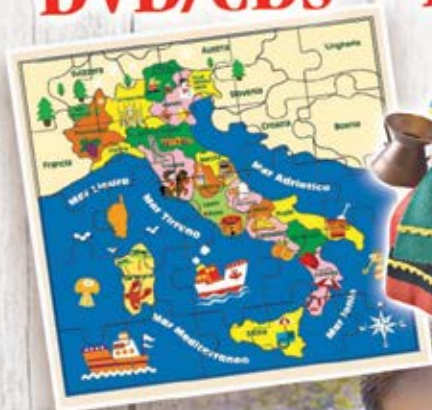
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Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me

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.)
RV, CM, AP, SL, MRM, AH, JP, JNN, AC, LG, PVM, GJA, RMN, JLAN, JCS, JPC, JM, AS, JP, JN, EDD, MC, JP, JJC, CS, WPM, GM, CS, RAB, SP, ME, JP, NLB, JW, AR, AMSP, NAA, JCS, CB, BMC, GT, GT

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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REDEFINING FRESH

Packaged fresh pasta is gaining in popularity because of its supple texture and enhanced flavor, but sales have always been hampered due to a relatively short shelf life. Now — thanks to the National Research Council, the largest public research institution in Italy, working in collaboration with the University of Bari Aldo Moro and the private chemical laboratory Food Safety Lab — the product's durability has been extended to 30 days. Operating within Italy's strict guidelines for the production of fresh pasta, the research team has added probiotic ingredients to minimize spoilage while employing advanced vacuum-sealing methods.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

In December, Rome Mayor Roberto Gualtieri introduced an ambitious waste-reduction plan, signing an ordinance initiating research into the construction of a garbage-to-energy plant. Slated for completion by 2026 on a 10-hectare site in the industrial area of Santa Palomba, south of the Italian capital, the facility will be capable of converting 600,000 tons of unsorted trash into electricity per year. The plan puts Rome on the road to self-sufficiency in managing its own waste while achieving the goal of eliminating the landfills and rubbish dumps that have brought so much shame to the city.

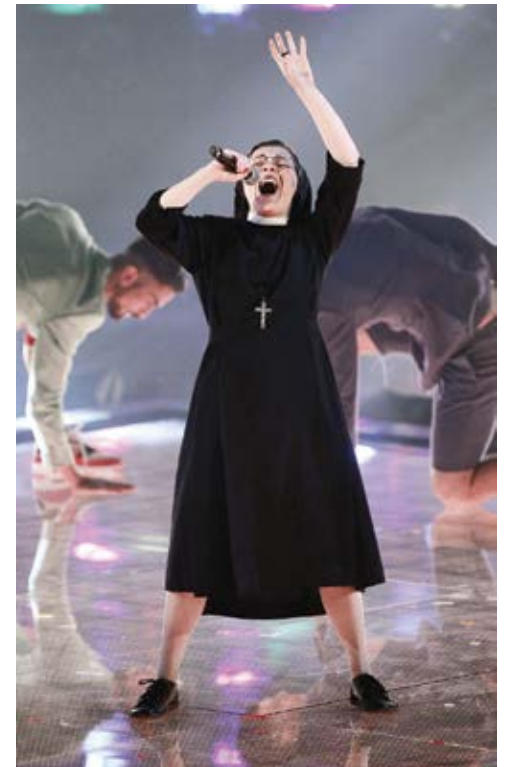


WEDDING BELL BLUES

With Italian couples eschewing matrimony in record numbers, a proposal by Italy's right-wing Lega party to offer couples up to 20,000 euros to reverse the trend has triggered a backlash. To earn the bonus, partners would need to have Italian citizenship for at least 10 years, earn fewer than 23,000 euros a year and — here's the rub — make their vows in church. When members of opposition parties pointed out that Italy is a secular state, the legislation was amended to include all weddings, regardless of whether they are celebrated in church.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

At the start of the 2014 season of "The Voice of Italy," a 34-year-old nun stunned the judges when her calling was revealed after a blind audition in which she performed Alicia Keys' "No One." Singing in a nun's habit, Sister Cristina went on to win the competition. Nearly a decade later, she's once again making waves. Now going by Cristina Scuccia, she appeared on the talk show "Verissimo" wearing a red pant suit, hair flowing, to announce her decision to leave her religious order and move to Spain to become a waitress. Scuccia still personally embraces her faith while aspiring to a career in music.



by Lynda Simonetti



▲ KIKI PRZEWLOCKI ▲

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

“Mama tried to teach me about people through her stories of our ancestors and current tales of those in our village. She spoke of the human psyche, of the news of the heart, of interpersonal relationships. Her focus was always famiglia — promoting, maintaining, supporting the structure of family, for family, in Italy is everything. Throughout the entirety of her story-filled lessons, she gave clues, road maps — keys on how it is and how it should be — ideologies that would have knocked any other acquiescing human being to the ground. Alas, I was not one of them.”

LA MIA SORELLA

by Kiki Przewlocki

PAGES: 334

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Buy: touchpointpress.com

Calabrian ODYSSEY

by Fred Gardaphe

What happens to Arabella Mandarino in this novel is probably what happened to many women of her generation. Born in Paola, Calabria, in the early days of the 20th century, Arabella grows up in a family that favors men and doesn't expect much of its women outside of the home. Being the youngest, she witnesses the privileges her brothers enjoy and the abuse of her sister, Filomena.

As a child, Arabella is drawn to the flora and fauna of her region. Guided by an erborista, she gathers the plants and roots that make up healing ointments and potions. Her best friend is Antonio, a boy who would grow up to become one of the most successful bakers in American history. He joins her in her daily romps through the fields and mountains, and at her favorite playground, the lungomare, where the sea meets the shore.

These idyllic ramblings provide a sense of balance and well-being to both, that is until they near adolescence. One night, Arabella finds out that her parents have promised her in marriage to the son of another businessman, a union that would strengthen her father's coffee enterprise and take her away from what she loves to do — study and heal. That's when she begins to buck tradition and find her own way through life.

Kiki Przewlocki's ambitious first novel is filled with interesting twists and turns in Arabella's life as her family, paese and country survive two world wars, a cholera epidemic, a plague of locusts and other travails. The family succeeds financially only to have that very success tear them apart. Throughout

each of these traumatic events, the author moves her story along nicely, but the reading is not without some typical flaws that betray a beginner's attempt to capture it all.

Quite often, the voice of the narrator slips into the register of the characters, so it's hard to tell fictional figures from the storyteller. The narrative can become overly poetic and didactic, and the rampant misspelling of Italian words — which the author warns about and apologizes for in her Author's Notes — can be a bit irksome. We see “panne” for “pane,” “pui” for “piu.” More careful editing would have kept sections from being overwritten and the mistakes, especially in Italian, at bay. Since most of her writing rises above these first-timer flaws, I believe the author, who hails from Melrose Park, has a future in committing her stories to the page.

Przewlocki is at her best when she delves into what's unique about the people of the region. Through her descriptions of their food, medicine and celebratory rituals, we get a sense of what we have lost through immigration and assimilation. Much of this comes through the portrayal of the herbalist/healing profession that Arabella naturally grows into, enabling her to take a key role in many of the events that threaten the lives of those she knows and loves. The individual stories Przewlocki tells and her chapterless structure help to keep the reader moving along. Meticulous research works to evoke the places her characters inhabit. Whether it's Paola, Rome, Rio de Janeiro or Boston, the settings are well depicted.



Jazz WINS OUT

by David Witter

Like a master woodworker carving endless intricate details, Australian-born Kristin Berardi doesn't simply sing songs, she crafts each and every note with the utmost attentiveness to pitch, tone and timbre. This dedication has been an integral part of Berardi's musical efforts since her early childhood, when she began studying violin.

"When I was a little girl, I saw a violin in an orchestra on the TV and asked, 'Can I play this?'" Berardi says. "My mum had studied music in primary school and was teaching at university, and so she valued music education very highly. She really wanted to foster my love for music, or perhaps at this stage my enthusiasm for learning an instrument."

Berardi practiced diligently, and as a young girl, she dreamed of playing in an orchestra. She also studied piano, and further extended her range when she began playing the saxophone in her high school band. That's where she developed a love for jazz along with a desire to spread her wings creatively.

"I was introduced to jazz in high school by my stage band teacher, who supplied me with mix tapes. At first, it sounded like what my grandparents were listening to, which it was," Berardi says. "I was playing alto saxophone in the band, but they needed a singer, and I begged to be that person. I was extremely shy, but I desperately wanted to sing."

In the beginning, Berardi sang mainly pop and rock music, earning money in bands as an older teen while delving more deeply into jazz. Her main source of inspiration was Australian singer and trumpeter Vince Jones, who combined jazz and pop in the same way

Berardi does today. Jazz eventually took the wheel, becoming Berardi's passion as well as her career goal.

"I binged on jazz records, growing more and more fond of the music," she explains, "but I always went back to Sarah (Vaughan), Ella (Fitzgerald) and Mel (Torme) to learn about where the music came from in terms of vocal jazz."

Berardi began doing jazz gigs at local clubs and events while continuing to sing rock and pop with the band. She earned an international reputation and audience while continuing to battle the stage fright she had contended with since she was a kid.

"I would sing — that was fine — but when it came to talking, I was so scared," Berardi says. "Sometimes I moved my mouth, and

words would barely come out."

Berardi's career took a quantum leap forward when she won the International Vocal Competition at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2006. This led to performances with Al Jarreau and George Benson at the festival in 2007, the same year she won the Freedman Jazz Award.

Doors began to open for Berardi, and soon she was recording albums, often with longtime collaborator James Sherlock. Those include "Kristin Berardi with James Sherlock" in 2007, "If You Were There" in 2009 and "Guess I'll Let My Tears Hang Out" in 2014. Berardi has also released albums with the Jazzgrove Mothership Orchestra and the Kristin Berardi Band.

Currently living in Switzerland, she serves as a staff member at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts' Institute of Jazz and Folk Music.



"THE LIGHT AND THE DARK"

BY KRISTIN BERARDI
EARSHIFT MUSIC

Melding her voice with minimal but effective accompaniment, Kristin Berardi has crafted an album exploring the subtle emotions that shape our lives. Deftly weaving her vocals with the bass and drums of Jerome Jennings and Marty Jaffe, the opening song asserts that "in between the dark and the light, you see a lot more than you want to see."

The third song, "He Was a Loaded Gun," highlights Berardi's amazing chops. After throwing off fast lyrical phrases in half-scat, half-song, she then glides along high vocal trails that beg comparison to Joni Mitchell. "Fill in the New" has a finger-snapping, nightclub feel that conjures images of cocktail servers and clinking glasses.

"Can't Be Wrong" may be the recording's most interesting track. Starting with a march beat behind Ingrid Jensen's muted trumpet, it has a New Orleans feel. The song then breaks into free jazz, with Berardi's vocals, Jensen's trumpet, and Miro Sprague's piano darting in and out of dissonant chord progressions. The album literally ends on a high note, with Jensen's trumpet on "Gratitude" soaring like an eagle into a sunset of quiet contemplation.

Remembrance Day *in* NICCONONE

by Robert Camastro & Debra Pomella

Modern-day Niccone is a quiet village in the commune of Umbertide, Umbria, with one bar and one restaurant. At the posted speed, you can drive through the center of town in about 30 seconds. The area around Niccone, however, encompasses hectares of hillside farms and forests that hide numerous homesteads built hundreds of years ago by everyone from wealthy landowners to humble sharecroppers. The typical sharecropper home was designed to shelter livestock on the ground floor, which provided heat for the family living on the upper level. Many of these homesteads were still functioning during World War II. The focus of this article is on one such homestead, named Penetola.

On the way out of Niccone, in a seemingly random location, stands a tall rough-hewn monument. Affixed to it is a white stone placard with a chiseled



Penetola house

message that reads: “Non odio. Chiediamo a chi resta, soltanto memoria, perché altri. Non debban morire per mano assassina. Il popolo di Umbertide alle 12 vittime dei nazi fascisti.” 1944. My Italian is not very good, but it doesn’t take much language skill to recognize the words memory, assassin, Nazi, fascist and 1944. Clearly, something bad happened here during World War II.

The monument sits directly downhill from Penetola, although the building and access road have been hidden by years of overgrowth. The story behind the monument is common knowledge among area residents.

To learn more, I was advised to contact Paola Avorio. Paola is the author of the book “Tre Noci” (Three Walnuts), which chronicles the history of Penetola with an emphasis on the events of June 28, 1944. Those events are memorialized annually on June 28 by civic leaders and people who seek to keep the story of Penetola alive. In a rare case of perfect timing, I contacted Paola on June 21.

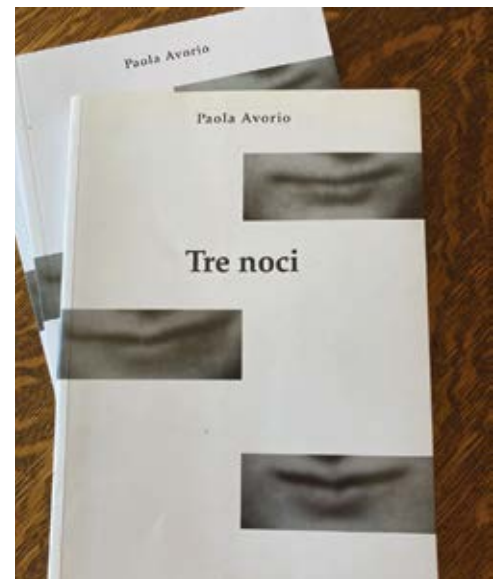
She graciously offered to give me a personal tour on Remembrance Day.

My wife and I met Paola early in the morning, and we were both immediately taken by her warm and gentle nature. For the actual tour, we were facing a 2-kilometer uphill trek to Penetola over an unmaintained trail on a day that was already revealing itself as a hot one. I was prepared for the long walk and the heat, but nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to learn.

To appreciate this story, one must first understand what the people of Italy were enduring at that point in the war. The Allies had recently defeated the Germans at Trasimeno and forced them to retreat to northern locations, including Niccone. The Nazis were appropriating



Penetola monument





▲ **PAOLA AVORIO**

The grandchild of survivors of a gruesome World War II massacre, she has dedicated herself to keeping the memory of its victims alive.

the better residences as housing for their soldiers, displacing many Italian non-combatants. The housing of these displaced people fell to the goodwill of the poor sharecroppers such as the family at Penetola.

The Penetola household included Mario Avorio; his wife, Agatha Orsini (known as Dina); and their five children. Also living there was Mario’s adopted brother, Avellino Luchetti, and his family of five — 12 people in all. The home provided distance from the battlefield, livestock and fertile soil upon which to grow food.

The dilemma for the sharecroppers back then was that some displaced people were not very welcome because of their reputation with the German army and the risk of reprisal that presented. Such people included army defectors, families that sheltered Jews, outspoken anti-fascists and union organizers. These folks put everyone around them in danger, as may have been the case at Penetola. For better or worse, pure humanitarianism opened the doors to Penetola, and by June 28, the household had grown to five families and 24 souls of all ages.

Meanwhile, the Allies were fighting their way up the peninsula with a vanguard of aerial bombardment intended to disrupt the German army’s ability to reorganize. As the Germans retreated, they too were blowing up bridges, roads, rail lines and anything that might slow down the Allied advance.

The escape route the Germans took from Trasimeno included a bridge over a small creek in Niccone: exactly where we met up with Paola. Back in 1944, this bridge was guarded by two undernourished, teenaged German soldiers to whom Dina would bring milk every morning. The sentries kindly called her “mutti,” which is German for “mom.” Although the people at Penetola maintained a good relationship with these guards, they were nonetheless fearful of the more fanatical factions in the German military — and their fears were not unfounded.



Penetola victims

In the early hours of June 28, 18 German soldiers secretly took an alternative route to Penetola so as not to alert the two sentries on the bridge. They first locked everyone in a single room above the barn and proceeded to fill their backpacks with whatever items of value they could find. Then, they removed the animals from the barn, spread hay and petrol around the perimeter of the house, and set it alight. Fire immediately consumed the building, causing mass panic among the people trapped inside. Some of the Italians managed to tear a hole in the floor, which provided a potential escape through the barn below. As they tried to exit the building, they had to run a gantlet of indiscriminate German gunfire. Dina’s 14-year-old son, Renato, was met with a German hand grenade as he showed himself in an upstairs window. The blast injured Renato and his parents, and blew a hole in the building. Renato

and two brothers were ultimately killed by gunfire as they tried to escape.

Of the 24 innocents attacked that night, 12 were killed, including four teenagers and an 8-year-old. Mario and Dina ended up wounded and alive in a nearby ditch. They were later found by two German soldiers who took them to a Catholic hospital in Città di Castello, some 20 kilometers away. In doing so, these soldiers were actually risking their own lives given that Allied airplanes were strafing anything that moved. Other victims hid in the woods until they were safe. Soon after, the villagers buried the shattered and charred victims and tried to repair the building.

As you may have already surmised, Mario and Dina were Paola’s grandparents, and three of the young boys who perished were her uncles: Carlo, 8; Antonio, 11; and Renato, 14. After the incident, Mario planted three walnut trees at Penetola in their memory. The trees, of course, inspired the name of Paola’s book.

“Tre Noci” also reveals how the German military and the fascist-controlled Italian police covered up the incident. The only hard evidence was Mario and Dina’s arrival at the hospital. It’s hard to fathom how some German soldiers risked their lives to help the helpless while others robbed and randomly murdered the same people.

The white chiseled plaque, by the way, translates to, “No hate. We ask from those who remain, only memory, because others should not have to die at the hands of murderers. The people of Umbertide to the 12 victims of the fascist Nazis. 1944.” Paola Avorio has no hate in her heart. Her only wish is for people to remember the massacre.



Giovannino CORAGGIOSO

written by Lionel Bottari, illustrated by Jean Parisi

Once, there was an elderly widower who had three sons. The two eldest, Marco and Franco, were almost a decade older than their little brother, Giovanni. The boy was constantly trying to impress his older brothers with feats of daring, which he generally executed with few or no injuries. And so he earned the nickname “Giovannino Coraggioso,” which means “Brave Little Joe.”

When their father was on his deathbed, he divided his meager savings among his sons and asked the two young men to look after the boy, who was only 10 years old at the time.

After the funeral, Marco and Franco each argued that the other should stay home while he went out into the world. Finally, they drew straws to see who would go and seek his fortune and who would stay with Giovannino until he could take care of himself.

Marco drew the long straw, packed up a knapsack and was soon on his way.

In the late afternoon, he asked people along the way where a traveler might spend the night. An old woman told him of a nearby ruin where pilgrims stayed for free, but she warned him:

“Bring water with you, and do not try to use the fireplace. You will be quite safe if you do not drink from the fountain and avoid making a fire to cook or keep warm, for that will cause demons to appear.”

Marco thanked the woman, who walked with him a ways to help him find the place. When they arrived, he saw that the building was in a remarkable state of preservation, hardly a ruin at all. The door opened into a large, vaulted room with a basin of water in one corner, fed by some unseen source. Straw was scattered around, some of it arranged into pallets — evidence that others had spent their nights there. He found a relatively clean spot on the stone floor,

created a rough mattress out of the straw and unrolled his bedding onto it.

He took a piece of bread and some cheese out of his pack and ate it; took the last swig of swampy-tasting water out of his drinking gourd, wishing he had more; then covered himself with his thin blanket and went to sleep.

The young man awoke with a dry mouth and a powerful thirst hours later.

“Right away, he found elderly people who wanted to have a bella chiacchierata, or a good bit of gossip.”

Thanks to the light a full moon cast through the broken windows, the room was well lit as he went over to the fountain and gazed at the water pooled in it. It was cold enough that night for the surface to begin crystallizing, but since the ice was just starting to form, he easily broke through with his cupped hands.

Suddenly, a pair of icy hands tried to seize his wrists! He swiftly pulled away from the water, but the creature hung on to him. The more Marco struggled to retreat, the more a hideous demon, made entirely of ice, emerged from the fountain.

Marco pulled and the demon came fully out of the ice-encrusted water, its thin legs exploding into shards as it tried

to drag him into the wide basin. When the monster fell heavily to the floor, shattering into hundreds of pieces, Marco broke free.

Out he ran into the moonlight, retracing his journey straight home, where he told his brothers of his frightening adventure.

But Franco was unimpressed.

“You just let yourself be frightened by a nightmare! Now, it is only fair that I go and try my luck while you stay and care for Giovannino.”

Badly shaken by his experience, Marco agreed and Franco left to seek his fortune the very next day. A day’s travel on the ancient Roman road took him to the same area where his brother had met with near disaster.

There, he also sought information about lodgings, this time from an elderly gentleman, who spoke of an abandoned building that was nearby.

“That ruin is a good place to get out of the weather and rest, but you must be careful not to touch the water in the basin or light a fire. Those who do usually do not survive, and the few who live through it never go near the place again.”

Franco thought about his brother’s nightmare but dismissed it as mere coincidence. He didn’t believe a word of the ice demon story. Besides, he knew he was much smarter, stronger and braver than Marco.

Once in the room with its huge, vaulted ceiling, he shivered from the chill of the approaching darkness. Noting that there was plenty of straw heaped here and there, he thought he might just burn enough of it in the large fireplace to take the nip out of the room.

And so he piled up a few bundles of straw, took out his flint and steel, and struck some sparks into the dry

stalks. Soon, he had a smokey fire going.

Suddenly, the smoke coalesced into wispy fingers, then into hands and arms that reached out to seize him. He staggered back, terrified, and headed for the exit as fast as his legs could carry him. As he ran and stumbled in the dim light, he could feel those hot hands of smoke trying to grab him by the neck.

The rest of that night and all the next day, he ran and staggered until he found his way home, where he told the story of his misadventures to his brothers. Marco empathized with Franco, and they decided together that the world

find wretched jobs working from morning until night. Since you two have used up all your courage, it is my turn to go. It is true that I am still a boy, but I wasn't nicknamed 'Giovannino Coraggioso' for nothing."

And so the boy packed up and left home that same day. Finding lodging that night with a family who lived right on the border of his province, he didn't arrive near the place where his brothers suffered their misfortunes until noon the next day. Right away, he found elderly people who wanted to have a bella chiacchierata, or a good bit of gossip.

day. Sadly, the curse now affects the very people it was meant to help."

Giovannino thought for a while, then had an inspiration.

"Perhaps there is a way to deal with this," he said, and borrowing a bucket from one of the elders, he got directions to the place and marched off to do battle with the demons.

He found his way quickly to the old manor, went inside where his brothers' things were still scattered and found Franco's kit for starting a fire.

Carefully positioning the bucket on a surface next to the fountain, he declared:

"I am a boy who has lived in poverty all his life, having had no part of this landowner or his family. This curse was never intended to harm one such as myself or anyone like me."

Giovannino struck the flint until a spark ignited the straw in the fireplace. Then, he ran to the fountain and, just as the straw erupted into a ball of flame, scooped up a pail of water and threw it on the fire.

He watched as the ice demon tried to form in the same space as the smoke devil. For a few moments, the two seemed to wrestle until the steam and smoke coalesced into one vapor that went up the chimney with a moaning sound.

The boy then set the bucket back by the basin, piled more straw onto the damp ashes in the fireplace, then struck

more sparks and lit the fire again.

As the dry stalks caught fire, he quickly went to the basin and scooped up more water for good measure, but it lay in the pail like it should. The demons had no more purpose and would never appear again.

In time, the local commune took charge of the building, repaired it and opened it up as a hostel where young travelers could safely spend the night.



was far too dangerous a place to find one's fortune. Better to stay close to our little paese, they thought, than to risk the horrors that awaited the unwary beyond.

But now Giovannino spoke out:

"You two have failed to make your way in the world, and now I wonder how we will make a living. We will live in poverty and misery, even if we can all

Giovannino told them what his brothers had experienced, and one of them said, "That place has had a curse on it since anyone can remember. The legend is that an evil landowner had mistreated his serfs cruelly. He refused them water while they worked in the fields and even the right to gather firewood for their hearths. Eventually, they appealed to a powerful witch, who put a curse on his house that persists to this

Prosecco

MAKES ITS MARK

by Helen Gregory

It's a good time to be in the Prosecco business. In the past 15 years, Prosecco sales have shot sky high, topping 700 million bottles annually. Prosecco has become synonymous with sparkling wine, and yet its producers would respectfully like to remind us that it's not just another bubbly — it's a special place with a noble tradition. Prosecco is the name of a historic wine region in the Veneto and Friuli regions of Northern Italy. Claudia Manetta, export manager for La Marca Prosecco, one of Italy's leading wines, recently shared Prosecco's deep roots.

Originally from Bergamo in Northern Italy, Manetta moved to her husband's hometown near Treviso in 2008 and joined La Marca Prosecco, known for their stylish blue label. Located just north of Venice, Treviso gave Manetta an ideal vantage point to discover the region. The small area between the towns of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene in the province of Treviso is home to the best Prosecco DOCG. Recently named a UNESCO heritage site, Conegliano Valdobbiadene is the heart of Prosecco culture and history and exerts a strong pull.

La Marca was founded in 1968 as a cooperative among multiple wineries with widespread holdings in Prosecco DOC and Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco DOCG. It's an extraordinary success story. La Marca represents 5,000 local growers managing some 38,000 acres of vines, an astounding 25 percent of the region's output. According to Manetta, the average vineyard size per grower is about seven acres, but many parcels are closer to one acre. Using a co-op model, family growers secure long-term contracts and participate as member-shareholders. As such, they benefit from shared technical expertise

at every step of production, from vineyard to winemaking, including a new drive to adopt certified sustainable practices. "Together we stand, divided we fall," Manetta explains.

Despite centuries of winemaking history, Prosecco has only recently become a global favorite. So what changed? The basics certainly haven't. Made predominantly from the local Glera grape,



Prosecco comes in a range of sweetness, from the driest Brut to the medium-sweet Extra Dry to the sweetest Dry wines. There are two quality tiers, the more widely produced Prosecco DOC in Veneto and Friuli and the more limited Conegliano Valdobbiadene Prosecco DOCG. As of 2020, there is also an official Prosecco DOC Rosé style. While often compared to Champagne, Prosecco is made very differently, earning its bubbles through a gentle fermentation process in stainless steel tanks versus the legendary bottle fermentation of Champagne. The result: Prosecco offers a fresh, fruitier profile, a well-priced alternative to Champagne that can be enjoyed on its own or more recently in a spritz cocktail.

In the first decade of the new millennium, consumers were ready



for something different, and Prosecco made its move. Manetta recalls that many Italians were also caught off guard. "When I moved to Treviso, it was new to me, as well, to enjoy a [Prosecco] spritz as an aperitivo. Prosecco is so friendly and affordable, a perfect combination to make special moments happen every day."

If you live in Treviso, many days end with an aperitivo. For Manetta and friends, meeting for aperitivo hour is a part of life. Nothing fancy, this slice of la dolce vita costs about 4 euros a glass. "You always get a small bite to enjoy like salty nuts, chips or grissini with prosciutto," Manetta shares. "The acidity and structure of Prosecco works well with many foods, and we don't save it for weekends." The simple pleasure of sharing a well-made bubbly with friends is at the heart of Prosecco culture, which Manetta notes is the most valuable export of the region. "Prosecco stands for a specific territory, a tradition rooted in this small part of Italy where great care is taken to make the wines. We didn't start out making a wine to export. Prosecco is the wine the locals love to drink."

La Marca Prosecco Luminore DOCG

Named for the morning light on the vines, Luminore debuted on the 50th anniversary of La Marca in 2018. Delicate aromas of white flowers, pear and nectarine. Soft and creamy, with a light, refreshing finish.



No meat? NO WORRIES!

by Dolores Sennebogen



Carnevale is celebrated throughout Italy as a time of merry-making and indulgence before the arrival of Lent. In addition to colorful parades, townspeople and visitors can enjoy pageants, masked balls, fireworks, outdoor feasts, street performers and private parties. These traditions date back to the 1200s, predating Mardi Gras in France. In many Italian cities, the celebrations last for two or three weeks.

Some say Carnevale originated in Rome and Venice as a way to enliven the darker, colder months of the year. It eventually became entwined with Christian preparations for the Lenten season. Before refrigeration, the feasting was also a way to use up all of the meat in your larder since meat was not eaten for the 40 days before Easter. “Carnem lavare”

means to take away meat, which is how Carnevale got its name.

For some people, abstaining from meat seems like a true sacrifice, especially if they do not enjoy fish and seafood. If you or those for whom you cook are in that camp, Italian cuisine offers many delicious, healthy choices to satisfy the palate on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent.

UOVO IN PURGATORIO

(Poached Eggs in Tomato Sauce)

- 4 teaspoons olive oil
- 1/3 cup diced onion
- 1 large clove garlic, pressed
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can petite diced tomatoes
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste



- 1/2 teaspoon basil
- 1/4 teaspoon oregano
- Pinch of dried mint (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- Black pepper or crushed red pepper to taste
- 3-4 eggs
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmigiano Reggiano
- Fresh parsley or basil to garnish (optional)

Heat the oil in a skillet and sauté the onion slowly until it softens and begins to take on color. Add the garlic and sauté for 2 minutes longer. Add the diced tomatoes to the skillet along with their juices. Stir in the tomato paste and seasonings. Cook uncovered for about 10 minutes to soften the tomato pieces and blend the flavors. Using the back of a serving spoon, make depressions in the sauce and then carefully place an egg in each one. Cover the pan and cook on a low heat until the eggs are set as you like. Near the end of the cooking time,

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sprinkle the eggs with the grated cheese and optional garnish. Serve with lots of crusty bread.

MILLECOSEDDE DALLA CALABRIA

(Calabrian Pasta with Beans)

1/4 cup small brown lentils
1/4 cup dried chickpeas
1/4 cup dried cranberry beans
1/3 cup dried cannellini or
Great Northern beans
1 ounce dried porcini mushrooms
1/2 cup olive oil, divided
1 medium yellow onion, chopped
1 rib celery, finely chopped
1 carrot, finely chopped
1 large clove garlic, pressed
1/2 head Savoy cabbage, shredded
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
(optional)
1 (14.5-ounce) can chopped tomatoes
Water or vegetable broth
8 ounces cooked ditalini or tubetti
Grated Pecorino Romano

Soak all the beans together in cold water for 8 hours or overnight. The lentils do not really need to be soaked, but you can include them. Drain and discard the soaking water. Rinse under cold water and drain again. Soak the mushrooms in 2 cups of hot water for about 30 minutes. Drain and rinse under cold water to remove all grit. Chop and set aside.

Pour 2 tablespoons of the olive oil in a large soup pot and sauté the onion, celery and carrot until the onion is wilted.



Add the garlic and sauté for an additional minute or two. Add the shredded cabbage and chopped mushrooms. Add salt and pepper to taste. If using, include the crushed red pepper. Add the canned tomatoes, toss well and cook for about 6 minutes. Add the drained beans to the pot along with 8 cups of water or vegetable broth. Bring to a boil and then reduce to a very low simmer. Cook for 60 minutes and then test to see if the beans are tender. If not, cook up to 30 minutes longer. If the soup seems too thick, add a little more water or broth. Near the end of the cooking time, stir in the remaining olive oil. Taste, adding additional salt and pepper if desired. Add the cooked pasta and heat through. Serve with the grated cheese.

PIZZA FATTA IN CASA

(Homestyle Thin Pizza)

1 cup lukewarm water, divided
1 (1/4-ounce) packet dry yeast
1 teaspoon sugar
2 to 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup cake or pastry flour
2 tablespoons grated Pecorino Romano
or Parmigiano Reggiano
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon olive oil
Corn meal for the pans
Pizza sauce, homemade or jarred
Toppings (see below)

Place 1/4 cup of lukewarm tap water in a small bowl. It should be about 110 degrees, warm to the touch but not hot. Dissolve the yeast and sugar in it and set aside for about 10 minutes.

Put 2 cups of the all-purpose flour plus the cake flour in a large bowl. Stir in the cheese and salt. Make a well in the middle of the mixture. When the yeast has developed a foam, add it to the well along with the olive oil. Using a wooden spoon, push the flour to the center and start to combine the mixture. Gradually add another 1/2 cup of lukewarm water. When the dough starts to come away from the sides of the bowl, flour your hands and knead it for a few minutes. Knead in an additional tablespoon of flour and an additional tablespoon of water, repeating until the dough is smooth, firm and elastic.

Allow to rest in a warm place for about 10 minutes.

Divide the dough in half and form into 2 (10- to 12-inch) pizzas. Place in pizza pans or on baking sheets that have been lightly oiled and sprinkled sparingly with corn meal. Dimple the dough using your fingertips and form a slightly raised rim. Divide the pizza sauce between the two pizzas. Distribute the toppings over the pizzas. Sprinkle them with pepper, oregano and basil. Bake in a preheated 425-degree oven for 20-25 minutes. If the cheese starts to color before the crust is done, cover with a loose tent of aluminum foil for the last 5 minutes.

TOPPINGS

Precooked vegetables such as
mushrooms or spinach
1/4 cup grated Pecorino Romano or
Parmigiano Reggiano
2 to 2-1/2 cups shredded whole milk
mozzarella
Pepper
Oregano
Basil



CAVATAPPI ALLA SICILIANA

(Curly Pasta with Eggplant)

1 medium eggplant
Olive oil
Basil
Oregano
Salt and pepper



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