



JANUARY 2019 | VOL 74 | ISSUE 02

# Com **UNICO**

The Voice of UNICO National  
*The Largest Italian American Service Organization in America*

## SERVICE ABOVE SELF

### *UNICO Presents the Cavaliere Joseph Coccia Jr. Award to John Calvelli*

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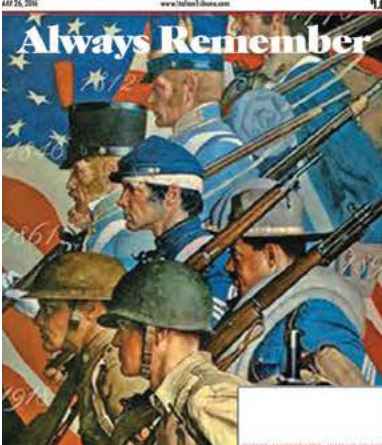
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<b>February 1, 2019.....</b>	<b>Deadline for nominations for National Awards</b>
<b>Feb 28–March 3, 2019.....</b>	<b>Mid-Year Board Meeting at Rosen Creek Shingles, Orlando, FL.</b>
<b>March 1, 2019.....</b>	<b>Deadline for DiMattio Celli Study Abroad Scholarship</b>
<b>April 15, 2019.....</b>	<b>Deadline for students to submit online Scholarship applications</b>
<b>April 18, 2019.....</b>	<b>Proposed amendments to the National Constitution must be received by the General Counsel</b>
<b>April 27, 2019.....</b>	<b>Community Service Day</b>
<b>July 24–28, 2019.....</b>	<b>97th Annual UNICO Convention Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN</b>

For more events, visit [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)

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**NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT**  
*A message  
from*  
**LEE NORELLI**

Happy New Year! I want to wish you, your family and those you hold dear a blessed New Year. First Lady Debbie and I had a wonderful Christmas and Holiday Season spending time with our family and friends and hope you enjoyed your time with family and friends.

A new year marks an end as well as a beginning. A time to reflect on the positives of the previous year and plan for an exciting new year. As I look back, I think about all the blessings we received, the birth of our first granddaughter in June and gaining another Son in Law in August are just a few of those. I think about all the warm and friendly greetings from so many of you. I think about all you have done following our motto of "Service Above Self". As I look forward, I think about all the good times ahead, meeting many more members, visiting Chapters and Districts, traveling to new places, and gaining another Son in Law this coming August.

As we plan for another UNICO year, I am inspired by the membership and their commitment to help those in their local communities as well as support the various charities of UNICO National. UNICO National and UNICO Foundation has increased our scholarship and Torracco food bank/shelter funds and I encourage you to promote these funds. Each year more than twenty five scholarships are eligible for award and twice a year the Torracco Food Bank/Shelter Fund awards numerous grants.

I want to congratulate Immediate Past National President Tom Vaughan, Pat Pelonero, and Sue Anzelmo for completing the new website. Each one of them worked extremely hard and their efforts paid off. I hope you find the new website useful and a great tool for scholarships, grants, and award information.

As we move forward this year I would invite all members to become more involved with District and Na-

tional Events. We are all part of a National organization and together we can increase our membership, fulfill our duty to promote our Italian heritage, fight anti-bias, increase charitable contributions, award more grants and scholarships, and make UNICO National outstanding in our communities.

Plans for the future of UNICO National are being developed and I am committed to guiding this effort. UNICO National is strong and will continue to be but some changes are necessary in order to expand Chapters and our overall membership. The completed plan will be presented at the 2019 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting.

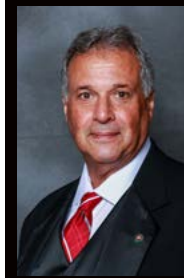
As a reminder, all District and Chapter Officers have a duty to be represented at the District and National Board of Directors meeting. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings as well. I ask that you attend our upcoming 2019 Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting to be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL, February 28 to March 3, 2019. The business of UNICO is conducted at the Board of Directors meeting and your involvement helps direct the path of the organization.

As you know, the strength of any organization comes from the membership and I am happy to report that we are strong and getting stronger. Let's all continue to encourage others to join this outstanding organization and promote National Membership to those in areas where we currently don't have a Chapter. By planting the seeds today we will be able to reap the benefits in the future.

God bless you and your family.



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**FIRST VICE  
PRESIDENT**  
*A message  
from*  
**STEVE PELONERO**

Hello again everyone ~ *Ciao di nuovo a tutti*. First, I want to wish everyone a Happy and "Healthy" New Year. And on that note this UNICO year is going by so fast that we are already half way through and into our 3rd quarter. Seeing as how I oversee all of the District Governors in UNICO, I want to thank all of you who sent in their required reports. It is not only great to hear and read what is going on in your areas but also nice just to hear from our UNICO family (the "Neighborliness" in our UNICO name). The other officers may have also commented on this but hopefully you have seen the new look on our [www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org) website. All of the same info is on there, but a thank you goes out to PNP Tom Vaughan for undertaking this task of giving it a fresh look with some extra features as well. Please email your event dates to the National Office ([UNICONational@UNICO.org](mailto:UNICONational@UNICO.org)) so that they can be added to the National Website Calendar (I personally look at it often to see what everyone is doing and my own personal UNICO calendar is filling up just as fast). Speaking of calendars, I hope that you all received the 2019 UNICO Heritage and Photo Calendar filled with photos of our members travels to Italy and some dates of interest. Send in your photos to [UNICOpictures@gmail.com](mailto:UNICOpictures@gmail.com). With the Mid-Year Board Meeting coming up in Orlando FL, I am not only looking forward to some warmer weather, but also to seeing you. Please make an effort to attend. Thank you for the invitations to your events, chapters and districts alike; it is a time to meet more members, enjoy great conversation, and personally hear and see what you all do. As always, please reach out if there are any questions as we are all here to serve. Last, but not least, and just as important: it is an honor and pleasure not only to serve but to have all of you in my life. *"Grazie per quello che fai"* ~ "Thank you for what you do".





## EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & V FOUNDATION

*A message  
from*

FRANK N. DE FRANK M.D.

*Buon giorno a tutti!!*

We all hope and trust that everyone had a safe and happy Holiday season. President Lee and the Vice Presidents celebrated Christmas with many of our chapters and it was great to see so many members preserve our Italian traditions. We all appreciate your invitations, respect, and hospitality.

What is new in UNICO? Check out the new website and the revised Heritage Night program currently available. The Personnel Committee is working hard to facilitate the expected transitions at the National Office. As usual, the Eastern Regional Meeting in

Philadelphia was a major success; the venue was perfect for the combination of UNICO work and camaraderie with fellow members. We are all looking forward to Orlando for the midyear meeting and Nashville for the 2019 UNICO National Convention.

With respect to the recently re-named Cancer Research and Prevention Committee, we are still awaiting an approved cancer research grant from St. Jude's Hospital through the V Foundation. Most of you know that this grant is in memory of Mrs. Paul Alongi. As always, we would respectfully ask that you make room in your hearts, minds, checkbooks, and Chapter/District budgets for donations to help with Cancer Research and Prevention as we begin working on funding for our next grant.

Once again, it is an honor, privilege, and a blessing to serve as your Executive Vice President and V Foundation Chairman. Thank you for all you do for UNICO and its charities and to preserve our precious Italian heritage.



## ComUNICO EDITOR

*A message  
from*

PAT PELONERO

I would like to start by wishing everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year! With each year that passes, time seems to go by so quickly. We are now gearing up for the Mid-Year Board meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. Hopefully we will see many of our members there. Remember if you are on the Board of Directors, you are required to attend. The Mid-Year is where UNICO National presented their Marconi Award for Science to a worthy recipient. It is where all the National Awards given at the convention will be voted on. If your Chapter or District has a candidate for any of the National Awards make sure to get the applications in by February 1, 2019.

The National Scholarship program is now open. Please remember that all the National scholarships need to be applied for online at Smarter Select. This can be achieved by going to the UNICO National web-site and clicking on scholarships. Once a student reads through what is available and what they might be eligible for, they can click on that scholarship information hot link and it will take them directly to the application for them to fill out online. We certainly encourage the Chapters and Districts to stay involved in the scholarship program and you can do this by giving the student an e-mail for them to ask for a letter of recommendation from you. The Chapters that utilized this process last year found it easier for them than in the past. If you need assistance or have questions, please give the National Office a call.

As the Editor of the ComUNICO, I ask that you patronize our advertisers. Whether it be for products or a good book review, these advertisers are helping UNICO National by submitting ads in ComUNICO. If you know of a company, especially one that sells online, please let them know about ComUNICO.

I hope by now most of our members

*continued on page 7...*



## SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

*A message  
from*

DR. PETER  
PETTINATO

Not that long ago, I was talking with a group of my veterinary colleagues when I told them the following. I know this group of people who have the most fun in the entire world. They are of all ages; they travel the country; eat fabulous food; attend informal, semi-formal and black tie parties; go on shopping excursions; play casino games; attend street fairs; they drink wine almost as a vocation; smoke fine cigars; and play bocce with unbridled zeal. They asked me how they too could possibly do some if not all of those things. As an answer, I gave them each a UNICO membership application.

As UNICO National's Second Vice-President, one of the perks of my office

is the chance to read all of the Chapter Reports that are sent in to the National Office. I thoroughly enjoy this task, as I get to hear about all the wonderful things YOU do in the name of charity. I read each and every one of them and, up to the date of this writing, I have answered each and every one of them as well. The amazing things I told my colleagues are just some of the fantastic things UNICO does practically every day. If that weren't enough, we do these things with one core objective in mind – raise money so we can give it away to people in need.

Who wouldn't like to have the time of their lives and, all the while, help those who need it most? Who doesn't want to have friends in every region of and all across this country? I'm sure there are many people out there who would jump at the chance to experience what UNICO has to offer. Let's not sit back and wait for them to discover us. Let's yell from the rooftops all that we do and invite them to join us. If they don't believe you, let me know. I'll let them read your Chapter reports. They'll be astounded – as am I.

## CANDIDATE



## FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

### A RECORD OF PROVEN "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

UNICO National needs a candidate with proven UNICO service and experience to help UNICO move forward. Contini's 35 years of service on National, District and Chapter levels have prepared him well to serve as your 2nd National Vice President. In addition to service to UNICO, Contini has extensive involvement and service with several Italian American organizations, including being named Cavaliere by the President of the Republic of Italy in June 2017. Contini has attended 36 consecutive UNICO National Conventions starting in 1982 and has chaired, co-chaired or served on numerous National Committees over his 35 year tenure with UNICO.



## EXPANSION DIRECTOR

*A message  
from*  
**JOE NASELLO**

I had over 25 people attend my expansion meeting at our Eastern Regional. I have generated seventeen possible leads since I took on expansion. I have also emailed certain UNICO members on my committee and we are in the process of dividing up the possible new chapter leads. I feel this is a better approach – certain chapters are in areas that I am not familiar with. Working closely with committee members from those areas is the best solution.

As always, I am open to new ideas. I can be reached via email or cell anytime (imnasello@aol.com or 201-394-0793). We all need to work together to build a strong UNICO and we all need to help each other. I'll be having other meetings through tele conference from the Fairfield office. Ciao.



## MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION

*A message  
from*  
**ANTHONY  
BENGIVENA**

First, I would like to wish all our UNICO family and friends a very prosperous New Year. Our National President Lee Norelli along with his team of Vice Presidents and national officers have guided us through a successful first half since the convention. Our chapter members have truly shown what it means to be Italian American with successful fundraisers and charitable events during the first half of our UNICO year.

Now that the festivities of the Christmas season are behind us, we approach one of our favorite mid-winter festivals, Carnevale. This year Carnevale

is celebrated during the end of February to March 5. Carnevale brightens up our winter and gives members a chance to enjoy more music, food and camaraderie during the cold winter months before lent. Each year, I attend at least two Carnevale banquets, so if there is a chapter holding a Carnevale event near you, please consider attending.

This year retention has become more important than ever. It has been found, that by reserving a small portion of your chapter meeting for Italian culture and heritage, it can be an attraction for membership attendance. Your chapter can appoint a member to talk about a celebrated personality of Italian heritage of past or present or about a subject pertaining to Italian art, history, music, food or something similar. You may consider having a person recite "parole del giorno" (words of the day) at the beginning of your chapter meeting. It can be a joke, a saying, and a quote.... some interesting words in Italian along with the English translation. It is a fun

way to start a meeting. Consider having a guest speaker, who can talk about an Italian subject. Our members join UNICO because of their great interest in celebrating their Italian heritage while also giving back to the community through charity. If you need any help in gathering information on Italian heritage or "parole del giorno", please contact me and I will offer some guidance,

If your chapter is interested in hosting a Heritage event / Membership Drive, please contact me as soon as possible. Planning takes several months, so now is the time to plan for a springtime event. I encourage chapters to be in touch with me to discuss any membership questions that you may have or to share suggestions. You can always reach me at my email: anthony@bengivena.com or by phone (732) 310-6031. I will be more than happy to assist you in anyway I can. Remember, that your national officers are here to serve you.

Un abbraccio a tutti! A big hug to all!



comUNICO Editor Pat Pelonero cont...

have seen our new website. As with anything new there are always a few glitches. We are trying our best to iron out the bugs, the biggest one being the Chapter reports. Please be patient as we work with our web master and IT Company to rectify the problem and get it fixed. If you have any questions, please call the National Office we will keep you apprised of the issue until we find a solution. Have a safe winter season!



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e a casa propria"

The Deadline for the April 2019 issue of ComUNICO is

**Friday, March 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Please send all submissions to: [comUNICO@UNICO.org](mailto:comUNICO@UNICO.org)



**CHAPLAIN**  
*A message from*  
**FR. ROBERT WOLF**

We recently celebrated the Feast of the Holy Family. The simple motto, "In God We Trust," could have been the motto of the Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. They did not live in isolation. They did not live in a cocoon, sheltered from the joys and sorrows of everyday life. They lived in the real world, a world that was dark and cold at times. For example, when the Magi told King Herod about the newborn infant Jesus, Herod planned to kill Jesus because he feared Jesus would become a political rival. Fortunately, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee to Egypt for the safety of his family. Joseph listened to the angel, and he and his family escaped Herod's clutches.

Joseph was a righteous father, who he steadfastly followed the teachings of his faith. He did his best to always follow God's will for him. He stands out as someone who blended his faith and his values into his everyday life.

Threats to the family aren't a thing of the past. Economic conditions have caused many families to lose their homes. Hunger is a daily reality for far too many children and adults. Satan is trying to destroy families today, just as Herod tried to destroy the Holy Family two thousand years ago. Gang violence, wars, and random shootings all too often take the lives of innocent people, including children. Divorce rates in most countries are more than fifty per cent. The institution of marriage is continuously attacked. Unimaginable numbers of unborn children have been killed by abortion.

Despite all the problems society faces, we can break this cycle and uphold the family as the core of society and the bedrock of our faith. To do so, we have to make a conscious decision every day to follow the virtues. We should adopt the motto, "In God We Trust," like the Holy Family did. Trusting in God is the key to renewal of family life in our nation and world. We need to keep Jesus at the center of our homes. We can have a strong family if the word of Christ guides our ethics and our daily living. We can have a strong family if we let his teachings guide our lives and our lifestyles. We have to be willing to bear with one another, to forgive one another and to love one another. May the Holy Family continue to inspire us to grow closer to God. God bless.



**HERITAGE & CULTURE**  
*A message from*  
**Mary Teresa Morrison**

### *A New Language!*

Learning a new language is exciting, challenging, intimidating and rewarding; so many conflicting emotions and outcomes!

Many years ago while teaching a group of adults, a student came to class excited about a book he had discovered.... "Italian in 10 Minutes a Day". I quickly pointed out that the sub-title had been omitted... and I added.... "Every Day for the Rest of Your Life".

Everyone learns at a different pace. That is normal; but one must also approach learning differently. Some learn better by listening (auditory learners). Others, (visual learners) are more comfortable with a written script, but listening is still the best method, even for them. The more you listen, the more you practice what you hear, the better you learn. Didn't we learn English, or another "first" language, by listening and modeling what we heard? We didn't *first* learn to read and write. There is a rhythm to language which we need to hear, to imitate; and sometimes the written word impedes it. While reading we will naturally rely on the pronunciation of our native language, which may have a different rhythm and cadence. Listen first...as many times as necessary, afterwards, proceed to a written script if you must!

Then there is the false concept of "translation" which traps many students. Rarely can we convert a sentence correctly by thinking first in English, yet this tendency comes naturally. We use it as our comfort zone. It is more beneficial to follow a "we say..., they say...." process rather than trying to fit a round peg into a square hole. Listen to what "they say" and use it! Don't let English interfere! This takes time, practice and perseverance, but the rewards are great.

Remember ...."10 Minutes a Day...for the rest of Your Life"!

# UNICO NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP OFFERINGS

## 2018-2019

### **THE SCHOOL OF ASTRONOMICAL STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA, TUCSON**

The UNICO Foundation will provide a scholarship, valued at \$2,500 to a student currently attending, full-time, an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States pursuing a degree. An applicant must be a United States citizen of Southern Italian descent, specifically including the regions of: Abruzzo, Basilicata, Campania, Calabria, Latium, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia, Sicilia.

### **SERGEANT JOHN BASILONE MEMORIAL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships valued at \$3,000, each paid out over two years at \$1,500 per year. The awardees must be initiating graduate study, full-time, at an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian descent.

### **BERNARD AND CAROLYN TORRACO MEMORIAL NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS**

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

### **RALPH J. TORRACO FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students currently attending, full-time, an accredited, campus based college/university program in the United States pursuing a degree in the Fine Arts. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

### **INSERRA SCHOLARSHIPS**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships valued at \$2,500 each to students currently attending, full time, an accredited campus based college/university in the United States pursuing a degree. A candidate must be an American citizen of Italian descent.

### **ALPHONSE A. MIELE SCHOLARSHIP MAJOR DON S. GENTILE SCHOLARSHIP WILLIAM C. DAVINI SCHOLARSHIP THEODORE MAZZA SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant four scholarships valued at \$6,000 to high school seniors who will be attending, full-time, an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States; paid out at \$1,500 per school year up to a maximum of 4 years. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian descent. Candidates are encouraged to apply for all four scholarships.

### **ELEANOR AND ANTHONY DE FRANCIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR NATURAL SCIENCES**

**California Institute of Technology  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
The School of Astronomical Studies at the University of Arizona, Tucson**

UNICO Foundation will grant scholarships valued in the range of \$2,500 to \$10,000 to fully-matriculating students currently attending, full time, one of the above listed universities majoring in the Natural Sciences. The candidate must be at least eighteen years of age and a natural born United States citizen of Italian ancestry, having at least one parent of Italian descent.



### **DIMATTIO CELLI FAMILY STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIP**

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

### **LOUISE TORRACO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students currently attending, full-time, an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States pursuing study of the Physical Sciences or Life Sciences. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

### **DR. BENJAMIN COTTONE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant a \$5,000 scholarship, paid on award, to a student pursuing a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy degree at an accredited medical school in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian descent.

### **MARIA AND PAOLO ALESSIO SOUTHERN ITALY SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will provide a scholarship, valued at \$2,500 to a student currently attending, full-time, an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States pursuing a degree.

An applicant must be a United States citizen of Southern Italian descent, specifically including the regions of: Abruzzo, Basilicata, Campania, Calabria, Latium, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia, Sicilia.



**RALPH J. TORRACO SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students currently attending, full-time, an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States pursuing a degree. A nominee must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

**GUGLIELMO MARCONI ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP**

The UNICO Foundation will grant a scholarship valued at \$1,250 paid on award to a sophomore, junior or senior student currently attending, full-time, an accredited campus based college/university program in the United States majoring in engineering. An applicant must be a US citizen of Italian descent.

**ELLA T. GRASSO LITERARY SCHOLARSHIP**

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

**ROBERT J. TARTE SCHOLARSHIP FOR ITALIAN STUDIES**

The UNICO Foundation will provide a scholarship, valued at \$1,000, to a student enrolled full-time, in an accredited college/university program in the United States pursuing Italian Studies. A candidate must hold United States citizenship. This program is open to applicants of all ethnicities.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

A nominee must reside in the home state of an active UNICO Chapter, unless otherwise indicated. Candidates **MUST** meet the eligibility requirements stated on each of the respective applications. Applications are to be submitted online. Potential candidates are directed to the UNICO National website ([www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)), where they will click on the Scholarship tab. Students will find complete information and submission instructions. **Paper applications cannot be accepted.**

For further information on Scholarships, please contact the UNICO National Scholarship Director, Joan Tidona at [jntidona@unico.org](mailto:jntidona@unico.org) or UNICO National at [www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org) (973.808.0035).



*Felice Anno Nuovo Fratelli e Sorelle!*

I wish all UNCO members a very happy, healthy and successful 2019. 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.

*Un buon inizio fa una buona fine.*  
Italian Proverb – A good beginning makes a good ending.

The 2019 scholarship season is off to an excellent start. Complete information, detailing our online application procedure, was sent to all members in early December through Constant Contact. Response has been very positive.

Chapters and Districts are encour-

aged 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.

To assist potential applicants, the Chapter/District representative should direct them to the UNICO National website ([www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)). When students click on the Scholarship tab, they will find complete information and submission instructions. If the Chapter/District would like to serve as sponsor and/or present a letter of recommendation, the representative is to provide their nominees with an email address to be entered on the application. SmarterSelect, our online agency, will contact the representative to advise them of the request and enable a response. Confidentiality will be respected.

Applications must be submitted online. **Paper entries cannot be accepted for National Scholarships.** If your local school has applications on file, be sure to have the outdated forms removed.

Anyone requiring assistance is encouraged to contact a member of the Scholarship Committee or the National Office.

**PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to complete applications is March 1 for the DiMattio Celli; April 15 for all other programs.** There can be no exceptions.

In the past, some Chapters have used 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.

Grazie mille to members of the Scholarship Committee for their advice and guidance. Special thanks to Pat Pelonero for her input and to Sue Anzelmo for her hard work and professionalism in updating our applications.

Another Italian Proverb states: *Senza impegno, nulla viene fatto.* Without commitment, nothing gets done. The UNICO National Scholarship Program continues to be highly successful because of the commitment and support of our members. You definitely know how to get things done. *Grazie a tutti!*

# SADDLEBROOK NJ

Another wonderful Saddle Brook UNICO Street Feast was completed on Sunday, October 7th. All those who helped make this a great event should be very proud.

On another note, Saddle Brook UNICO was represented at the Annual Ocean County Columbus Day Parade in Seaside Heights by Sal & Criss Manganò also on October 7th.



(Left) On Saturday, October 6th, our Chapter celebrated Columbus Day with a ceremony in honor of the Great Navigator at our UNICO Park on Welcome Road. We thank Mayor Robert White for his attendance at the event. We also want to thank Council members, Todd Accomando and Andrew Cimiluca, who are also members of UNICO for their attendance also.

On Wednesday, September 19th the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National held its fourth Annual Wine Tasting Event at Biagio's in Paramus, NJ. It was another wonderful successful event.



## Italian Heritage And Culture Report for Saddle Brook UNICO 2018

The main purpose of the Italian Heritage and Culture Committee has become the preservation of our rich Italian heritage. Our heritage faces more & more obstacles each year in America. The revisionists of our culture will not stop their bastardization of our history. A perfect example of this is the attempt at discrediting Christopher Columbus for discovering America. This means that we must continue spreading the word about our rich culture.

Our children and grandchildren do not have parents or grandparents who were born in Italy that were able to teach us our heritage and culture as many of us had. The task of organizations like UNICO has become the continuation of educating the world concerning Italy and its people. Part of our task is to continue funding Chairs in Italian studies in Universities throughout our nation. We must also continue fighting to keep the teaching of the Italian language in our grammar and high schools, especially those areas where there are large concentrations of Italian/Americans. Our task is immense but it is doable.

So, what must be done to reach our goal? Well! We need more programs that embrace our culture and heritage. Every UNICO organization must establish Italian heritage programs from time to time, whether it is an educational event or a social event.

Successful Italian Heritage & Cultural programs such as the one we are using for Membership growth must be established in areas with large Italian populations. Information for establishing such

*Continued on next page...*



*Continued from previous page...*

programs is available from our UNICO National Office. At these events, not only do we educate our neighbors but we are able to gather new membership into our UNICO Chapters. We need to remember that it is our Italian Heritage that creates the common bond that keeps us together.

The continued success and growth of UNICO National is always our main goal.

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

We must never forget! "Uniti Sempre Avanti"

*Author: Salvatore J. Mangano, PNP,  
2018 Saddle Brook UNICO Italian Heritage and Culture Chair*

## SPARTA, NJ

Sparta UNICO held their Christmas Dinner on December 20 at Tanti Baci in the Sparta, Lake Mohawk area.



Along with some members and their chapter president, Ray Shupak (center in white shirt), were Steve Pelonero UNICO National 1st VP and Pat Pelonero UNICO National Office Manager and ComUNICO Editor.

## ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

In November, members enjoyed taking a few trips to the Sands Casino & Hotel where we had a lot of fun, but there were no big winners...and also to Arthur Ave. in the Bronx where they enjoyed a lot of good Italian food!



President Matt Mustachio, VP Judy Mustachio, EVP Ralph Dimarcantonio and 1st VP Lydia Dimarcantonio.

## In Memoriam

### ANDREW E. BERTONE



Andrew "Andy" E. Bertone, former Mayor of Rutherford, passed away quietly on Sunday, December 16, 2018, surrounded by his children. He was 91 years old. Andy will be remembered as a loving husband to his late wife, Pauline (nee LiCalsi) of 57 years, father, grandfather, public servant, Rutherford Councilman and Mayor, WWII veteran, and friend to many in his beloved town of Rutherford where he resided for 61 years. Andrew is survived by his children, Pamela Steele and husband Robert, Cynthia

Frazier, Andrew and wife Mary Kate, Mary Alice Rogoff and husband Marc, and Lisa Wheeler and husband Brian, along with 11 grandchildren, Kristina Evans and husband Christopher, Anthony Steele, Greyson, Cole, and Jordan Frazier, Bridget and Nicholas Bertone, Michelle, Shayna, and Martin Rogoff, and Nina-Marie Wheeler.

Andrew was born and raised in Jersey City, son of Anthony Bertone and Dellora (née Silvestri) Bertone of Jersey City and North Bergen. During World War II, he enlisted in the Navy at age 17 and saw active duty in the South Pacific. After returning home, he attended Fairleigh Dickinson University where he graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science, and began a 30-year career with the Mobil Oil Corporation in New York City as a Medical Technician and later as a toxicologist.

After his retirement from Mobil, he continued to work in the medical field, but he will be best remembered as someone who tirelessly served his community and spent countless hours volunteering for others.

He was a parishioner, lecturer and Eucharistic minister for St. Mary's Church of Rutherford for over 50 years. He was proud of his 30 years of ser-

vice on the Rutherford town council, including two terms as Mayor of Rutherford from 1992 to 2000. As mayor, Andrew always commented on how he enjoyed helping people and officiating at weddings during his tenure. Volunteering was an important part of Andy's life, dedicating himself to many local committees and organizations, including over 50 years of volunteering for the Rutherford Community Blood Bank and the Rutherford Red Cross, in addition to decades of service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the CDC, The Rutherford Old Guard, Kip Center and, forever proud of his Italian heritage, he was instrumental in organizing, and was the President of, the Rutherford Chapter of UNICO, the largest Italian-American service organization in the country.

He will be always remembered and truly missed by his children, grandchildren and all who knew and worked with him.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Rutherford Community Blood Bank, 176 Park Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070 or the Rutherford Chapter of UNICO, PO Box 48, Rutherford, NJ 07070 ([rutherfordunico.org](http://rutherfordunico.org)) in his honor.

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## *In Memoriam*

**SAMUEL K. BEAMON SR.**  
1947 – 2018



Served in U.S. Marine Corps  
WATERBURY — Samuel K.

Beamon Sr., 71, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, at Abbott Terrace after a long illness. Sam was born in Waterbury on July 27, 1947, to the late Milton and Mary Louise (Wiggins) Beamon. He attended Waterbury schools including, Walsh Grammar, and graduated from Kaynor Technical High School. He was a member of the Waterbury Young Marines.

In 1965, Sam enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and became a helicopter mechanic, crew chief and aerial gunner and was deployed to Vietnam. Sam flew in more than 360 combat air missions and received numerous awards, including 16 air medals, Combat Air Crew Wings, Combat Action Ribbon, Naval and Presidential Unit citations. After returning home, Sam

worked at Pratt & Whitney. In 1970, he joined the Waterbury Police Department and rose through its ranks to sergeant, detective and lieutenant. For 12 years he was in charge of the Juvenile Division and retired after 28 years of service. He was a trailblazer and leader within the department and assisted in breaking down racial barriers.

Sam was committed to improving the lives of veterans and senior citizens. He was an active member of many organizations and was a member of the Waterbury Board of Police Commissioners. Sam took pride in many service organizations that included the Marine Corps League, and was elected as state commandant; also American Legion Post 135, VFW Post 201 and the Waterbury Elks. He also was in Marine Corps associated programs including the Order of Devil Dogs, Pop-a-Smoke, and the HMM-262 Combat Helicopter Association, along with the Brass City Young Marines.

Sam loved the Marines and wrote a book on his experience, "Flying Death, The Vietnam Experience." His concern for veterans' issues led him to join the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee, where he served in various positions and became its chairman in 2014. Sam was always a fixture at veterans programs, parades and ceremonies. His community service was noteworthy as he was constantly invited to area schools to discuss citizenship, patriotism and service. Sam mentored many of our city's youth and served many years

on the Fifth District Congressional Review Committee for candidates for military service academies.

Sam was the recipient of many awards. He was named "Black Mayor for a Day." was inducted into the state of Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame, and also was the first Waterburian to receive the prestigious UNICO "John Basilone Freedom Award." He was a licensed pilot and professional photographer, and was an organizer and took pride in volunteering as operations director for his brother Reggie's successful State House campaigns.

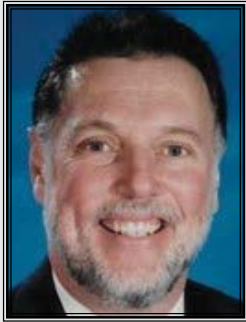
Sam is survived by a son, Samuel Beamon Jr. (Vivian) of Mitchellsville, Md.; a daughter, Susan Shapiro of Waterbury; three brothers, Gregory, of Peabody, Mass., Reginald (Judith) and Milton, of Waterbury; and three grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and a loving Waterbury community.

Samuel Beamon will be lying in state at the Veterans Memorial Hall, City Hall of Waterbury, 235 Grand St., Waterbury, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday for public visitation. A funeral service will be on Monday at 11 a.m. at Grace Baptist Church, 65 Kingsbury St., Waterbury. The family will be receiving friends from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. Full military honors will be presented at New Pine Grove Cemetery, Waterbury, immediately following the funeral service. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.



## *In Memoriam*

### GLENN O. ROME 1950 – 2018



Cliffside Park - ROME, Glenn O., 68, of Cliffside Park, NJ passed away on November 22, 2018 in Teaneck, NJ. Glenn was born on March 31, 1950 in Jersey City, NJ. He was an Educator in P.S. #2 in West New York, NJ as well as an Administrator for P.S. #5 and Memorial High School in West New York, NJ. Glenn coached for The West New York Elementary School Girls Volleyball, Basketball and Track teams. He coached for The West New York High School Girls Basketball and Softball teams. He was also a coach for The Cliffside Park Recreation and was a member of UNICO in Cliffside Park, NJ. Beloved husband of 43 years to Sharon (nee) McAndrew. Cherished father to Matthew and Daniel Rome. Dear brother to William and his wife Carol Ann, Eileen Rome Miller and her husband Richard and to the late Janice Lamont. He is also survived by his nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and his family and friends. Funeral from the A.K. Macagna Funeral Home 495 Anderson Avenue Cliffside Park, NJ on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 9am thence to Church of the Epiphany in Cliffside Park, NJ where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10am. Entombment to follow at Madonna Mausoleum in Fort Lee, NJ. The family will receive their friends for visitation at the Funeral Home on Monday, November 26, 2018 from 4-8pm. In lieu of flowers the family kindly requests that donations be made, in Glenn's name, to a charity of their choice. To leave an online condolence or for additional information please visit [www.akmacagnafuneralhome.com](http://www.akmacagnafuneralhome.com)

## PLAINFIELD, NJ

UNICO National Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga and Plainfields' Chapter President Bob Bengivenga distribute the UNICO Italian Heritage Calendar to the South Plainfield High School's Italian classes. They also spoke of co-sponsoring again a student exchange involving a few Italian Language high school students from SPHS with a few students of the Betty Ambiveri Scuola Superiore (High School) in Presezzo (Bergamo) Italy. The SPHS Italian language teacher Stephanie White is enthusiastic about this great opportunity. The Gian Maria Alberto Foundation in Bergamo Italy will be the sponsor on the Italian side for the Betty Ambiveri school.



L to R: Plainfields' Chapter President Bob Bengivenga; SPHS student Kelly Lizano; SPHS Italian language teacher Stephanie White; SPHS student Jillian Bengivenga; UNICO National Membership Director Anthony Bengivenga.

## MARIN, CA



These participants were awarded cash sums (left to right) at Marin Joe's in Corte Madera, CA: Father Andrew Ginter, Saint Hilary; Ron Benjamin, President; Vicki Masseria, Saint Vincent de Paul; Joe O'Heir, Whistlestop; Bob Ravasio, Vice President; Monsignor Michael Padazinski, Saint Patrick.

## VERONA, NJ

The Township of Verona held it's Fair in the Square December 1, 2018. The Verona Chapter participated by providing a bounce house for the children.



Pictured L to R: Helmut Kamm, Steve Pelonero, National 1st Vice President; Larry Palumbo, Deborah Gabry, Nick Proscia; Past National President John Alati and Chapter President Mike Ruglio.

## CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO members celebrated Veterans Day by placing a wreath at the war memorial in Clark.



## PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ

Passaic Valley Chapter gave Christmas candy canes to over 500 children at the community tree lighting celebration.



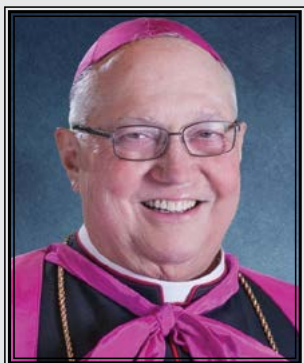
L to R: PNP Joe Agresti, Joe Benvenuti, Pat Ligouri, Carmen Criscione, Carmen Gaita and Dominick Bucci.

**The Deadline for the April 2019 issue of ComUNICO is Friday, March 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Please send all submissions to: [comUNICO@UNICO.org](mailto:comUNICO@UNICO.org)

## *In Memoriam*

**MOST REVEREND  
ROBERT CHARLES MORLINO,  
D.D., S.T.D.  
1946 – 2018**



The Most Reverend Robert Charles Morlino, age 71, Bishop of the Diocese of Madison, passed away on Saturday, November 24, 2018

at 9:15 pm in SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin. He was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on December 31, 1946, to Charles and Albertina Morlino. He was raised in Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania, where he graduated from the Jesuit-run Scranton Preparatory High School. He entered the seminary for the Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus and was ordained to the priesthood for that Province on June 1, 1974. Father Morlino continued his studies at Fordham University, New York City, New York, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Philosophy; the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, where he earned a Master's Degree in Philosophy; Weston School of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he earned a Masters of Divinity, and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, where he earned a Doctorate in Moral Theology with specialization in Fundamental Moral Theology and Bioethics.

Father Morlino became a priest

of the Diocese of Kalamazoo in 1981 where he served as Vicar for Spiritual Development; Executive Assistant and Theological Consultant to the Bishop; Moderator of the Curia, and as a Promoter of Justice in the Diocesan Tribunal. He served as administrator of numerous parishes and rector of St. Augustine Cathedral. He taught Philosophy at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland; St. Joseph University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Boston College, Massachusetts, and the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College, Indiana. He served as an instructor in Continuing Education for Priests, Religious, and Laity and as Director of Parish Renewal Programs.

Father Morlino was scheduled to begin a full-time faculty appointment as Professor of Theology at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Michigan, when Pope Saint John Paul II appointed him the Ninth Bishop of Helena on July 6, 1999. Four years later, Bishop Morlino was named the fourth Bishop of Madison on May 23, 2003. He was installed on August 1, 2003.

During his 44 plus years of ministry to the Catholic Church Universal, on the national level Bishop Morlino served as chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on the Diaconate and the Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care Issues and the Church. He also served on the USCCB Bishops' and Presidents' Committee, which seeks to encourage the Catholic identity of institutions of higher education.

Bishop Morlino served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC) which conducts research, consultation, publishing, and education to promote human dignity in health care and the life sciences. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Visitors for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). This board was a federal advisory committee created by the United States Congress to maintain independent re-

view, observation and recommendation regarding operations of the institute. In 2006, the national Alliance for Marriage joined with the Congress of Racial Equality to present Bishop Morlino with their Lifetime Achievement Award for his promotion of the fundamental rights of Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion. In 2008, for his work in defense of the dignity of the human person, Bishop Morlino was awarded Human Life International's Cardinal von Galen Award, named after the famous German bishop who worked actively against the Nazis. That same year, he also received the St. Edmund's Medal of Honor, awarded to Catholics who have used their God-given talents in promoting the common good. For his service to the United States of America and his promotion of human rights education, the bishop was honored by the Department of the Army in 2009. In 2015, he was the recipient of the Relevant Radio Christ Brings Hope Award and earlier this year, he received the St. Thomas Aquinas College Medallion.

As shepherd of the Diocese of Madison, Bishop Morlino's three expressed priorities were: to increase the number and quality of the men ordained to the diocesan priesthood; to instill a greater sense of reverence throughout the entire diocese, especially through our worship of God, celebrated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to challenge Catholic institutions in the diocese to live out their professed faith in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, through their ministry in the secular community.

He succeeded in accomplishing what he set out to do in the diocese by way of fostering greater priestly vocations (he ordained 40 men to the priesthood, with another 24 presently in formation), bringing a greater sense of reverent worship to the entire diocese, and by making significant inroads toward encouraging the Catholic institutions in his care to live out their mission with greater fidelity.



**SCRANTON, PA**

The 2019 Ball will be held on Feb. 23, 2019 at Genetti Manor, Dickson City. The UNICANS of the year (Patti & Bob Montalbano) will be honored at that event. The Ball raises funds for numerous scholarships and charities in the area.



UNICO National Scranton Chapter committee for the 2019 UNICO Charity Ball.

**SECAUCUS, NJ**

Vice President Gerry Cottino Dowd displaying the Annual holiday gift bags given to in-patients of Hudson Manor Nursing Home in Secaucus, NJ.

**NJ DISTRICT X**

NJ District X attendees at NJ/NY and PA meet the President.

**ISLIP, SMITHTOWN, NY**

Islip/Smithtown Chapter, Nov. 17, 2018. Annual Food Drive Delivery to Smithtown Emergency Food Pantry's Pat Westlake with Hjalmar Hansen and George Buckleman.

**GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ**

At the Greater Westfield Chapter dinner meeting on December 13 at Giovanna's restaurant in Plainfield, Bob Tarte is presented the Mille Grazie Award at the Eastern Regional Meeting in November in Philadelphia by the Anti-Bias Committee. Chapter President Richard Esposito and Membership & Retention Director, Anthony Bengivenga give descriptions as Bob displays this prestigious award.



Bob Tarte (center) displays the Mille Grazie Award.



The Greater Westfield Chapter is in the Christmas spirit in a pose after their Christmas banquet on December 13 at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield.

**HILLSIDE, NJ**

The scholars of A.P. Morris celebrated the holidays with a party hosted by UNICO. The scholars sang holiday music and enjoyed cupcakes. The children were all presented with a candy cane when they met Santa. A great time was had by all!



L to R: Ms. Modena, Principal Lowe, Santa, Dr. Gayles, and Mr. Bonanno.



L to R: Santa, Ms. Modena, Ms. Blanchard, Ms. Koval, Mrs. Raymondi, Mr. Bonanno.

**NATIONAL**

The NYC Italian American Museum honors UNICANS.



Enrico Boletti (UNICO Queensboro Chapter), Cav. Mary Ann Re, PhD (National member) & Stephanie Fodera (Islip/Smithtown Chapter).

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I'm a new Passaic Valley Chapter member and  
would like to offer all UNICO members our

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## OAKVILLE WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville-Watertown CT chapter of UNICO National held a pasta dinner to raise funds for scholarships along with the Watertown Land Trust to raise funds for Land Preservation on Thursday, November 8th at the American Legion at 62 Bunker Hill Rd, Oakville, CT 06779.



Helping to prepare and serve are those pictured L to R: Al Mickel, Steve Malenda, Bob Desrosiers, Joe Masi (assistant chef), Rich Gubbiotti (chapter president), Paul Rinaldi (seated), Vinnie Dorso, Mike Daddona (head chef), Joe Longo (chapter treasurer), and Mark Gubbiotti.

## MONTVILLE, NJ

The Montville Chapter distributed nearly 300 toys and provided nearly \$2,000 in gift cards to 36 local families in need, touching over 100 persons, on Saturday, December 15, 2018. The Chapter also distributed over 150 toys to St Jude's Hospital, Children's Specialty Hospital, local churches and the Morris County battered women's shelter. Montville UNICO, celebrating its 30th year, has raised and donated over \$2,000,000 to local families, charities and causes.



Pictured here are some of the toys distributed, with the help of Santa.

## *"Service Above Self"*



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# THE EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING WAS A SUCCESS!



UNICO Members enjoying lunch at the ERM before the meetings start.



The Di Napoli's and the Scannelli's spending time together catching up.



Convention 2019 having a committee meeting at the ERM.



Eastern Regional District Governor Chair Brian Guarco running his meeting.



Eastern Regional General Session.



John Calvelli, the Joseph Coccia Jr. Award recipient and his wife Maria.



National President Lee Norelli presents Past National President John Alati with a gift of appreciation for chairing the 2018 Convention.



Past National President John Alati, National President Lee Norelli, John Calvelli, the Joseph Coccia Jr. Award recipient and Past National President Joe Agresti, the Coccia Award Chair.



Jim Scannelli, Anti-Bias Chair; Robert Tarte, recipient of the Millie Grazie Award; National President Lee Norelli, Anthony Bengivenga, Membership/Retention Director; Executive Vice President Dr. Frank De Frank and Second Vice President Steven Pelonero.





**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII**

Hackensack Chapter Fourth Annual Pancake Breakfast.



L - R: District Gov. Robert Montanino, Chapter Pres. Lucy Stamilla, and Chairman Guy Di Napoli.



Attending Hackensack Chapter's Pancake Breakfast are District Gov. Robert Montanino and his wife Linda Montanino.



L-R: Lou and Celeste Pandolfi, enjoying Hackensack Chapter's Pancake Breakfast.

**MEMBERSHIP RETENTION DIRECTOR IN ITALY**

The Vigili Del Fuoco (firefighters) of Isola Bergamasca is a regional fire department representing 22 communities in Bergamo Province in Lombardy, Italy. Ten years ago, a sister city program was

organized by Anthony Bengivenga and Giacomo Pedrini and co-sponsored with Plainfields UNICO and Terno D'Isola in Bergamo Province, Italy and at that event this regional fire department was born. At that event 10 years ago, Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga brought a contingent from New Jersey including Plainfields Chapter President Bob Bengivenga and Greater Westfield Chapter members Mike Colucci and Mike Walko, along with three other firefighters from NY and NJ, one of whom intervened in twin towers attack of September 11, 2001 in Manhattan. On December 16, 2018 the Isola Bergamasca Fire Department celebrated their 10th anniversary with a high mass followed by a grand ceremony and lots of fanfare at an even larger fire headquarters in Madone. The mayors and officials of the 22 communities were present. Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga was one of the guest speakers along with two firefighters from Plainfield and Watchung NJ (Pete and Rosebud Martino). Anthony donated new colorful firefighter patches and remembrance bracelets along with copies of the 2019 UNICO Heritage Calendar for distribution to those present. Anthony read and presented to Commandar Luigi Mandelli, a proclamation from South Plainfield (NJ) Mayor Matt Anesh and from the borough council. A letter of congratulations from Plainfields Chapter President Bob Bengivenga was also presented. Zampognari (bagpipers) played at the ceremony and a banquet followed which was attended by hundreds.



Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga speaks to the firefighters and guests describing the events of the sister city program of 10 years ago and reads the proclamation from South Plainfield Mayor Matt Anesh to Fire Commander Luigi Mandelli. He also presented greetings from Plainfields' Chapter President Bob Bengivenga.



Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga displays the new firefighters' patches and 2019 UNICO Heritage Calendar for distribution to the firefighters at the ceremony and banquet which followed. Commandar Luigi Mandelli is on left and Firefighter Luca Fontana is on right.

**MEMBERSHIP RETENTION DIRECTOR IN ITALY**

Membership and Retention Director, Anthony Bengivenga speaks to the student body in the auditorium of the Betty Ambiveri Scuola Superiore, a regional high school in Bergamo Province in Italy on December 17, 2018. Anthony along with the Mazzola Foundation of Italy and the Plainfields UNICO sponsored student Rossella Grasso (left) last summer for an exchange of International students at TCNJ University in NJ. Rossella displayed her film at this program and received an Award of Excellence from the high school director, Rosarita Rota (second from left). Anthony explained and promoted the upcoming 2019 exchange encouraging students to apply.



L to R: Student Rossella Grasso; School Director Rosarita Rota; Mazzola Foundation President Alberto Mazzola; UNICO Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Mazzola Foundation assistant Giacomo Pedrini.



**MILWAUKEE, WI**

The Milwaukee chapter's annual bocce fundraiser.



Left: 1st place: Margaret Lange, Mike Lange, Rich Seri & Pam Seri.

Right: 2nd place: John Hoda, Heather Conklin, Mary Anne Ceraso-Alioto & Sam Abraham.



Left: Our youngest player Ana, Granddaughter of Mary Anne Ceraso-Alioto and John Alioto.

Right: Rose Anne drawing the tickets for the door prizes.



Left: ICC President Joe Emanuele playing Bocce for the first time.

Right: New ICC Board member Christine Catalano and UNICO VP Sophia Michalovitz watching their team.



Mary Winard, Louise Au (seated) and other members of Pompeii watching their team play.

**MARIN, CA**

Marin Chapter Members enjoying dinner.

**ISLIP, SMITHTOWN, NY**

November 18, 2018. Italian-American Museum Ambasciatore Awards Honorees Stephanie Fodera and Cav. Mary Ann Re, Ph.D. with Stephanie's sponsors Elizabeth Hansen and Roseanne Buckleman.



All ten (10) Italian-American Museum Ambasciatore Awards Honorees including UNICO's Stephanie Fodera and Enrico Boletti.

**CLARK, NJ**

Clark UNICO held the annual Thank you dinner for all the volunteers that helped work the annual Italian Feast.



President Joe Arancio welcomed all our guests and thanked everyone for their time.



Food was catered by Café Gallo.



Over 75 volunteers enjoyed a delicious dinner.

**ISLIP, SMITHTOWN, NY**

Islip/Smithtown Chapter, October 25, 2018. Crushed Olive Oil Tasting at Stonebridge Golf Club.

**PITTSFIELD, MA****Community Service Project**

On Friday November 9th, 27 new winter coats and a bag of winter gloves were donated to the Conte Community school in Pittsfield by the Pittsfield Chapter of UNICO .

The coats were purchased and delivered by UNICO member Meg Seminara with help from her husband Don. The coats were accepted by Kerry Light, the school principal, and Maria Aris, the family and community outreach coordinator. They then distributed all of them at parent's night to the parents of students in need.

**SCRANTON, PA**

Scranton Chapter, UNICO National, recently installed new members at their December Christmas membership dinner meeting at Genetti Manor in Dickson City.



L to R: Jeanette Trauma, New Member; Mike Bouselli, Sponsor; Angelia Migliacchio, New Youth Member; Marita Lawrence, New Member; Richard Bradshaw, New Member; Angelo Naro, New Member; Melanie Naro, Chapter President; Dr. Frank DeFrank, UNICO National Incoming President; Chris DiMattio, UNICO National Past National President. Second row: Mary Ann Healey, Sponsor; Mary Marrara, Membership Director; Doris Lindsley, Sponsor.

**KEYSTONE, NJ**

Keystone Chapter made a Holiday Visit to the residents of The Gardens of Green Ridge. Each of the 56 residents received a gift bag containing personal everyday items. While there, Keystone Members got to chat with several of the residents and especially Jerry Occulto, who enjoys his surroundings and the care he receives from the staff.



From front left: Mary Ann Coviello, Membership Director; Jerry Occulto, Mary Ann's dad; and Mark McDade. Standing from left: Marianne Owens, Activity Coordinator; Bayard Williams, Executive Director; Marilyn Vitali, Keystone Holiday Gifts Coordinator; and Keystone members Nancy Malone and Frank Coviello.

**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](mailto: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 copyrighted 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.



**NJ DISTRICT VII**

1st deputy District Governor Guy Di Napoli, and wife Joanne attend Garfield's Christmas Party.

**EASTON, PA**

The Easton Chapter of UNICO participated with several other Italian American organizations in celebrating Columbus Day. The event began with the raising of the Italian flag in Easton's Centre Square, followed by a procession to the Christopher Columbus statue. The procession was accompanied by the Lehigh Valley Italian American Band.



Members in photo are: Tony Curto, Chapter President Angelo LaDuca, Dave Corpora, Ty Corallo, Joe Corpora, Dan Corpora, and Bill Palaferro.

**HILLSBOROUGH, NJ****Hillsborough UNICO Chapter Assists Operation Shoebox New Jersey Packing Event**

UNICO members and President Nathaniel Santaromita helped several hundred volunteers gathered at the Hillsborough, NJ YMCA Saturday to help the Rotary Club of Hillsborough and Operation Shoebox New Jersey assemble 1,000 personal care packages that will be shipped to US troops deployed overseas. To date 150,000 care packages have been shipped to US troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world!



L to R: UNICO members Janine Erickson and Elaine Jackson with Operation Shoebox NJ Founder and Executive Director Rod Hirsch.

**ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ**

The Rockaway Township Chapter has been involved in several activities since the last issue of ComUNICO.

In October, we helped honor our Vets by donating gift cards that were distributed in the Rockaway Township Veteran's Day Dinner. We also donated \$250 to Trinity Church in Dover to help feed families that were left homeless by the terrible fire in the center of town.

**DELMARVA, NJ**

Delmarva Chapter inducts new members and plans Carnevale for March 5, 2019.



New members (L to R): Joseph Manganello, Mary Ann Manganello, Maria Torsiello and Ruth Vella.

**POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ**

NJ I District Governor Bob Gynn and Point Pleasant Chapter President Diane Grabowski traveled to meet with members of Greater Atlantic City and their President Carmine Bonnani.

**GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY**

Once again, member John Barbieri has organized a Superbowl Fundraiser for our group. This is a fun way for the Greater Binghamton, NY chapter to raise funds for the charities that we support.



L to R: Paul Battisti, Richard Wahilla, John Barbieri.



## UNICO NATIONAL

### 2019 MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019**

Meetings are held on Friday and Saturday



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Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail - [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)





## 2019 UNICO National

**Mid Year Board Meeting February 28 - March 3, 2019**

Rosen Shingle Creek Resort

9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

### Registration Form

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: \$155.00**

**INCLUDES:**

*Continental Breakfast Saturday*

*Marconi Award Dinner Saturday (includes Beer/Wine/Soda)*

**Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$155.00      Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make check payable to: **"UNICO NATIONAL"** or, if you prefer, use one of the following  
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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](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)

## CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO sponsored the 3rd Annual Bus Tour of the famous Dyker Heights section of Brooklyn. Clark UNICANS Anna Pace and Fran Parisi put the trip together. Each of the 50 people on the bus were given a choice of sandwich. Christmas trivia was played on the way to NY, and in Brooklyn the tour guide joined the group on the bus. Shown here is the group photo of Clark UNICANS, who mostly attended the trip. A great time was had by all.



## DELAWARE DISTRICT I

## UNICO Honors Local High School Athletes

On Sunday, Nov. 11, UNICO Delaware District 1 held the 6th Annual Brian Piccolo Award Program at Saint Edmond Parish Hall in Rehoboth Beach.

Each high school senior athlete was provided the opportunity to list this nomination to a National Award on their application to higher education or employment. This award is given in the name of Brian Piccolo, a running back for the Chicago Bears in the late 1960's who exemplified the character traits required of each candidate: courage, friendship, loyalty, teamwork, dedication, sense of humor and anti-bias.

A gift bag full of certificates to area restaurants, passes to area recreational facilities, DVDs, books on Italian immigration and history, and more, was also presented to each nominee. The winner, Abigail O'Shields, was presented with a plaque to commemorate the event and the high school Athletic Department or team which she represented will receive a donation of \$1000.

The nominees for 2018 were: Jonathan Gaglione, representing Milford High School (Lacrosse), Vienna Iacona-Cape Henlopen High School (Women's Lacrosse), Abigail O'Shields-Indian River High School (Softball), and Josh Propes-Woodbridge High School (Football). Although all applicants were excellent, the application committee selected Abigail O'Shields as the 2018 winner.



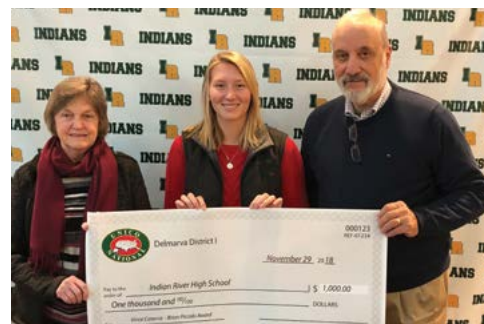
Award program participants and nominees (L to R): Atty Richard A. DiLiberto, Master of Ceremonies; nominees: Josh Propes, Vienna Iacona, Abigail O'Shields, and Jonathan Gaglione; Mary Catania, Program Chairperson.



Nick DelCampo – a program sponsor, presents plaque to award winner Abigail O'Shields.



Guest speaker – Cristina Christy-Professor of Italian at Cape Henlopen High School.



Check presented to winning school – Mary Catania- program Chairperson, Abigail O'Shields – 2018 recipient, and Vince Catania-president Delmarva Chapter.

## RUTHERFORD, NJ

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Rutherford Chapter presented \$1,050 worth of Shop Rite gift cards to the Rutherford Food Pantry.





## CARBONDALE, PA

Carbondale chapter membership celebrates a successful year. The membership is pictured at the annual holiday party at Pettinato's restaurant. We are thankful for the time and dedication of the chapter members throughout the year.



## ROCKAWAY TWSHP, NJ

In November we donated turkeys to the Rockaway Food Pantry and helped prepare Thanksgiving baskets, both which were given to local needy Rockaway families so they could enjoy a nice Thanksgiving meal with their families.



L to R: Chapter President Matt Mustachio, VP Judy Mustachio, Chapter Secretary Judi Ricucci and Chapter Padre Pat Ricucci.



L to R: Chapter President Matt Mustachio, Chapter Padre Pat Ricucci and Chapter Secretary Judi Ricucci.

## FARMINGTON, CT

The Farmington Chapter continued a 49 year tradition of preparing meatballs to be served at our annual fundraising dinner. The Sal DiMauro Sunday Italian Dinner brought members together once again to provide a wonderful day of food, family and friends to the local communities. Co-chairs Tom Filomeno and Doug Alexander once again remarked that the preparation and the event are successful because of the unity of our members.

Frank Amara was honored as Farmington UNICO's Citizen of the Year for his dedication and service for many years to the children of Farmington as league director for the Farmington Recreation Department's co-ed basketball program.



Fr. Terry Kristofak, Doug Alexander.



Paul Pedemonti on meatball duty.



L to R: Ralph Arcari, David DeNuccio, Sal DiMauro, Bob McNally.



L to R: George Marcello, Bob McNally, Jim Mugavero, Frank Dolce, Gary Palumbo, in front: Sal DiMauro.



Left: Tom Filomeno and Tom Magro



Right: Next generation UNICANS (L to R): Luke, Matthew, Will and CJ



Left: (L to R): Mary Alexander, Lea Marcello, Ginny Mugavero.



Right: (L to R): Frank Dolce, Frank Amara, President Bob Fiondella.

## PARAMUS, NJ

Paramus President, Susan James welcomes new members, Ken & Adele Hook and Victoria Tomasella.





**POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ****Point Pleasant Partners with St. Vincent de Paul**

Members of the Point Pleasant Beach Chapter again became “Christmas Angels” for needy families in the area. The St. Vincent de Paul Society provides the chapter with wish lists from adults and children in each family and as last year the members see that all their wishes plus more are granted. Headed by Chairperson Maria Whelan, members were given a list of clothes and toys for two families plus donated to others.

Then at a wrapping party hosted by Chapter President Diane Grabowski, all gifts were assembled. Representatives from the Christmas Angel Program also attended to meet the “generous and charitable members of UNICO” who provide so much for so many in need. In addition the Chapter continued their Christmas giving by donating gifts to The Valentine House, a home for disabled adults. Wishing all a Happy Healthy and Giving 2019!



Representatives from St. Vincent de Paul meet Point Pleasant members Maria Whelan, Catherine Leon and Evelyn Cottone.



Point Pleasant Committee wraps gifts for needy families in the area as part of “Christmas Angel” Program.

**KEYSTONE, PA****Keystone UNICO conducts Columbus Day Coloring Contest**

Dunmore’s Keystone Chapter conducted their Seventh Annual Christopher Columbus Day Coloring Contest for the second grade classes at Dunmore’s Elementary Center and Saint Mary’s Parochial School. A winning entry was selected from each class by the contest committee. At the awards presentation, the winners received a \$25 Gift Card to Walmart and their art entry professionally framed. All second graders attended the presentation and participated in a Q&A history on “Why We Celebrate Columbus Day”.



Coloring Contest winners holding their works of art, prizes and pictured in the front row from left are Soleil Shrestha, Jude Stefanski, Madison Morgan, Isabella Stipp, and Noah Rought. In the second row are Keystone Members Mark and Michele McDade; coloring contest coordinator James Mack; Chapter President Nanine Gramigna; and Dunmore Elementary Center Principal Matthew Quinn.



At Saint Mary’s Parochial School from left are second grade teacher Mrs. Shattin; President Nanine Gramigna; student Mary Grace Brooks displaying her prize and winning art entry; the winner’s mother Linda Marino Brooks; school Principal Cathy Sosnowski; and Keystone coloring contest coordinator James Mack.

**CARBONDALE, PA**

Carbondale Chapter participates in City Shade Tree Commission Memorial Park trim a tree! Designed and coordinated by member Linda Gabriel, the UNICO tree glowed with red, green and white handmade ornaments, garland, photos of Italy scenes and Italian sayings.



Members on had to help trim the tree are L-R: Angel Masco, Gabriel, Bob Tomaine and Mary Lynn Brannon.

**SCRANTON, PA**

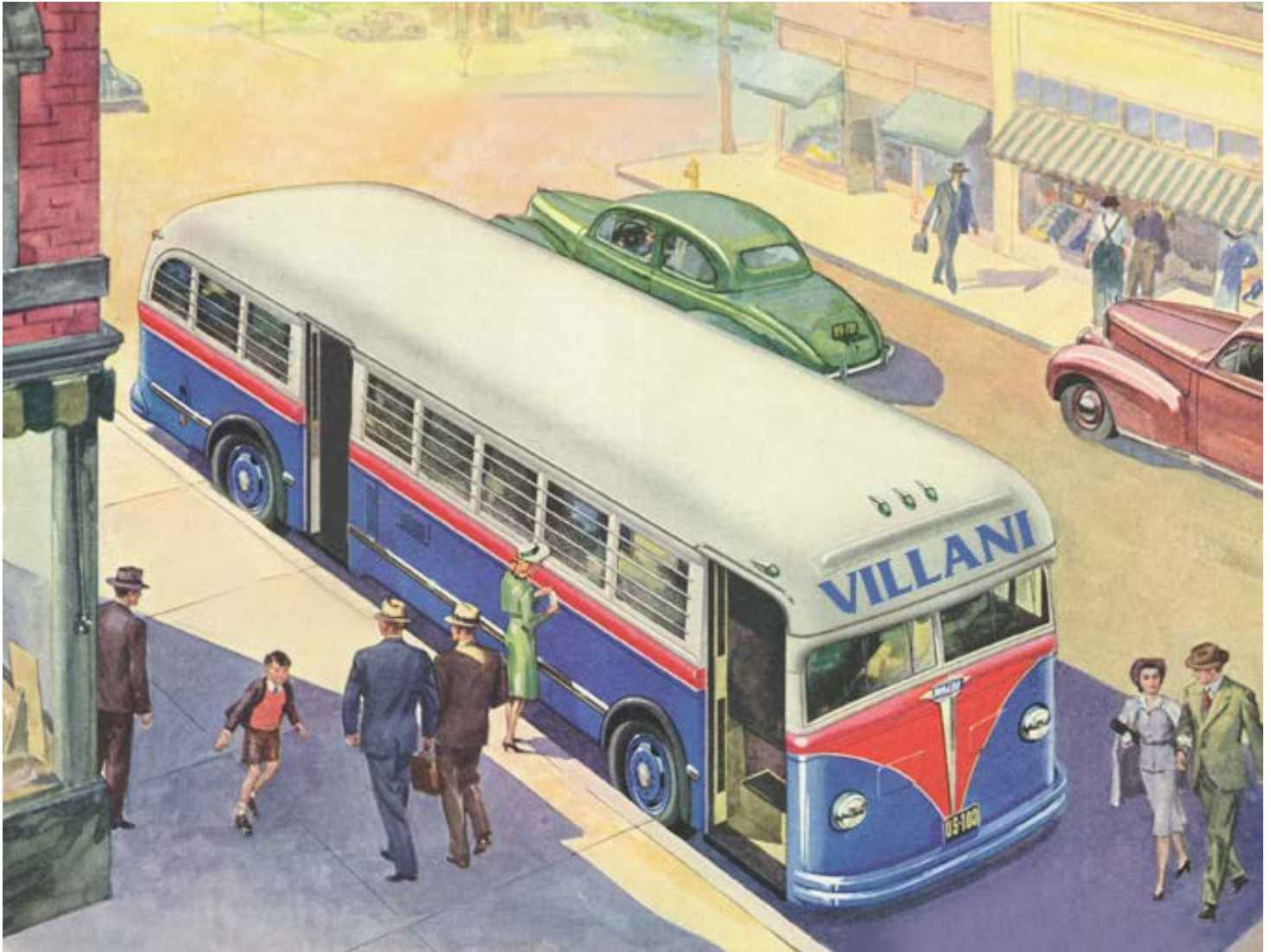
Members of the Scranton Chapter of Unico National, volunteer at the Thanksgiving “Family to Family” program at the Scranton Cultural Center.



L to R: Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Tony Summa, Ann DiMattio, Louis DiMattio, Lou DiMattio, Steve Andrichak.



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## CLARK, NJ

### Clark UNICO Embraces their Motto "Service Above Self"

During the month of November, Clark UNICO collected new socks, pajamas, hats, gloves and scarves to help benefit the St. Joseph's Social Service Center's Giving Tree Program. The center which is located in Elizabeth holds this gift distribution program annually. Clients begin signing up in September and they usually get requests of approximately 2,500 people. Fran Parisi arranged for a group of Clark UNICANS to volunteer twice during the month of December to help them collect, sort and organize gifts for over 300 families. Each gift bag contained a new outfit, pajamas, socks, hat/gloves/scarves and a small bag of toiletries. Volunteers had to make sure that each family member received the same quality and quantity of gifts. Both days were very busy and the hours spent at their facility passed very quickly.

St. Joseph's Service Center depends on the kind act of strangers helping strangers.



Sandra Held & Vita Greco.



Adeline Tropeano & Rosemarie Parisi.



Anne & Frank Pandolfo.



Clark Unicans volunteering.



Linda Malanga & Phyllis Cunningham.



Rich & Louise Lipari Joe & Melissa Sarno.



L to R: Sarnos, Liparis, Fran Marzano, Tracy Eltringham, Maureen Manasia

## PARAMUS, NJ

### Wine Tasting Event



Mike DeBenedetto, Joe Iula and Ridgewood Country Club Manager, Aldo at Paramus Wine Tasting.



National President, Lee Norelli, presents Lois Iula with Paramus Chapter UNICAN OF THE YEAR.



Lois Iula celebrates her achievement.



Guests at the event enjoy the evening.



**CARBONDALE, PA**

The Carbondale chapter prepares delicious porchetta!



The cooks take a break for a photo. L-R: Tom Gatto, Ron Witts, Don Gibbs, Tom Gretzula, Richie Ruggiero, Joe Masco, Glenn Pettinato, and Bob Tomaine.



Members Marie Greto, left, and Mary Ann Kearney, right, manage the take-out orders.



The chapter team gathers for a group photo after a day of hard work and fun!

**PARAMUS, NJ**

Members attending the Paramus chapter Christmas party.

**ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ**

In December, the Chapter presented a check for \$3,000 to Autism Speaks in Princeton, NJ to help children dealing with Autism.

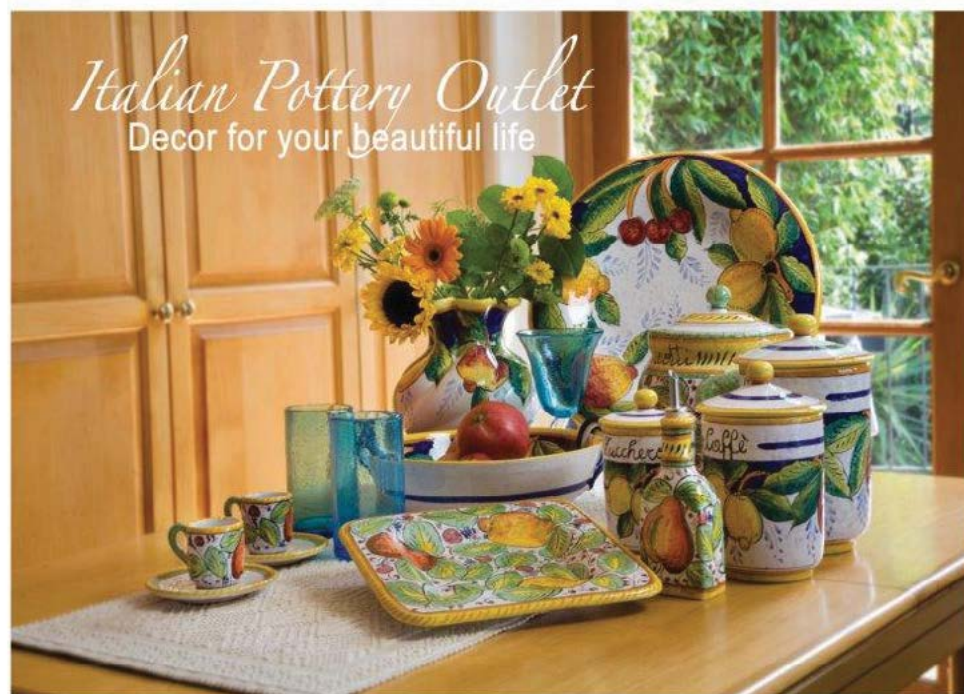
Also in December our Chapter donated toys to the Marine "Toys for Tots" drive held at a local Rockaway restaurant called Potbelly's.



L to R: Chapter member Dave Chromey, Board member Sal Simonetti, Autism Speaks Mgr Chelsea Pohl and Chapter President Matt Mustachio.

**UNICO NATIONAL**

UNICO National President Lee Norelli accepts the Humanitarian Award from Filitalia International and their 2018 Gala. Congratulations!



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## KEARNY, NJ

### Kearny Chapter Hosts Christmas Party

On Friday evening, December 7th, the Kearny Chapter hosted a Christmas Party for Mentally and Physically Challenged Individuals at the Lithuanian Catholic Community Center (LCCC). Working with Pathways to Independence, the Kearny Chapter and the Kearny Ladies of UNICO provided 125 guests with food, music and gifts from Santa. Chapter members decorated the hall, served food to the guests and also served as Santa's helpers. High school students Algeta Avdimetaj, Nicholas Camacho, Gabriel Gonzalez and Natalie Vega assisted the chapter with the party. LCCC members volunteered to help serve guests at the party and assisted in running the party. Music was provided by DJ Robert.

Chapter President Lou Pandolfi welcomed everyone to the party. Mayor Alberto Santos and Councilman Albino Cardoso and Councilwoman Carol Jean Doyle visited the party. 1DDG Guy Di Napoli and his wife, Linda represented NJ District VII at the party. Applebee's of Kearny, once again, provided hot food for the party. Additional food was provided by Nonna Lisa, the Spanish Pavilion, Pechter's Bakery and Theresa Trucillo. Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Fiore of Bedrock Stone generously provided the gifts that were distributed by Santa. Additional community support for the party came from the Kearny Ladies of UNICO, Kearny Bank, Schuyler Savings Bank, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tully of Kearny Shop-Rite and Mr. Lawrence Inserra of Shop-Rite of Lyndhurst.

The party was a great success as everyone enjoyed the food, dancing to the music and of course, Santa's visit.



Members of the chapter served food to the party's guests.



Guests enjoyed dancing to the music played by DJ Robert.



Kearny Chapter members as well as other Unican guests enjoy a photo-op with Santa.

## ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

Our chapter held our Annual Christmas Party at Caffè Navona where we enjoyed great Italian Food, music, played games giving prizes to the winners, held a Tricky Tray and a 50/50.. and even got a visit from Santa!



Left: Santa and member Greg DePaolo.  
Right: Santa and member John Pallito.



## LIVINGSTON, NJ

President Kevin Francione presents a donation to Det. Drucks of Livingston PD for their participation in No Shave November to raise money for cancer research.



## RUTHERFORD, NJ

A check for St. Mary's Social Concerns Committee was presented to Father Michael Kreder, Pastor by Rutherford UNICO.



## REHOBOTH BEACH, DE

Welcome new Rehoboth Chapter members!



L to R: Dr. Steven Stanzione, Cathy Stanzione, Mary-Anna Harvey and Joe Curcio.



## STAMFORD, CT

On Sunday, October 7th, UNICO's Stamford Chapter held its annual Italian Street Fair at Columbus Park in downtown Stamford. Under beautiful, sunny skies and perfect weather conditions, the festival celebrated Italian culture, traditions and incredible food. The crowd of almost 5000 enjoyed live music and entertainment, strolled by a vast collection of both classic and exotic cars, visited the Italian Heritage tent and indulged in a large selection of Italian specialties. From 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m., people stopped to enjoy the freshly fried pizze fritte and zeppole hand-made by our UNICO members. UNICO also hosted the Italian Heritage Tent. This included an authentic antique Sicilian cart, a large, detailed map of Italy where passerby's could put an arrow to show where their family came from, children's games and activities and information regarding UNICO and local Italian clubs and organizations. It was a wonderful day and a very happy and successful event.



Left: Alfio, an Emmy award nominated singer, performing for the crowd.

Right: Two UNICAN's raising the Italian flag during the Italian national anthem.



Several UNICO members dancing the tarantella.



The Stamford Chapter UNICO officers.



Local traditional dancers next to the antique Sicilian cart.



Dr. Alfred Fusco, Chapter President, and the Honorable David Martin, Mayor of Stamford starting the festivities.

## UNION, NJ

The Union Chapter made a donation to the Township of Union Veteran's Alliance Memorial Day Parade Fundraiser.



L to R: Fran Doyle, President Joe Almeida, Phyllis Monguso, and Bob Johnsen.

## SCOTCH PLAINS, FANWOOD, NJ

Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapters hosted an Italian Heritage Afternoon on Saturday Oct 20, 2018 at St. Bartholomew's Academy in Scotch Plains, NJ.



L to R: National President Lee Norelli; Ryan Samuel; NJ District X Gov Geri Samuel; Jeff Blanck; Paul Raphael; Pat Harrington; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga.



At the Scotch Plains Fanwood Chapter's Italian Heritage Afternoon. L to R: Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga, Committee Chair Jeff Blanck; Sal Ingallina; NJ District X Gov Geri Samuel; Ryan Samuel; Pat Harrington.

## QUEENSBORO, NY

Queensboro UNICO members giving food and clothing to the Saint Matthias food pantry for homeless.



L to R: Craig Montalbano, Gail Sands and Leo Galante.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



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

## AVON

Thomas A. Gugliotti

## BAYONNE

Keith Makowski

## CHICAGO W SUBURBAN

Albert Bruno

James A Pape

## CLARK

Anna Maria Nenortas

## DELMARVA

Charleen Matrachia

Liborio Matrachia

## GREATER ATLANTIC CITY

Stephen C. Jr. Abbonizio

Joseph John Fumo V

Louis Joseph Perfetti

## GREATER BINGHAMTON

Richard A. Bucci

Dorothy Marinaccio

## GREATER TAMPA

Monica Caserta

Tanya Cielo

Peter Nicholas Emerito

Andrea Messina Gebbia

Louis E. Hoffman

Kathleen Mazzocchetti Hoffman

John Nigro

Gabrielle Palmeri

## HARRISON

Alexander J. Fameli

Salvatore Mondello

## HAZLETON

Thomas Bruno

James Kennedy

## HIGHLAND BEACH

James T. Dunphy

Anthony Maturo

George Mellides

Raymond Stodnick

Suzanne Stodnick

## ISLIP/SMITHTOWN

Michael J. Cortes

Grace Rietta

## KANSAS CITY

Andrew Armilio

Kathryn C. Hibbeler

Nicholas Hibbeler

Sarah L. Hibbeler

Joseph Pisciotta

Jack Vito Restivo

Bobby Todd

## LIVINGSTON

Michelina Campanile

Pasquale Campanile

Thomas J. Freda

## MANCHESTER

Karen Bidwell

## MARLBORO

Michael Parrino

## MERRIMACK VALLEY

Steven A. Ciulla

## MONTCLAIR

Patsy J. Caggiano Jr.

Linda Musolino

Vincent Ucci Jr.

## MONTVILLE

Anthony R. Coppola Jr.

## ORANGE / W ORANGE

Christian Juth

Joe Palumbo

## PARAMUS

Victoria Tomasella

## PASSAIC VALLEY

Jillian Caltagirone

Amy Ferraro

Justin Martin

Emilia Pedicchi

Danielle Marie Ragan

## PT PLEASANT BEACH

Gerard J. Bifulco

Bernadette Grabowski

Bill Laico

## QUEENSBORO

Thomas Barbaccia

Pat Gravino

Louis Magliato

## RARITAN VALLEY

Tracy Cavallaro

## REHOBOTH AREA

Clare Brigidini

Arthur Chomas

Jessica R. Conley

Rose Conley

Cindy Delcampo

Thomas Nobile

Guy Pietrovito

Philip N. Ranalli

Lesia Lardieri Wright

## ROSETO

Damian M Deluca

Timothy J Velekei Sr.

## SANTA BARBARA

Cheryl Palmieri

Gina Perry

Carol Spalluto

## SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD

Joshua Losardo

## SCRANTON

Rachel D. Baldino

Michael Bouselli

Pastor Richard Bradshaw

Anthony Cianfichi

Kristin Cianfichi

Janet De Andrea

Louis C. Di Mattio

Keith Andrew Ewonishon

Mary Cestone Fitzpatrick

Marita A. Lawrence

Angelia Migliaccio

Angelo Naro

Rev. Thomas J. Petro

Jeffrey Rieder

Patricia Grande Rieder

Carol Sabatini

Jeanette S. Trama

## SECAUCUS

Patricia Smentkowski

## ST JOES HS MONTVALE

Marissa Bednarek

Michael Cetta

Jack Farinaro

Jack Long

Jack Phillips

Generoso Romano

Scott Schlett

## STAMFORD

John A. Cassone

Veronica Vicino

## WATERBURY

Danielle Gugliotti

## WEST ESSEX

Eleanor J. Veteri

## WEST SPRINGFIELD

Gail Balboni



## RUTHERFORD, NJ

Rutherford Chapter members enjoyed a traditional Christmas celebration hosted by Alberto and Carmelina Infante.



Musicians.



The Christmas village.

## SECAUCUS, NJ

Members of the Secaucus Chapter attending Meet the President.



L to R: Members Carol Marra, Sandra Lopez, Fatin Nesheiwat, Felicia Moglia, Ed Rutcki, Chapter President Melissa Vogel, and Berdine Ponti.

## Italian Children's Market



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## KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone Chapter UNICO conducted their annual winter clothing drive. Coats, sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves, socks and blankets were collected at their Chapter meeting and delivered to Elm Park Church, where they will be distributed.



Pictured are some of the Keystone Chapter UNICO members who helped collect and donate winter clothing for Elm Park Church. The clothing drive chairwoman is Karen Sadowski.

## SCRANTON, PA

The Scranton Chapter of UNICO recently installed new members at the November membership meeting at Nosh in Dickson City.



L to R: Mary Ann Rubin, Sponsor; Melanie Naro, Chapter President; Kristin Cianfichi, New Member; Tony Cianfichi, New Member; Carol Sabatini, New Member; Mary Marrara, Membership Director; Keith Ewonishon, New Member; Joe Rodano, Sponsor; Chris DiMattio, Past National President; and John Disanferdinand, Sponsor.



# MIKE DELUCIA'S LONG ROAD TO A NOVEL

Excerpts from the forward of *Madness: How One Man Captivated a Nation and Started a Basketball Revolution*

Sylvester Stallone has about as much to do with the resurrection of Hank Luisetti than anyone. When Rocky was released in 1976, I was a sophomore at Monsignor Scanlan High School in the Bronx, and my life's goal was to become a film actor. After high school, I enrolled in acting school in the summer of '79. After

*The game was clunky, rooted in defense, and served to fill the gap between baseball and football. Hank would change all that with his unorthodox style.*

a few years I decided to get married and go into my own business—assuming that if I were the boss I'd have control over my life. I'd have to quit acting school for a while, but I was convinced that it would all pay off in the end.

In 1983 I decided to “Stallone” and write a screenplay of my own. I shared this project with my family at the 2:00 p.m. Sunday dinner ritual. My father said he knew the perfect story. He read about a Stanford University athlete named Hank Luisetti who revolutionized basketball in the 1930s. He said, “Before Luisetti, total scores of basketball games were between 20 to 30 points, but this kid invented the layup and scored 50 or 60 points in a game.” I went to the library and began the onerous task of researching a ghost.

After months of digging around, I was able to piece together a skeleton of his story. My father had most of his facts correct, except for Hank's biggest contribution. Hank Luisetti was not the originator of the layup; he perfected the running one-handed shot in an era when basketball dogma preached a stop-set-shoot mentality where players shot and passed with two hands. The game was clunky, rooted in defense, and served to fill the

gap between baseball and football. Hank would change all that with his unorthodox style.

After Luisetti's innovations, basketball gained a fan base, and this led to the advent of March Madness and the formation of the NBA. While Hank's court heroics elevated him to celebrity status, there was little information on his personal life. This was due to a lack of paparazzi, an illness he contracted during WWII, and the absence of the NBA. The man who re-invented basketball faded into obscurity.

Armed with stacks of photocopies, highlighters, pencils, paper, and a “how to write a screenplay” book, I wove together Hank's achievements with the snippets I garnered of his personal life into the first draft of the Hank Luisetti Story. That milestone was overshadowed by maintaining a home, a business, and the addition of children. I learned that there's a huge difference between busy and “parent” busy.

Hank found its familiar place at the bottom of my “To Do” list and it remained there for decades. After selling my business, buying a new one, and nearly going bankrupt nine months later, I decided to go to college. I quit my job, became a DJ, and headed back to school. I also took a screen writing course where I developed another version of the Hank Luisetti Story.

Five years later I got a job teaching high school English in Rockland County. From 2005 to 2009, I worked seven days a week preparing lessons, creating quizzes, tests, and essays, grading papers, answering parent emails, and adapting to the ever-changing paradigms of the public education system.

In 2013 I decided to write a nonfiction book called *Boycott The Yankees: A Call to Action by a Lifelong Yankees Fan*. I was outraged that baseball players' greed and ego were desecrating America's favorite pastime. Going to a baseball game is no longer something fans could do as often as they wanted. Obscene ticket prices pre-

vented a family from going to a game on a whim or kids from meeting up to take a train to the Stadium. Owners capitalize on fans because they are not organized. *Boycott The Yankees* is an attempt to organize. By the time I'd finished *Boycott*, I was ready to resurrect The Hank Luisetti Story as a young adult historical fiction novel. At that time I was calling it *The Man Who Changed Basketball*.

It took thirty-five years to arrive, but *Madness*, the story's newest title, is here to re-introduce Hank Luisetti to the world. Looking back on it now, I'm astonished that the desire to tell his story stayed alive in me for over three decades. Perhaps my stubborn personality was



responsible for it, but I'd like to think it was Hank nudging me along every time I became sidetracked—ever since that day Sylvester Stallone inspired me to write a screenplay, hold onto a dream, and see it through till the end... even if it was a million to one shot.

Available at: [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com)

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Facebook: [Books by Mike DeLucia](https://www.facebook.com/BooksbyMikeDeLucia)

Twitter: [@mdeluciabooks](https://twitter.com/mdeluciabooks)



## About the Author

Mike DeLucia grew up in the Throgs Neck/Pelham Bay section of the Bronx and spent his childhood playing baseball, softball, and all of the street games associated with city living in the '60s and 70s. He began his career as an actor and entrepreneur and began teaching high school English in his forties. Besides Madness, Mike has published Boycott The Yankees: A Call to Action by a Lifelong Yankees Fan, and "Settling A Score," a short story. He travels the world with his wife Lillian and has two children and one grandchild.



## READ THE AMAZING STORY OF HOW HALL OF FAME FORWARD HANK LUISETTI PAVED THE ROAD TO MARCH MADNESS AND THE NBA

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and [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com)  
Visit: [booksbymikedelucia.com](http://booksbymikedelucia.com)

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**UNION, NJ**

The Union Chapter celebrated its 38th Richard J. Galante, Sr. Humanitarian Award Dinner on November 3, 2018.

The event was held at Costa's Restaurant. The honorees were chosen because of their selfless dedication and service to our community.



Some attendants to the dinner were (L to R): Union Chapter President Joseph Almeida, Richard J. Galante, Jr., honorees Michael Yesenko, Chris Donnelly, and Edwin Donnelly, and UNICO National President Lee Norelli.

**KEYSTONE, PA**

Keystone Chapter conducted their popular Toys for Tots Drive at their Annual Christmas Party at Fiorelli's Catering.

The U.S. Marine representatives were pleasantly surprised with the number of donated toys. Pictured at the presentation are party attendees who have served in the various U.S. Armed Services.



Front row from left are Ed Swiencki, Frank Coviello, Marine LCPL. Robert Vickery, Marine SSGT. Vladislav Kostek, Chapter President Nanine Gramigna, Event Co-chairs Peter and Sallie Noto and Frank Ruggiero.

**PITTSFIELD, MA****Community Service Event Bell Ringing for The Local Salvation Army**

Every December, members of the Pittsfield chapter of UNICO volunteer a day of their time to ring the bells at the Salvation Army collection kettle in front of the local Wal Mart. They work in two hour shifts from nine in the morning to nine at night, sometimes in very cold and snowy conditions.



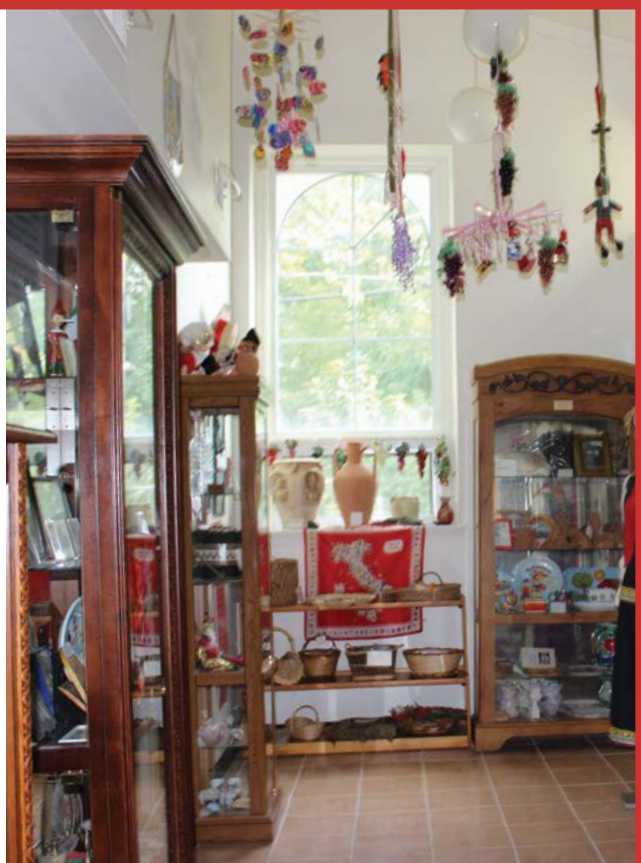
Chapter volunteer bell ringers for the 3 to 5 pm shift (l-r) Patty Simonetta, Robby Bianco, Lori Borelli and Sally Shepard.

## We have the largest Italian American museum in the East,

ten rooms of exhibits, a Hall of History and a gift shop. On the second floor we have our Italian Cultural Center – library, hall, classroom, chapel, kitchen and art gallery.

Rooms include the Arts room, Italian Folk Art room, the Faith of Ancestors room, and a room that honors Italian Americans who served in all of our wars.

We invite you to visit! Learn more at  
[www.americanitalianmuseum.org](http://www.americanitalianmuseum.org)





## SCRANTON, PA

The Scranton Chapter of UNICO donated \$13,000 to the Boys/Girls Clubs of North Eastern Pennsylvania. The money was raised from The Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Memorial Race through the Scranton UNICO Foundation during LaFesta Italiana.



Members of the Race Committee, LaFesta, Scranton UNICO and the Boys & Girls Clubs: Rear L to R: Jack Trapani, Theresa Sweeney, Leslie Minicozzi Galacci, Chairwoman of the Race Committee; Mary Marrara, Saige Sweeney, Jaden Sweeney, Germaine Helcoski, Jake Sweeney, Trish DiBiasi Thomas, Executive Director of the Club; Laura Gentile, Director of Operations; Thom Welby, Board Member and Chris DiMattio, La Festa President. Front L to R: Elijah Wainwright, Marina Baca, Neveah Pasco and Julianne Cucura, Development Director.

## DENVILLE, NJ



Veronica Vecino, Joe DeRose and Al Fusco and his family spent a day putting together bags of toys to be given out to needy youngsters at the Salvation Army's Christmas Party.

## STAMFORD, CT

Cabrina Rizzi and Al Fusco give gifts to Families that the Stamford Chapter "adopted" through the Salvation Army's "Adopt A Family" program. In total, 5 adults and 9 children had their Christmas wishes come true with clothes, kitchenware and toys for the kids thanks to the Stamford Chapter.



## BROOKHAVEN, NY

The children are entertained by the magic of Mr. Magico at the Brookhaven Chapter's annual Breakfast with Santa held on December 9th at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook, New York.



## PLAINFIELDS, NJ



Volunteer students take a pose at annual Plainfields' Pig Roast. Twelve students of South Plainfield High School volunteered as servers for the Plainfields' Chapter's annual Pig Roast fundraiser on December 7, 2018, which was held at the Scotch Plains Italian American Club in Scotch Plains. There were over 200 guests.



At the Plainfield Chapter's Pig Roast fundraiser officers and guests take a joyful pose. L to R: Union Chapter President Joe Almeida; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Plainfield Chapter's President Bob Bengivenga; Plainfield Member Giuseppe Razzano; Greater Westfield President Rich Esposito; Guest Steve Israel.

## UNION, NJ



Union Chapter President Joe Almeida (3rd from the right) led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Union County Tenth Annual Columbus Day Flag Raising.



## 2019 UNICO Convention Highlights

The 2019 Convention Committee has been working diligently as to providing some extras to the ordinary events included in the \$350 registration fee. We are expecting to do more but currently we know and announce that there will be two free hospitality nights that will include food (desserts primarily) drink and entertainment for all attendees of the convention. Thursday, July 25th and Friday, July 26th.

**SPECIAL EXTRA** - We are pleased to announce that arrangements have been made with the world famous **Grand Ole Opry for a UNICO Night on Friday, July 26th from 7 to 8:30 pm.** (By the way, the Grand Ole Opry is conveniently near the Hotel). We were able to get a group discount price of \$49.50 per person. The musical show has been heralded as one to see and forever remember. As explained to me, it consists of three parts, current voices, Legend performers and a well-known headliner to be announced at a later date. Please see the registration form that delineates the option box if you choose to participate. If interested, you would need to add the cost of \$49.50 per person to the \$350 registration fee.

There is a lot of excitement about the 2019 Convention, so start thinking about making your reservation and completing your registration. We hope that you will join us in Nashville for a memorable and fun time convention.

**MORE EXTRAS AND NEWS  
TO COME- SO STAY TUNED.**

- Paul Alongi, Sr. Convention Chair  
and PNP



## 2019 UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION AND VACATION AT THE GAYLORD OPRYLAND NASHVILLE, TN

**JULY 24TH TO JULY 28TH, 2019**



# 2019 UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION FACT SHEET

**WHERE** - Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

**WHEN** - Wed, July 24<sup>th</sup> to Sun, July 28, 2019

**RATE** - Room rate is \$169 per night plus taxes. You can extend three days before-after at the same group rate. Included in the rate are amenities of the resort such as High speed in-room wireless internet access, Unlimited local and long distance calls, Daily scheduled shuttle service to Grand Ole Opry House, Opry Mills, General Jackson Showboat, The Inn at Opryland, Gaylord Springs Golf Links practice range, daily bucket of balls, Opry Mills Savings Passport worth hundreds of dollars in savings

**AIRFARE** - You need to book your own.

**REGISTRATION** - Included is the Ice Breaker, Gala and two breakfasts. Estimated price is \$350 per person dependent on menu costs in 2019.

**ENTERTAINMENT AND HOSPITALITY** - In addition to top flight entertainment at the Ice Breaker and Gala, there will be two hospitality nights, Thursday and Friday, for all attendees. Time will be 9pm to 11pm. There will be various forms of entertainment, dessert, coffee, tea, ice cream, soft drinks, wine and beer.

**ATTRACTIONS** - Numerous. Please see attached.

**HOTEL** - Do you know that the Gaylord Opryland site is a lush 4.5 acre Delta atrium home to a quarter mile indoor river with flatboats. It features an extraordinary selection of dining venues, shopping and recreation options accented by more than nine acres of indoor gardens and sparkling waterways with a water park (separate admission) in progress.



**GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA**

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter wrapped up 2018 with a Bang!

October started with our annual Community Leader of the Year Award Dinner at Philadelphia's Union League. This year's honoree was Gennaro (Jerry) Leva. Mr. Leva is the Vice President, Planning and Capital Projects at Temple University. During his tenure, he has overseen hundreds of thousands of square feet of designs, approvals and construction for the University's ever growing footprint in Philadelphia. In addition to Mr. Leva's heartfelt, thank you to the Chapter for bestowing this honor on him, he thanked all those throughout the years who helped him to get to where he is today. Most importantly, he talked about how integrity and honesty, and the advice of wise men, like Chuck Pennoni, Past President, paved the way for his amazing success. By the end of his words, there was not a dry eye in the Union League.

Our annual fund raiser then enabled the Greater Philadelphia Chapter to raise enough funds needed to do what it does best, help people.

The weekend before Thanksgiving, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter members purchased and assembled 125 full Thanksgiving meals for needy families. The meals included a large (Italian size!) turkey, stuffing, bread, two vegetables, gravy and desert for families and veterans who might otherwise not experience a solid, home cooked meal on Thanksgiving. And even better, Greater Philadelphia Chapter's future members, our children, loaded, packed, and delivered the meals and learned a valuable lesson; how fortunate they really are. A great sense of gratitude was felt by all those involved.

In early December, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter brought 122 under privileged grade school students Christmas shopping for their families. Our members become chaperones for a day and assisted a child with shopping for presents for their families. Inevitably, the students bought the most basic things for their family members, shoes, socks, coats and gloves. The day concluded with a present wrapping party,

lunch and pictures with Santa! What a great way to kick off Christmas!

Finally, in between all of these events, Greater Philadelphia Chapter managed to host the UNICO's quarterly National meeting at Gran Caffè L'Aquila. Everyone ate, drank, toasted and talked about what a wonderful city Philadelphia is. And our members were proud to host many of UNICO's national officers.

In 2018, the Greater Philadelphia UNICO Chapter donated over \$50,000 to individuals in need, thus fulfilling our motto of, "Service Above Self".

**HILLSBOROUGH, NJ**

Members of the Hillsborough UNICO chapter joined forces with the Organization for Autism Research NJ (OAR NJ) for their first annual golf outing fundraiser at the Hillsborough Golf and Country Club. Over 60 golfers, 40 sponsors and dozens of gifts donated from local businesses rounded out the successful event. Prizes were awarded for closest to the green, longest drive, lowest overall four-some score and the putting contest.

Hillsborough Chapter President Nathan Santaromita presents a \$2000 check representing a portion of the proceeds from the golf outing to Anthony Ferrera, OAR NJ Board of Directors President. The Organization for Autism Research (OAR) is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to apply research to the challenges of autism. OAR funds research that can be applied to help families, educators, caregivers, and individuals with autism find much needed answers to their immediate and urgent questions. No other autism organization has this singular focus.



L to R: Janine Erickson, President Nathan Santaromita, Anthony Ferrera and Marianne Cialdella.

**GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY**

Member Joseph Pasquale presented an event placard created by member Mary Grassi at the November Greater Binghamton NY chapter meeting. The placard will be set up at community events as an informational tool to highlight our mission statement and all the charity organizations that we support. This just another way to promote our group to the community.

**ISLIP, SMITHTOWN, NY**

Islip/Smithtown Chapter, November 18, 2018 – Italian-American Museum Ambasciatore Awards Ceremony at the Crest Hollow Country Club.

**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT VII**

District 7 Philadelphia Eastern Regional Meeting.



L -R: District Gov. Robert Montanino, Celeste Pandolfi, Joanne Di Napoli, Guy Di Napoli and Linda Montanino.



## PITTSFIELD, MA

**Pittsfield Chapter Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame**

The Pittsfield chapter inducted five new members into its Berkshire County Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame on Friday, Nov. 16, at its monthly meeting which took place at the Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield. This is the twenty third year of the Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame where former baseball and softball players (men and women), as well as contributors and coaches to both sports, from Berkshire County are nominated and sponsored by family, friends, former team mates and coaches for induction. The chapter's Hall of Fame committee reviews and approves the nominations after which the sponsors conduct a fund raising event for a donation to the Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame scholarship fund.



Pittsfield Chapter Baseball and Softball Hall of Fame Class of 2018 inductees and Chapter President (L to R) Paul Stockley, Rick Pearce, Colleen Doyle, Kim Reynolds Wells and John Bassi along with Chapter President Jim Sorrentino.

## NUTLEY, NJ

The Chapter had several activities in place to celebrate the Christmas season. This included an "Adopt a Family" initiative coordinated by Marie Solimo where a family in need is selected to receive Christmas presents and food items. On Dec. 11 Debbie Bellucci chaired the annual Nutley UNICO Christmas Party at Nanina's in the Park. Music was provided by member John Cafone. Attendees also brought Toys for Tots and food items for needy families. On Dec. 15 the Chapter ran their annual "Breakfast with Santa" event which was a big hit with all the children.

## BLOOMFIELD, NJ

At our November 29, 2018 General Meeting, our newest member Melanie Bitecola was sworn into our chapter by Paul Alongi and Mike Sisco, Chapter President.



L to R: Paul Alongi, Melanie Bitecola, and Mike Sisco, President.

## NORTH SHORE, LI, NY

On November 14, 2018, the North Shore Long Island Chapter welcomed guests, Anthony and Leah Ziniti founders of the Caterina Grace Foundation, to their monthly dinner held at Gino's Trattoria in New Hyde Park. Anthony and Leah began this foundation in memory of their daughter, Caterina Grace, who sadly passed away at three months old from a rare muscular disorder called Nemaline Myopathy. The young couple shared their story with the chapter and educated members on this rare disorder. The Chapter was donating \$500 then came to an immediate motion of "yes" to add an additional \$500 check to the foundation. Member Gino Parente personally matched the donation with an additional \$500 dollars totalling \$1,500 for the Caterina Grace Foundation.



L to R: Chapter President Robert Di Rico, Anthony and Leah Ziniti, and Gino Parente.

## CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO served breakfast to our Veterans on Sunday, December 16, at the V.A. Healthcare Campus in Lyons NJ. Over 60 veterans were treated to a delicious breakfast catered by Café Gallo located in Edison. Twelve members dished out eggs, bacon and French toast. Each person received a homemade candy roll from two Girl Scout troops in Clark. In addition the veterans were treated to brass instrument holiday music provided by the ALJ High School band.



L to R: Roberta Rimmaudo, Fran Parisi, Val Trani, Margaret Conforti, Linda Malanga, and President Joe Arancio.



Serving.



All the volunteer UNICANS.



**UNICO NATIONAL**

## 97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION 2019

Wednesday, JULY 24th through Sunday, JULY 28th, 2019



### Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214

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

- **ONLINE** at [UNICO 2019](#)

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 5PM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>.**

#### UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE

**\$169 + tax**

Group rate available 3 days pre- and post- (7/20 to 7/31), based on availability.

**Parking: Self \$10/day**

Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. A deposit for one (1) night will be charged.  
Cancellations can be made up to 72 hours prior to arrival at no charge.

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Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 e-mail: [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)





**UNICO NATIONAL 2019**  
**97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**Registration Form**  
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center  
Nashville, Tennessee  
**JULY 24 to JULY 28, 2019**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Children Attending – name(s) and age(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

<u><b>FEES AND CHARGES</b></u>	<u><b>PER PERSON</b></u>	<u><b>CHILDREN (12 &amp; under)</b></u>	<u><b>NOT REGISTERED UNDER "UNICO ROOM BLOCK"</b></u>
Convention Package to include WEDNESDAY NIGHT ICEBREAKER INAUGURAL GALA	\$350.00	\$50.00 per child	<b>\$450.00</b>
UNICO NIGHT AT GRAND OLE OPRY	\$ 49.50		
If not taking the full Convention package			
Registration for Meeting			
Attendance Only	\$100.00		

**Please circle the items and prices you have included.**

**Total amount of check enclosed or to be charged to your card \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make check payable to: **"UNICO NATIONAL Convention 2019"** or, if you prefer, use one of the following credit cards:  
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Discover	Signature _____	Print name _____	
Amer. Express			

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Phone: 973-808-0035 Fax: 973-808-0043 or e-mail to: [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)

## WETHERSFIELD, CT



Members assisting with the Foodshare Thanksgiving drive.



Wethersfield Cornfest each September - pizza and drinks for sale! A great group!



President John Rossi and new member Lori Willin!



Member Carmen Pace and Charter Member Dan Camilliere. Mr. Camilliere was sworn into the CT Veterans Hall of Fame on 12.7.18 in honor of his service to his Community and Country.



Members and their families carol at local nursing homes for the holidays. Bringing holiday cheer as part of Service Above Self.

## WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA

Our chapter hosted a Christmas party for special needs individuals on December 15th. Everyone who attended received a complete turkey dinner and a personalized gift from Santa. The group photo of our members also includes Wayne Ditore who helped in the kitchen all night. Thank you, and Buon Natale.



## ELIZABETH, NJ



Members from our chapter getting ready to distribute toys to local churches.



2018 Citizens of the Year recipients, two members of our chapter who truly epitomize the meaning of "Service Above Self" James DeSalvo Jr. and James DeSalvo III.



President Nino Quaglia and committee members, job well done on very successful C.O.Y. event.





## The Deadline for the April 2019 issue of ComUNICO is Friday, March 15<sup>TH</sup>

Please send all submissions to: [comUNICO@UNICO.org](mailto:comUNICO@UNICO.org)

### CARBONDALE, PA

#### Carbondale Chapter Volunteers

Chapter members volunteer with United Neighborhood Centers of NEPA for distribution of food boxes. Chapter member Chip Calabro, 7th from left holding sign, coordinates this for the chapter.



### ORANGE W ORANGE, NJ

December 8th, 2018 was the Orange-West Orange Chapter of NJ's Annual Christmas Dinner.



L to R sitting: John DiNapoli (UNICO National Foundation President), Angela DiNapoli, Rachel DeMaio, Patricia Pelonero (UNICO National Office Manager and ComUNICO Editor). Standing L to R: Frank Paolercio, Frank DeMaio, Steve Pelonero (UNICO National 1st Vice President).

### NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley, NJ Chapter is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Special events are planned for the spring. The Chapter continued its support of the annual Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade and many members also participated in the New York Parade. Chapter Past President, Tom Sposato, was the "Nutley Man of the Year".

The annual 50-50 fundraiser is underway. Three hundred and twenty-five \$100 tickets were distributed to members. All tickets are sold each year. The drawing will be at the February 7th meeting.



Nutley, NJ Past President, Tom Sposato, the 2018 Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade "Nutley Man of the Year".



Nutley, NJ members Lorraine Kucinski (2nd from left) and Charlie Kucinski (right) join Chapter Past President and District VII President with Italian Carabinieri members at the Columbus Day Wreath Laying Ceremony in Nutley.

### WESTWOOD, NJ

#### Westwood Chapter Celebrates 60 Years!

Westwood UNICO recently celebrated our 60th Anniversary. Westwood UNICO has raised countless funds and other contributions for those in need in the Pascack Valley, as well as surrounding communities.

Over the past 10 years, we have helped raise over \$100,000 for the Autism Community.

Additionally, four college scholarships have been given out annually for the past 20 years for an additional \$80,000.

Congrats to all for a job well done and to another 60 years!



**JOSEPH J. SERAFINI**

— ATTORNEY AT LAW —

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## SECAUCUS, NJ

Annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser held on December 9th, 2018 was a huge Success! The Youth Group also attended to the children with activities on the day of the event.



Secaucus Unico Youth Group led by member JoMarie Bennett, with Mr. and Mrs. Claus a/k/a members (and newly-weds) Victoria and William Zanta.

## SCRANTON, PA

UNICO National Scranton Chapter Ladies Auxiliary recently presented a check for \$2,400 to the Center for Independent Living. The donation was proceeds from the Ladies Auxiliary "Fun Night of Bocce" held in June.



From left: Sal Manago; Michael Mellody; Diane Alberigi, Ladies Auxiliary Treasurer and Payroll Director, Center for Independent Living; Pat Manago; Patti Montalbano, Ladies Auxiliary President; Lori Nozzi; Alice Vanston, Danii Cortes. Second row from left: Al Hynes Tim Moran, CEO of Center for Independent Living; Joe DeAntona; Sue Sileo; Gayle DeAntona; Paul DeAntona; Barbara Roberts.

## NUTLEY, NJ

On Nov. 7 the Chapter was honored by the John V. Kelly Foundation as "Humanitarian of the Year" for its concentration on community activities and humanitarian efforts. Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr. and President Sal Ferraro accepted on behalf of the Chapter.



Nutley, NJ UNICO past-presidents Tom Sposato, Anthony Malfitano, Sal Ferraro (President elect), Dr. Frank Cocchiola and Gerard Tolve accepting the John V. Kelly Foundation Humanitarian Award for 2018 from Joe Kelly (third from left) at the Kelly Foundation dinner.

## UNICO WORDSEARCH

P	T	C	U	M	C	T	H	A	N	K	S	L	L	D
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A	A	Q	Z	N	C	A	M	P	A	N	I	A	Q	C
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L	V	E	Z	V	N	P	E	I	P	W	G	S	S	N
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E	H	I	P	R	A	N	Z	O	R	Q	V	I	N	O

ASSISI

BREAKFAST

CALABRIA

CAMPANIA

CENA

DINNER

EVENING

GRAZIE

ITALY

LIGURIA

LUNCH

MATTINA

PANTHEON

PRANZO

PREGO

PUGLIA

ROME

SICILY

THANKS

TRENTINO

TUSCANY

UNICO

VATICAN

VENICE

VINO

WINE



**HACKENSACK, NJ**

La Befana shows up with Dr. Al Masullo.



Left: Hackensack member Sara Carlson, entertained us with her beautiful singing.

Right: (L-R): La Befana (Linda Masullo) and Chapter President Lucy Stamilla.

**KEYSTONE, PA**

Keystone Chapter was an active participant at the Friends of the Forgotten "Wreath's Across America Program" at the Gino Merli Veteran's Center, with 24 local organizations participating.



Among the 14 UNICO Members present were Friends of the Forgotten President Val Riggi on the far left; Equines for Freedom representative Sylvia Tagert, holding the blue and red wreath; and Keystone UNICO wreath presenter Ray Tropeano, holding the green wreath.

**GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY**

The Greater Binghamton NY Chapter started holiday celebrations by decorating a UNICO-themed tree for the Roberson Museum and Science Center's "Home for the Holidays" on November 1, 2018 in Binghamton, NY. The tree is one of many representing groups from the area promoting their organization and will be on display until January 6th, 2019 to be enjoyed by thousands of visitors from the area.

Our group also collected toys at the annual holiday party on December 14th, 2018 for the "Toys for Tots" organization.



L to R: Frank Carro, Beverly Docteur, Angela Carro, Rosanna Mucilli.

**OAKVILLE-WATERFRONT, CT**

The Oakville-Watertown Chapter of UNICO along with the Watertown Park and Recreation Department sponsored a Christmas pasta supper at the American Legion Hall on Bunker Hill Ave., Watertown on Thursday, December 6th for the Special Citizens of Watertown.



Members of the local UNICO chapter are pictured L to R: Ray Primini vice president, Steve Malenda, Vinnie Dorso, Joe Longo treasurer, Mike Daddona head chef, Mark Gubbiotti, Joe Masi assistant chef, Al Mickel, Rich Gubbiotti president, Bob Desrosiers, Bill Breg, secretary.

**NUTLEY, NJ**

The November dinner meeting was chaired by Past President Dr. Frank Cocchola, Jr. The meeting focused on members who are veterans of US military service, with special guest being Viet Nam Vets, Donald Sellari, Kevin Beagin, Carl Graziano and Walter Slomieski, who was also our guest speaker of the evening. In addition we also had a WW II veteran, John Bruno, from Nutley, who served in Europe at the same time as three of his brothers. Chapter members recognized were Peter Ardito, Anthony Biondi Sr., Mario Cocchiola, Dominick Cucciniello, Bob Montanino, Joe Zarra and Charlie Kucinski.



Nutley, NJ UNICO Veterans and special guests at the Nov. meeting; Standing, Mario Cocchiola, PP & Dist VII President Bob Montanino, Don Sellari, Walter Slomieski, Carl Graziano, Charlie Kucinski, Kevin Beagin & Joe Zarro. Seated are John Bruno, Anthony Biondi, Sr. and Dominick Cucciniello.



Special guests at the Nutley, NJ Nov. dinner meeting were Viet Nam vets Kevin Bean, Carl Graziano, Walter Slomieski (also our guest speaker) and Donald Sellari, John Bruno (WW II veteran) center & Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr., Past President & dinner chair.



**NORTH SHORE, LI, NY**

On Monday, December 3, 2018, The North Shore Long Island Chapter celebrated an early Christmas dinner at Volpe Restaurant & Lounge at The Fox Hollow in Woodbury. The evening was very festive, as members sat as a large family sharing stories and enjoying their time together. The dinner consisted of three outstanding Italian dishes and of course, a very tasty Tiramisu as the grand finale! Our Chapter would like to take this opportunity to wish all UNICO Members a happy and healthy 2019! Tanti Auguri!



L to R: Potential new member Kyle Sadis, Chapter 1st VP Patricia Stake, Elsa and Luciano Di Rico, New York II District Governor Ellen Leone, Kathryn & Anthony Petritis, Christina & Joseph Vessio.



L to R: Anthony and Kathryn Petritis, Silvana Graci Seravilla and Sister Camille, chapter Chaplain.



Members of North Shore LI chapter.

**DISTRICT IV****Special Needs Christmas Party**

Two hundred and ten people attended the 37th annual Christmas Party for the special needs young adults at the Chandelier Restaurant on Sunday, December 2nd, 2018. District Governor Steve Calatone welcomed 148 special needs people and their chaperones. He also thanked co-chairs PNP'S Joe Agresti and Paul Alongi for putting this great party together.

In attendance was National President Lee Norelli, who also delivered a holiday message to the gathering. Also present were PNP Frank Tidona, Executive Vice President Dr. Frank and Mrs. Linda De-Frank, First Vice President Steve and Mrs. Pat Pelonero, Executive Director Sal and Mrs. Debbie Benevenuti, Scholarship Director, Mrs. Joan Tidona, Mrs. Barbara Laborim. Mental Health Committee chair and her husband, Vinnie and Dr. Frank Greco, National Sergeant at Arms. The following chapters were in attendance and fully supported the event: Bloomfield, Cedar Grove, Montclair, Passaic Clifton, Passaic Valley, Pequannock, Sparta and Wayne.

The Circle of Friends, a copartner for the party, provided over 100 gifts and busload of 40 special people. Santa was great and warmly received by an audience of many who were anticipating his arrival breathlessly. They were genuinely surprised when Santa, in addition to the gifts, gave them all a Santa hat.

The food was great and enjoyed by all. As usual, the highlight was the dancing to the music to the group that has been donating their talent for years. The band is comprised of John Morano, National Sergeant at Arms Emeritus, Carmen Criscione, a Passaic Valley Unican, volunteer Bob Ghizzi and PNP Paul Alongi. The day was correctly termed by PNP Joe Agresti when he said, "This may have been our best ever."

**LIVINGSTON, NJ**

L to R: Al Branchi and Matt Ladolcetta of our Columbus Day committee give awards to the 2 Columbus Day essay winners—Devin Hamilton and Mary Katy Marino. On the far right is Kevin Francione, chapter President.

**KEYSTONE, PA**

A comedy night fundraiser was held on November 17, 2019 with over 150 attendees which enabled the Hillsborough UNICO Chapter to present a \$2000 donation to Operation Shoebox NJ on December 20, 2018. The Shoebox NJ leadership was very appreciative of UNICO's efforts and the donation.

Operation Shoebox NJ has shipped 153,000 personal care packages overseas since 2005. The donation was used to help defray the costs of shipping care packages from a Dec. 1 packing event at the YMCA in Hillsborough sponsored by the Rotary Club of Hillsborough.



L to R: VP Anthony Ferrera, Mariann Cialdella, President Nathan Santaromita, Operation Shoebox NJ Founder and Executive Director Rod Hirsch, Ted Stirling and Maryann Hirsch.



## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin



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

SA, IPP, JCS, VAH, CO, AD, SLP, IZ, JFM, FP, SMG, JRD, EG, JG, JP, JGR, JP, MR, SCM, JD, CJN, JCS, JP, Anonymous, RV, JP, JRD, KCM, AP

TO OFFER A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER send a Check for \$20, made out to UNICO and your initials to:

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

### DENVILLE, NJ

On December 15th, Denville UNICO made 48 food boxes for Denville Seniors at the Cooks Pond senior housing center. Twenty-two members plus their children, grandchildren, and friends help us every year for the historic event. Our chapter has been making the boxes every year for the last 12 years.



Helpers Samantha Filippone (front), and Leanna Lolacono.



Standing L to R: Member Louis Maffei, past Chapter President Pat Strocchia, VP Rich Filippone, Gino Lolacono, Chapter President Patti Lolacono, Leanna Lolacono, Anthony Lolacono, and in front of Anthony Is Carol Maffei. Kneeling L to R: Samantha Filippone, Anthony Maffei, Ally Erianne, and Tara Maffei.

### GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

Richard Bucci was the guest speaker for our October 2018 Greater Binghamton NY meeting.

His presentation on the importance of celebrating Columbus Day was enjoyed by all of those in attendance as well as his memories of his father's, Alfred Bucci, involvement in the 1960s with a prior UNICO chapter in Binghamton. Mr. Bucci donated a historic Unico plaque and a framed charter for the group that his dad had saved. Then, at the November 2018 meeting, Richard was inducted as a new member.



L to R: Chapter member Dave Chromey, Board member Sal Simonetti, Autism Speaks Mgr Chelsea Pohl and Chapter President Matt Mustachio.

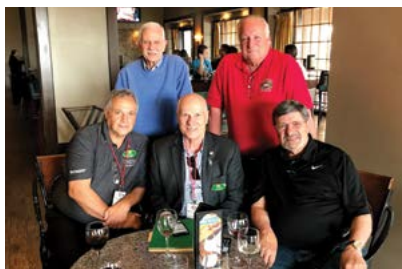


L to R: President Michael Marinaccio, new member Richard Bucci.

**The Deadline for the  
April 2019 issue of ComUNICO is  
Friday, March 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Please send all submissions to: [comUNICO@UNICO.org](mailto:comUNICO@UNICO.org)





**SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM!**

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

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*Left: Steve Pelonero / Passaic Valley, NJ / Florence*

*Center: Joe Agresti / Passaic Valley, NJ / Getting Support in Venice*

*Right: Bruce Snogans / Verona, NJ / Positano - North of the Church of Santa Maria Assunta*



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