



APRIL 2019 | VOL 74 | ISSUE 03

Com **UNICO**

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

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Bridgeport, CT, Chapter Celebrates its 90th Anniversary

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*Mid-Year Board Meeting
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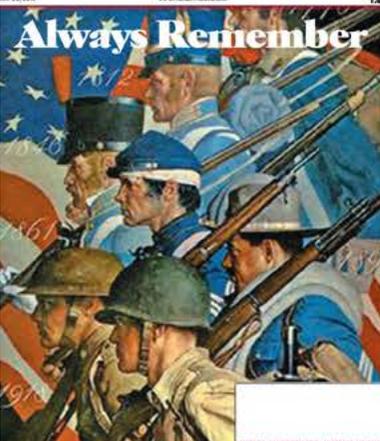
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The Many Faces of Columbus



Wishing All Our Readers a Happy Columbus Day
"May the history of Christopher Columbus inspire you to great things and to make his legacy a true inspiration in the world. May he be remembered as a man of vision and of great courage."
- Pope Francis

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Italy Celebrates National Day

Italy celebrates its National Day on June 2nd, 2016. The day is marked by various events and ceremonies across the country. The Italian flag is prominently displayed, and many people participate in parades and public gatherings. The day is a time to reflect on the country's rich history and cultural heritage.

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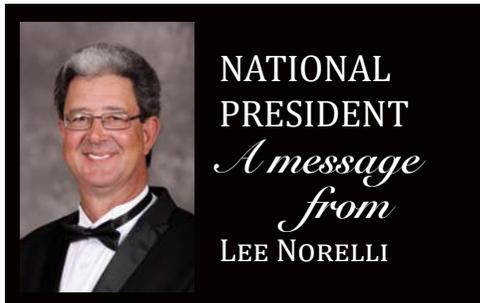
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- April 25, 2019.....Convention 2019 Cigar Night & Buffet Dinner**
- April 27, 2019.....Community Service Day**
- May 28, 2019.....Grant applications due to the National Office for the 2019 Convention**
- June 3, 2019.....ComUNICO deadline for July issue**
- July 1, 2019.....Due to the National Office**
 - First Half Dues Payment
 - Chapter Election Form
 - District Election Form
 - District Governor Award Program
- July 15, 2019.....Chapter Achievement & Award Program paperwork due to the National Office**
- July 24-28, 2019.....97th Annual UNICO Convention Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN**

For more events, visit www.UNICO.org

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

Happy Spring! Spring and “spring-time”, according to Wikipedia, refer to the season, and also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth. So Spring is a great time for all of us to think about rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth of UNICO at our Chapter, District, and National level.

I am asking each Chapter to examine what works and what doesn't in your Chapter and come up with ways to rebirth, rejuvenate, renew, resurrect, and regrow your membership. Every member of UNICO is important to our organization and each one of us has the duty to improve our organization. I am asking

everyone to reach out to old members and invite them back to your meetings. Invite a friend to your next meeting and offer to pick them up so you have time to let them know what we do as an organization.

I want to again thank the members who attended the 2019 Mid-Year Board of Director's meeting in Orlando, FL. The Rosen Shingle Creek hotel provided a great venue to conduct the business of UNICO while enjoying camaraderie with our UNICO family.

The Vice Presidents and I met to put into motion a plan for the future. I am confident that UNICO is heading in a positive direction and the current administration is properly preparing appropriate changes that will have positive results for UNICO's future.

Fourteen committees met and the Chairs reported to the membership. Of special note, Frank Blasi, Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws committee, reported that his committee is completing the task of separating the operating procedures from the Constitution to better serve the organization. The changes

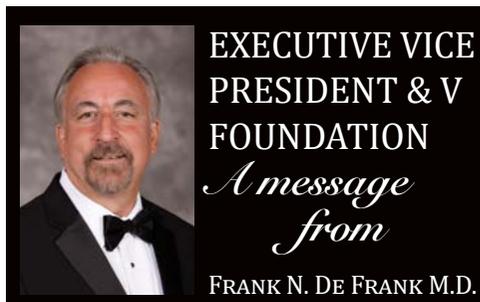
will be posted on the website in order for the membership to review same prior to voting on an amendment to accept the changes at the 2019 Convention.

Trustees of UNICO Foundation also met during the weekend and Foundation President DiNapoli reported two new Torraco scholarships were recently funded, one for Physical Therapy and the other for Special Education. Two Mental Health and seven Torraco Food Bank grant requests were approved by the Trustees.

The year has been flying by and I again want to thank all the members who have welcomed Debbie and me to your events throughout the year. It is great to witness all the work UNICO does in our communities. I hope each and every member of UNICO knows how much you mean to me and even if I am not able to attend an event due to scheduling conflicts, you are constantly in my thoughts and prayers.

I hope to see you soon or at the 2019 Convention in Nashville, TN. In the meantime, please keep me in your prayers and know you are in mine.

God bless UNICO and all that we do!



**EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT & V
FOUNDATION**
*A message
from*
FRANK N. DE FRANK M.D.

Buon giorno a tutti!!

As those who attended the Mid-Year Meeting in Orlando will attest, the gathering was a total social and functional success. The committee meetings resulted in many novel and productive ideas from both new and established members; several proposed amendments were reviewed. Please note: everyone should try to attend a national meeting. Kindly remember that each chapter has a responsibility to have representatives attend periodic national meetings and to financially support UNICO National charities (within each Chapter's means).

Under the leadership of President Lee, the Personnel Committee is working diligently on the restructuring of

the National Office with the proposed retirement of our office manager, Pat Pelonero, and our executive director, Sal Benvenuti. Some good news—at this point in time there is a high likelihood that we will be chartering a new chapter soon with the possibility of 2 more new chapters within the months to come! UNICO National is strong and is not going away!!

PNP Paul Alongi and I are working on resurrecting the Skrob report which resulted in many positive recommendations from this experienced non-profit membership and retention consultant. Hopefully we can get the summary out to the District Governors and Chapter Presidents well before the upcoming convention in Nashville.

Speaking of Nashville, we are all looking forward to a productive and enjoyable National Convention at the end of July 2019. It looks like the initial rush for rooms has settled down some and there will be availability for all interested parties! Nashville has something for everyone. Perhaps we will have some surprises for you!!

With respect to the Cancer Research and Prevention Committee, we are still awaiting an approved cancer research grant from St. Jude's Hospital through the V Foundation. As you can imagine, the time involved between the initial writing of a grant to approval by the V Foundation's Clinical Research Committee can be extensive. Most of you know that the \$50,000 grant that is already available to donate 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 Cancer Research and Prevention Committee Chairman. I look forward to representing UNICO and all its members as our National President for the 2019-2020-year and humbly ask for your support. Thank you for all you do for UNICO and its charities and to preserve our precious Italian heritage.



Hello everyone. It was great to see everyone that attended the Mid-Year Board Meeting in Orlando. I can only hope and wish that more could be there. Even though it is a required meeting for some to attend, it is also a chance for a short weekend getaway. For me, it was a Thursday and Friday off from work, but I got snowed in and “had to” spend an extra day in sunny Orlando (what a shame).

We had workshops and committee meetings on Friday along with the Foundation meeting – all provided a great way to see what UNICO is all about. Myself and UNICO National 2nd VP Dr. Peter Pettinato moderated the Chapter and District Workshops. Quite a few members attended. There were lots of questions and comments, which can bring about many new ideas.

Our General Session was held on Saturday, followed by the evening Awards Dinner which was the culmination of a

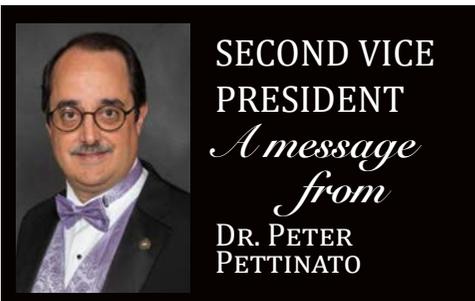
great event. Please remember that even though we are officers, it is our districts and chapters working together that make UNICO what it is today. Also keep in mind that Chapters and Districts are required to send in monthly and quarterly reports – we do read all of them. They are printed and kept in their respective files at the National Office.

As always thank you for your invitations to attend meetings – it is nice to see new faces and meet new people. On the same token, it is nice to share what happens within the walls of UNICO National to those that cannot attend the regional meetings or the convention. Your delegates can make a difference with their vote. Amendments will be talked about and voted on at the Convention in July in Nashville, TN. Ask them and support them in their efforts to attend. As always, it is an honor and a pleasure to serve you and to have you in my life as a friend (my UNICO family). “Thank you all for what you do”.

*The Deadline for the
July 2019 issue of ComUNICO:
MONDAY, JUNE 3RD
Please send all submissions to:
comUNICO@UNICO.org*

A Message from the First Vice President Steve Pelonero – Annual Photo Calendar Sponsorships

It is now time to start thinking about how your Chapter and/or District can show support to UNICO by supporting the **2020 issue of our UNICO National Heritage and Photo Calendar**. It is complete except for the sponsors who make it a financial success. Individual boosters are \$200 (chapter or individual), or share an entire month with your Chapter or District for \$1000. All supporters will be proudly displayed on one of the many photos that were taken and submitted by a UNICO member. Photo submissions are always welcome in landscape view. Be sure to include where the photo was taken, what the photo is of, and, of course, what Chapter you are with. All entries will be acknowledged when received via email. Pledges must be made “soon” with a September deadline as there are only 12 months available. Please talk it up at your next meeting. Photos can be sent in any time to UNICOpictures@gmail.com. Thank you as always for your generous support!



Despite the recent tantrums of Mother Nature, at the time of this writing, spring is just around the corner. Soon the flowers will break through the now frosty soil, birds will flock back to our communities and the bears will begin to rouse from their hibernation. What we don't have to wait for is for UNICO to wake from any deep slumber. We never crawled into a cave to wait out winter. We met it head on, worked our way through it and, in some instances, even welcomed it.

I just returned from UNICO National's annual kick off to spring – the Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting. UNICO was not waiting idly by for winter to pass. Over the course of a couple of days, we reexamined the current budget, established the next budget, chose our major awardees, honored our Marconi Award recipient, formulated proposed constitutional amendments, made significant donations to Foundation Charities, and even managed to squeeze in a little down time by the pool.

Our local UNICO Chapters have been as active in this season as any other. I continue to receive and read your monthly Chapter Reports and I can attest as to how busy you all have been. Some of you had a meeting quashed by the weather, some of you had too many members sick from the flu, but you didn't let that stop you. You carried on with benefit dinners, toy drives, Christ-

mas parties, bowling nights, food and clothing drives, St. Joseph Day remembrances, even such innovative ideas as “gravy vs. sauce” contests. Your calendars are also full with upcoming events from Brian Piccolo dinners, to scholarship awards, to pig roasts, to bus trips, to murder mysteries, to trips abroad. I can't wait to read what you'll do next.

All of UNICO is now gearing up for our annual Convention. Nashville, TN beckons and a great number of you have answered the call. We'll hear from all our committees. We'll vote on pertinent issues and constitutional changes. We'll donate tremendous sums of money to worthy UNICO charities. We'll choose our next slate of leaders and celebrate the good work of those who led us this year. After all that, we might need and deserve an extended rest, but we're UNICO – we don't rest. We serve.

Till next time ...PLPvmd2vp



SCHOLARSHIP
DIRECTOR
*A message
from*
JOAN N. TIDONA

“L'apprendimento è l'unica cosa la mente mai esaurisce, non teme mai e mai si rammarica. – Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears and never regrets.”

-Leonardo da Vinci

UNICO scholarships are greatly valued and clearly sought after. As the cost of higher education continues to escalate, the importance of the assistance we provide deserving young students and our commitment to learning are widely recognized.

By the time you read this article, the 2018-2019 scholarship season will be nearing completion.

I thank all who have endorsed candidates. Your support is truly appreciated.

The academic achievements of young Italian American students applying for UNICO National scholarships are outstanding; their extracurricular activities and community service projects are

exceptional. All nominees are worthy of recognition, in their own right. They bring tremendous honor to their families and pride to those who share their heritage. These students are true representatives of Italian American youth. While many of their contributions already benefit others, we can only imagine the positive impact they will have in the future.

Our judging committees are composed of non-UNICANS, under the direction of a member of the National Scholarship Committee. Great care is exercised to ensure the integrity of our awards. It is not easy to determine the best of the best. The judges perform this task admirably.

Agreements to establish two new scholarships were signed on January 12. The Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Special Education and the Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Therapy Science are expected to be in place for 2020. I thank Foundation President John DiNapoli, Executive Director Sal Benvenuti, Foundation Secretary Peter Pettinato and Donor Ralph Torracco for making this happen.

While the National Scholarship Program continues to be an outstanding success and brings to UNICO great recognition, funding remains an area of concern. Newly established scholarships are fully underwritten by our patrons. Earlier programs are financed by interest generated by the scholarship account,

supplemented by member donations. Owing to careful investments and Chapter support, this system has proved quite successful. However, there have been times, in the past, when contributions were insufficient. This meant the corpus was invaded.

Should this situation reoccur, our traditional scholarships could be in jeopardy. I don't think any UNICAN wants to let that happen. To maintain the strength of our program, Chapter, District and individual donations are essential. **Do what you can, but please give something.**

In recognition of generous contributions to the Scholarship Fund, we will continue to issue certificates of appreciation to those donating \$500 or more. We hope you will display the certificate in your scrapbook. Chapters contributing \$1,000 and better will receive a banner patch.

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 dealing with day to day situations.

Our National Scholarship Program is an integral part of the UNICO identity; historically, our first philanthropic endeavor. As we encourage learning, we continue a truth recognized by Leonardo da Vinci, artist, engineer and scientist, centuries ago.



MEMBERSHIP
& RETENTION
*A message
from*
ANTHONY
BENGIVENGA

It's "Primavera" time again, which is Italian for springtime, my favorite season. It's time to plan our Italian vegetable and flower gardens. It's also time, if you are up North, to unwrap those fig trees that have been hibernating through the long winter, just as our Italian ancestors used to do. With the sunshine and warmth of spring, there is new growth everywhere, which brings to mind this traditional

season for new membership growth. With all the Scholarship and Brian Piccolo Sports Award banquets, there's so much opportunity for new growth of chapter membership. Let's take the opportunity and publicize these events in our local communities. Many chapters offer free membership to their young awardees, since as "Youth Members" the dues are only \$12 per year, so most chapters absorb that nominal fee. Our National President Lee Norelli has made it a priority this year to publicize our organization, so that everyone can see the great things that UNICO does nationwide. There are lots of social media that we can take advantage of. Let's post short videos of our chapter and district events to Facebook, Instagram and other social media. With local newspaper in print form dying out, you can take advantage of

the online community publications, such as "Tapinto" which publishes online in the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Florida areas. Most community publications have switched to digital internet publishing on the internet.

Why do members join UNICO? Many members join UNICO not only for the great service we do for charity, but also for promoting our wonderful heritage and Italian language. So we encourage that a portion of our meetings be reserved for interesting talks about an Italian or Italian-American personality, food, language, music or travel. We encourage your chapter to have a member do a "Parole del Giorno" (words of the day), these few words can be an Italian saying or proverb with an English translation

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or can be a “barzalletta” (an Italian joke). By embracing our Italian language and culture at our meetings, our members will enjoy the additional camaraderie and even share new found knowledge with friends and family. If you need any help in obtaining this type of information, please contact me and I’ll guide you to some good sources. I welcome emails and phone calls at anytime. Please feel free to email me any short video clips of you chapter / District events. My email address is anthony@bengivenga.com and my telephone number is listed in the directory on the UNICO National website.

As I always say, Grazie e un abbraccione a tutti! Thanks and a big hug to all of you.

JANUARY ISSUE CORRECTION:

Verona Chapter member Larry Colombo’s name was misspelled



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e a casa propria”



HERITAGE & CULTURE
A message from
Mary Teresa Morrison

Are We Still Committed?

OK! So now we are hopefully convinced that if we want to learn Italian it takes dedication and diligence.

I suggested many repetitions, yet we all know that it becomes “noioso” (boring). Even our brain after a while says “enough already!” What now???

Switch to another topic. Review it well and then go back to the previous step, refreshed! Recycling is not just for waste management. It must happen gradually....review, move forward one step or two, then review! “E cosi sia....”

Students often make the mistake of proceeding too quickly, with little or no review. “I know that”; and they move on; yet when needed...no recall. Not enough “ripasso” (review).

Another setback is the pressure to “converse.” What is one asking? A conversation at beginner level.... “Impossible.” A novice cannot be expected to begin a conversation beyond greetings. Guided by a more experienced speaker and with much previous practice, the novice can use some techniques presented in class such as: “Listen carefully to the question. That’s more important!” “Don’t get caught up in translation!” “Much of what you need to say is already formatted in the question, so use it!”

I am often asked “What’s the best program?” or “What do I use when teaching?” There are many good programs available... it depends on the learner. Find one you like, that suits your needs and stick with it. Much depends on the learner. You must first know “how you learn best;” listening, speaking, reading, writing and listening again. As previously stated, one learns best by listening. There is a rhythm to language and you must hear it, but you must also be comfortable with what you learn.

Ready to start or to move on....? ANDIAMO SEMPRE AVANTI!



CHAPLAIN
A message from
FR. ROBERT WOLFEE

The Easter Vigil Mass is like no other in the Church’s calendar. It is a Mass rich with Scripture and sacrament, symbols and actions; a liturgy contrasted with both darkness and light. We recall how God has been with his people throughout history and continues to be with us. We renew the promises of our own baptism, reminded that the gift of everlasting life in heaven is offered to us because Jesus willingly died for our sins and is risen from the dead. It truly is the holiest of nights.

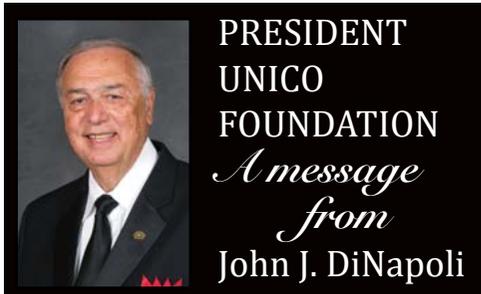
We reflect once again on the greatest love story ever told. We gather to tell the story of our salvation in Jesus Christ. It is a story that dates back to the beginning of the human race and is about God’s promise to never abandon his children. It is a story of courage and determination; of bondage and freedom; of sin and forgiveness. We gather to give witness to God’s unconditional and never-ending love for us.

We rejoice that Jesus truly destroyed the power of sin and death, just as he said he would. We remember that we never walk alone. As the angel of the

Lord told the women at the tomb, “Do not be afraid.” Just as Jesus met the women rushing back to the apostles, he meets us on our journey. Through our pain and trials, through our hopes and dreams, he is always at our side. So, we can lay down our fears, heartaches and sufferings at the entrance of the empty tomb and run with great joy to tell all who will listen that Jesus is not dead; that God’s promise to us has been fulfilled.

Our challenge today is the same as yesterday and the same as tomorrow; it never changes. Our challenge is to live as people of promise and joy and not as people with cold, stone tombs for hearts. That is not always an easy task, but we have all of our ancestors in faith at our side cheering us on to victory. Above all else, we have the risen Christ strengthening and encouraging us. Jesus did not suffer defeat, and He will not let us fail.

On that first Easter morning, when the women arrived at Jesus’ tomb, they did not find what they expected to find. They found something more than they ever imagined: the Risen Christ! Sometimes, the things we want the most are not granted to us. Instead, we are given something more than what we wanted. Just as the women were totally surprised that first Easter, God still surprises his people. Jesus’ resurrection made it possible for all of us to share in eternal life. And that is more than enough reason to rejoice!



**PRESIDENT
UNICO
FOUNDATION**
*A message
from*
John J. DiNapoli

The Board of Trustees of the UNICO Foundation met on March 1, 2019 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida.

Treasurer, Mario Giovannucci presented the Financial Report. As of December 31, 2018 the account balances in the UNICO Foundation was \$3,340,185. A copy of this report is available at the National Office.

Two new scholarships were recently funded by Ralph Torraco. Each scholarship was funded at \$125,000 each. They are for Physical Therapy and Special Education. They will be available to be awarded next year.

Legal Counsel John Chiaia presented two constitutional amendments to the Foundation Trustees. Both were approved. They will be voted on during the National Convention in July, 2019.

Trustees approved the following Grants:
Mental Health \$8,200
Toracco Food Bank/Shelter Fund \$8,000

Raffle tickets have been distributed to all Chapters and Trustees. The winning tickets will be drawn at the National Office after the Convention. We are asking for all of our members to purchase and sell tickets to support our only Fundraiser.

UNICO National President Lee Norelli inquired about an administration fee from the Foundation to UNICO National. A meeting will be set up to discuss this issue.

There was an open Trustee position since the resignation of James DeSpensa. Wayne Ditore from Pittsfield, MA expressed interest in filling the vacant seat.

The Trustees approved of Wayne Ditore to become a member of Board of Trustees.

There are five positions up for election this year:

- John J. DiNapoli & John Alati, New Jersey
- Mario Giovannucci, Connecticut
- Chris DiMattio, Pennsylvania
- Mary Teresa Morrison, Delaware

Anyone interested in seeking a position for the Foundation should send a letter of nomination from their Chapter to the National Office to the attention of President DiNapoli.

If anyone has any questions regarding the UNICO Foundation, please feel free to contact me.

Please remember UNICO in your Estate Planning.

CANDIDATE



Ralph A. Contini

FOR 2ND 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.

*To donate to a
UNICO Charity*

make checks payable and mail to:

UNICO Foundation
271 US Highway 46 West,
Suite F-103,
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004.

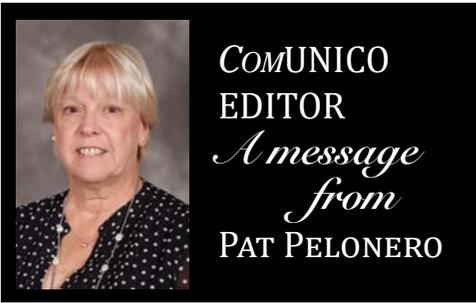
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are tax deductible.

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

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- For questions and/or Info Sheet Contact:
"Dr George", CEO at drgeorge@energy-group.com
www.energy-group.com/overall.htm



Spring is finally here! Although the winter was not too offensive, it is wonderful to welcome the spring season with all its newness and warmth.

UNICO National will have some newness of its own with a new Chapter in Kenilworth, NJ being added in June of this year. This is a first in a while and it is exciting to see a new chapter grow and become part of the UNICO National Organization. You will see a welcome letter shortly with all the de-

tails. Certainly if you can attend, that would be wonderful. However with logistics and scheduling sometimes that is not always possible. Please send a letter or note of congratulations to the new chapter and welcome them into the fold. It is important that they feel like they have joined a family not just another organization.

The scholarship program will be winding down now, again the online program seems to be working well for the students and the UNICO National Office. You will see the scholarship recipients announced around the first week of June. Joan Tidona the UNICO National Scholarship Director is doing a wonderful job for the Organization. There will be an addition of two new scholarships next year one for students studying to be a Special Needs Educator and one for Physical Therapy students. As Members, you can all be proud at the number of students

you assist with their financial needs pursuing their education.

During the first week in May, the chapters will receive their dues billing for 2019-2020. Remember that the first half of the dues are due by July 1, 2019. There is a grace period until July 15th but that is the last date dues will be accepted so that your delegates will be permitted to vote at the convention. Along with the dues there needs to be an election form filled out with the upcoming President, Officers and Delegates. The Districts are also required to submit an election form stating the District Governor, Deputies and Alternates. Please help the National Office by getting this information in as quickly as possible. There is a lot of preparation for the convention and compiling all that information takes time.

Please have a safe and happy spring until next issue!

Experienced

- ♦ 17-Year Member
- ♦ Past Chapter Secretary, Vice-President & President
- ♦ Current Board Member

Involved

- ♦ Columbus Day/Italian Mayor for the Day Emcee
- ♦ Local Fundraiser & Civic Affairs Chair
- ♦ CT/MA Meet the President Coordinator

Active

Past CT-I District Governor (3 Terms)

National Secretary (4 Terms)

National Membership & Retention Director (2 Terms)

Foundation Board Trustee (Since 2010)

Dedicated

- ♦ Public Relations & Historical Committee Chair
- ♦ Standardization, Mental Health, 100th Anniversary Commemorative & Torraco Food Bank/Shelter Committee Member



Francine Nido

Candidate for 2nd VP

UNICO National is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States, and we must continue with strong innovative leadership while embracing our traditions! Being an active member for 17 years, as you can see from my listed involvement, I can and will fulfill the role of National President in the year 2022 with hard work and authority to help UNICO remain a strong, positive, prestigious and influential organization. In order to stand alone and be a cut above the rest, we need to be recognized more as UNICO National, both in our local communities and nationwide!

Please consider voting for me this summer for 2nd Vice President. With your help, not only will I be a formidable leader, but I will also help bring UNICO to a more prominent national level with the publicity generated from our 100 years of service and the return of leadership to a native daughter of the Birthplace of UNICO. The time for me to serve is NOW, and this can only be done with your support. Join my Chapter, District, City and State to celebrate this accomplishment and make my dream and UNICO's dream a reality. Grazie!

Innovative

- ♦ Spokesperson for the Italian-American Community with various media platforms.
- ♦ Recognized by the CT Italian-American Legislators for promoting positive imagery of Italian-Americans in CT.
 - ♦ Honored by the Pontelandolfo Club for efforts in the Waterbury Area Italian-American Community.
 - ♦ Awarded by local Community Organizations for volunteer activities, community involvement and fundraising venture.

Skilled

- ♦ Over 25-years administrative experience in the non-profit, social service, civic arenas.
- ♦ Multi-faceted event planner, fundraising expert, grant-writer, marketing and public relations focusing on community engagement.

Diversified

Active in a number of community civic, social and religious organizations including the Waterbury Board of Police Commissioners, All Saints Parish Council, and Main Street Waterbury.



EXPANSION DIRECTOR
A message from
JOE NASELLO

I am proud to announce the new charter of the Kenilworth Chapter of UNICO. Carol Cascio will be the new incoming President. She is excited to take on this new role. I am also working on the Hackettstown Chapter of UNICO which hopefully we will be able to charter soon. I have a few leads in Arizona that I feel confident will turn into a future chapter. I have had a few meetings with my committee people. We have a total of about 16 leads that we are working on. My meeting at the Eastern Regional was well attended. I have also had a telephone conference meeting to get more help from the District Governors and Chapter Presidents. It is very important that we all work together. The National Office has been a great help and we are very lucky to have a great staff of hard working people.

Currently through emails and other contacts, I have gathered 16 leads which I am currently working on this year. I plan on having few more committee meetings. I asked several UNICO members to be on my committee which I feel can help me out as Expansion Director. We will be focusing on all the leads and other possible resources and ideas which the committee has. I also think it's time UNICO starts to merge a lot of the smaller chapters into other chapters in their area to make them stronger. Our committee will focus on the certain areas which they live in. Expansion is not a one person job. It takes all the members, Chapter Presidents and District Governors to help. I'll be sending emails and following up with phone calls. I also attend a lot of street fairs and other club events to help promote UNICO.

Please feel free to call or email me about any interested lead so that I can introduce myself. If anyone has any suggestions or concerns or would like to be on my committee, please let me know. It is important that we all work together and communicate with each other.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHP

The Rockaway Township Chapter is again very busy. This month we made a donation to Rose House in Cedar Knolls, NJ... which provides housing and vocational programs for developmentally disabled adults.

In addition, we were just honored at an event at the Interfaith Food Pantry in Morris Plains for our donations of food and money to help needy families in Morris County feed their children.

On March 23rd, we held a collection at the Shoprite in Wharton to collect more food and money for this cause.



L to R: Matt Mustachio, Chapter President; Lydia Dimarcantonio, Chapter VP; and Ralph Dimarcantonio, Chapter Exec VP.

BROOKHAVEN, NY

The Brookhaven Chapter had its annual "Valentine's Day - Unican Appreciation Dinner" meeting on February 13th, at which chapter Vice President Fred Gardaphe presented member Stephen Costa with the chapter's, "Unican of the Year" award.



L to R: Fred Gardaphe and Stephen Costa.

BELLEVILLE, NJ

Belleville UNICO celebrating the Epiphany aka 'La Befana' to those of us of Italian heritage. Great event at La Sicilia - We're looking forward to making it an Annual event for our members, family and friends.



MEMPHIS, TN

We had our annual Pizza with Santa for Madonna Learning Center, and with the help of Xerox Corporation were able to make a \$2,000 donation to help them continue expanding their technology outreach which is so essential to helping their students learn and to communicate with others.



Group photo with Madonna, UNICO, and Xerox.

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In Memoriam

JULIUS A. NIDO, JR.
1935 – 2019



“A Man who loved his family & friends”

Julius Angelo Nido Jr. passed away on January 28, 2019 with his devoted wife Carol (Bouffard) Nido by his side.

Julius was born on October 3, 1935 to the late Julius A. and Anna (Pera-zelli) Nido Sr. in Waterbury. Though he resided in the East End of Waterbury most of his life, “Julie” was very proud of his North End roots having grown up on Bronson Street and attended Bishop Street School, Driggs School and graduated from Crosby High School, class of 1954. After briefly attending Fairfield U on a baseball scholarship, he enlisted in the US Navy and was stationed on the Island of Cyprus as a Cryptologist, a position he held in high honor. He is an official Plank Owner of the USN Detachment American Consulate in Nicosia, Cyprus. While serving, he travelled extensively across the Medi-

terranean playing for the naval athletic teams. Upon his honorable discharge, he worked at Uniroyal before returning to school at Post College, earning his Associate’s Degree under the Veterans Program. As part of the Veterans Group, he testified before Congress in Washington DC to ensure educational benefits be granted for all veterans. He later joined the Army National Guard where he served as a Recruiter. He worked for Pratt & Whitney for 15 years. After his retirement, Jules worked for 9 seasons for the Energy Assistance Dept. of New Opportunities, Inc. – a job that he found so fulfilling.

A standout athlete, “Jules” had the propensity to master any sport he tried with his lone exception admittedly being golf. He spent many years playing for local baseball, softball, basketball and bowling teams. He worked for the Waterbury Reds Double-A Baseball Organization and truly enjoyed interacting with former and future baseball players. Hosting a minor league player who later pitched in the World Series (Les Straker) was the highlight of this time. He was an avid New York Yankees and UCONN Men’s and Women’s Basketball fan, scheduling family events around their television schedules. He always said, “I got the best seat in the house”.

He served as a Commissioner for the City of Waterbury Board of Parks, on the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Waterbury Alumni Reunion Committee. He was lifelong member of the Holy Name Society of the Shrine of

St. Anne where he was instrumental in the starting of bingo; he was a past member of St. Leo the Great Men’s Assn., St. Anne School Athletic Assn. and St. Anne Home & School Assn.

In addition to Carol, his wife of 51 years, Julius leaves to mourn his passing his only son - Christopher Julius Nido; his 5 daughters - Francine J. Nido of Waterbury, Brigitte and her husband David Aaronson of Waterbury, Elena and her husband David Angelino of Bluffton, SC, Angela and her husband Denis Jacques of New River, AZ and Terri Nido of Edgewood, WA; 15 grandchildren – who were his pride and joy – James Julius Nido, Savannah Nido and Christopher Julius Nido Jr.; Lucas and Gabriel Aaronson; Vincent, Alyssa and Anthony Angelino; Stephen and his wife Christine Russo, Christopher Russo, John and Jenniffer Burke; Harrison, Audrey and Joseph Angelo Hallowell; and one great-grandchild- Romeo Julius Russo. He is also survived by his in-laws: Lisa and her husband Ricky LaBonte, Rene Gagnon and Susan Steiner, Edward L. Bouffard and Naima Bouffard and many cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his only brother Raymond J. Nido, Sr., his first wife Marianne (Dantino), his brother-in-law Roger L. Bouffard and his great-granddaughter Gianna Marie Russo.

For more information or to leave online condolences, please visit www.maioranofuneralhome.com.

DELAWARE DISTRICT I

UNICO Delaware Fundraisers Offer Respite from “Winter Doldrums”!

The objective...to promote Italian culture, donate to local charities and to do so while having fun!

On January 17th the film “il Postino” in Italian with English subtitles was featured along with pizza, popcorn and other treats.

The annual “Pasta Challenge” on Feb 21st, highlighted four competitors vying for monetary prizes: Denise DiSabatino Allen, Mary Cappelli, Pam Notarangelo and George Scarpelli. Each entry was specially prepared and delicious. The winners were Mary Cappelli (1st place) and George Scarpelli (2nd place). While the votes were being tallied, attendees enjoyed a covered dish buffet and a lively “ITALIAN TRIVIA” game – in English-Italian themes – directed by president Ed Mason.

The 2nd Annual Carnevale hosted by the Delmarva Chapter was held at the Salt Pond Community Center in Bethany Beach on Saturday March 2nd. A delicious Italian buffet along with music and song by local artist Vince Varrassi contributed to the evening of delightful fellowship and nostalgia.

Before welcoming “SPRING”, UNICO will honor Saint Joseph with the traditional Saint Joseph’s Table, on March 19th, inviting food pantries and shelters to take non-perishable food and “Blessed Bread” to those in need. The Blessing of the Bread (il Pane di San Giuseppe) will take place after the 8:30 am Mass at Saint Edmond Church; the bread to be shared with those in attendance as well.

Most events are held at Saint Edmond Parish Hall in Rehoboth Beach. For more information about UNICO Delaware and up-coming programs contact unicondelawaredistrict1@gmail.com, unico.org, or the UNICO Rehoboth Area website.



Members and guests enjoy the Carnevale.



Members of both Delmarva and Rehoboth Area chapters join to enjoy the evening.



Pasta Challengers and local officers (L to R): Ed Mason, president; challengers: George Scarpelli, Denise DiSabatino Allen, Pam Notarangelo, and Mary Cappelli; Francesco (Ray) Cilea, Vice President.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

We are visiting St. Peter’s Orphanage in Denville and the Daytop Drug Rehabilitation facility in Chester this month to discuss making donations to each of them.. our August, our Annual Motorcycle Run will be made to provide a donation to St. Peter’s Orphanage in memory of Dan Bell (a past member).

We donated \$400 to the Rockaway Township PAL to help their Challenger Program for local developmentally disabled children and will attend a dinner they hold on April 6th.

Other things we’re currently involved with include: 1) our Scholarship Program being awarded in June to two local college bound students that successfully completed winning essays on “how their Italian heritage helped shape the person they have become”... 2) preparing for our Annual Beefsteak Dinner being held June 15th to provide donations to “Supplies for Soldiers” (a Veteran support group)... 3) our Annual Motorcycle Run for St. Peter’s Orphanage in August... 4) a Mystery Dinner Cruise around Lake Hopatcong this summer and 5) our Golf Outing for Autism in October.

FARMINGTON, CT

Farmington Chapter members, families and friends gathered at Casa Mia at The Hawthorne Inn for a Fat Tuesday Dinner. Looking forward to Spring and annual awards of grants and scholarships.



Frank Dolce recites a poem about Italian Family Traditions.



L to R: Mary Alexander, Leah Marcello, Ginny Mugavero.

WAYNE, NJ

We held a collection effort around Christmas time to deliver toys to a local hospital, Chilton Medical Center in Pompton Plains, NJ. The toys were welcomed and both the staff and children were very happy.



Several of our members – Connie Ferrigno, Joe Zisa, Frank Nicolario – with some of the staff as we delivered the toys.

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

The Hillsborough Chapter of UNICO held a Festa di San Giuseppe dinner on March 12, 2019 to benefit the Hillsborough Community Assistance Network (CAN). Held at Caffe Piazza Restaurant, 649 Route 206, Hillsborough, NJ, this event had many Italian specialties for all the attendees and the benediction and blessing of fava beans was done by Father John Rozembajgier of Mary Mother of God RC Church in Hillsborough. It was the most attended St. Joseph's day event since the beginning of the chapter ten years ago and had the most food donated by attendees. Live Italian music was enjoyed by all. For more information about Hillsborough UNICO and if interested in joining our chapter please view our website at HillsboroughUNICO.com.



L to R: Hillsborough Community Assistance Network (CAN) reps Marcy Palinkas, Bob Wagner and Eva Hewitt, President Nate Santaromita, VP Anthony Ferrera.



Left: Group picture. Right: (L to R): VP Anthony Ferrera, President Nathaniel Santaromita



Group picture.

WILKES BARRE, PA

Wilkes Barre Chapter recently held its annual Pig Roast.



Chapter President Carmen Magistro and Father Grippie.



L to R: Guest; Chapter VP Angela Sperrazza; Chapter Past President David Fusco; member Rick Rynkiewicz; Chapter past Present and event chair Danny Fusco.



Chapter President Carmen Magistro; National President Lee Norelli; Executive VP Dr. Frank DeFrank.



Chapter VP Attorney Angela Sperrazza; Chapter Past Present Leo Sperrazza; Lu-Ann Sperrazza; Dr. Frank Sperrazza.



Chapter members Meredith and Rick Rynkiewicz and guests.



Members of the Scranton Chapter.

MEMPHIS, TN

We had our annual Trivia night in February which is always one of the easiest and most enjoyable fundraisers we do each year. The winners only missed 2 out of 100 questions. Turns out one of their team members will be appearing on Jeopardy in April. It was very impressive. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Nashville at the Convention in July!



Shara Krag and Kerry Krag.



Winning Team (L to R): Laurie Snyder, Brian Craig, Lori Lipscomb, Verlinda Henning, Mark Lee, and Ed Zeno.

ST. JOES MONTVALE, NJ

Later in the month, our ACES prepared and collected 150 trays of frozen ziti to feed needy families at Fr. English House and Straight and Narrow (both in Paterson, NJ).



MEMPHIS, TN

Memphis has been very busy this year. We continue to work on completing the Columbus Statue relocation. Finally, names are being engraved.



L to R: Ron Giometti, Mikey Spano, Michael Spano, Jack Conway, Robert Raiteri, Mike Whitefield.



L to R: Alexis Spano, Courtney Spano, Aubrey Harmon, Linda Spano, Regina Giometti.

WAYNE, NJ

Our chapter started the planning process for our events this year, and so far, we have the following events planned. To our fellow UNICO Chapters, please consider joining us if you are local, you are always welcome! Our Spring Event is currently in the works, we are still narrowing down the date, but this is one of our primary fundraising efforts throughout the year. Although a few months off, in September, we are hosting two great events. First, on September 8th, we will once again host a Car Show, which will be at the Wayne Township Municipal Building. We had a great showing at our first show, and expect this one to be quite large. Several of our members have classic cars, so this seemed like a great idea to have some fun, raise awareness for our Chapter, and of course, raise money for our general fundraising efforts.

Also in September is our annual Golf Outing. This year it will be held at Black Bear Golf Club in Franklin, NJ on Monday, September 16th. Some other fundraising efforts going on this year, we plan to organize canned food collection events at local supermarkets, clothing drives, and a Calendar contest. We will share information about these events in future issues.

COMUNICO RULES AND GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

FARMINGTON, CT

New Members

We welcome new members Joe Petrone, Bob Fiondella Sr., Al Turco and Rocco Mancini.



L to R: Joe Petrone, Bob Fiondella, Sr., Pres. Bob Fiondella, Al Turco.

AVON, CT



CT District II Governor, Marc Ingriselli swearing in Avon's newest member Atty. Tom Gugliotti, Avon chapter president Jim Fanelli to the far right.

MONTVILLE, NJ

Montville Chapter swears in new member, Anthony Coppola.



Membership Committee chair Diane Markley assists Chapter President Larry Casha administer the oath to new member Anthony Coppola at the Chapter's January meeting.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

The Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO celebrated their annual Christmas Party/ Meeting on Monday, December 10, 2018 at Mezzanotte Restaurant in Fairlawn, NJ. All enjoyed a great dinner with wonderful camaraderie. It was a great turnout, and all the members donated toys to the "TOYS FOR TOTS" program sponsored by the US Marine Corps as we do each year.



ONE VOICE COALITION



One Voice Coalition Meeting L to R: Mike Sisco, Paul Alongi, Dominick Nicastro, Sal Ingallina, Manny Alfano and Gene Antonio.

PEQUANNOCK, NJ

Pequannock UNICO Continues Holiday Donations

Since the inception of Pequannock UNICO in 1988, hundreds of people, organizations, and individual charities have been the recipients of our Chapter's Fundraising efforts which total in excess of over \$350,000. Each year, Pequannock UNICO Charities donate thousands of dollars to those in need in our surrounding communities as well as educational scholarships for our students and grants for other service organizations.

This past Holiday season, Pequannock Unico was busy again supporting the local food banks, missions, and churches and were seen at multiple venues delivering their donations personally.

More information about Pequannock UNICO can be found at pequannockunico.org



Seen here is Pequannock Unico Secretary, Anna Louise Dianuzzo presenting a check for \$1500 donation to the Holy Spirit Food Pantry to Father David Monteleone. L to R: Ann Dianuzzo Pequannock Unico Service above Self Chairperson, recipient Rose Phalon, of Quilting for a Cause NJ, Rose's husband Joe Phalon, and Pequannock Unico President Chuck Cavadini.

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CARBONDALE, PA

Donations

The Carbondale Public Library, Shade Tree Commission, Historical Society and Pioneer Nights Festival are recipients of donations from the Carbondale Chapter.



Carbondale Chapter members present donations of athletic shoes to the Carbondale Elementary School. L-R: Gabrielle Pidgeon, guidance; Linda Gabriel, member; Debbie Perri, school nurse; Angel Masco, member; and William Vaverchak, elementary school principal.



Local office of Catholic Social Services receives gift cards for families in need. L-R: Michele Santana, CSS manager; Mary Lynn Brannon, member; and Linda Gabriel, member.



Carbondale Area High School Receives Donation of School Uniforms. L-R: Angel Masco, member; Joseph Farrell, principal; student representatives, Linda Gabriel member, Samantha Masco and Megan Ruggiero teachers, and Robert Mehalick superintendent.



Chapter President Terri Pettinato, along with the committee, present checks to representatives from the Carbondale Public Library and the Carbondale Shade Tree Commission. L-R: Angel Masco, Lena Graziano, Patty Calabro, Marie Zaccone, Public Library Director; Pettinato; Maria Lawler, Shade Tree Commission; Mary Monahan, Mary Lynn Brannon, Patricia Morrell, and Linda Gabriel.

SCRANTON, PA

Scranton Chapter, UNICO National, through proceeds they raised from the 7th Annual Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Memorial Race, hosted 300 children.



(L-R): Pat Yanni, Clarence Lamanna, Danny Lovallo, Tony Summa, Bob Montalbano, Billy Bott, Mike Rescigno, Steve Andrichak, Leslie Minicozzi Galacci, Chairwoman; Melanie Naro, UNICO Scranton President, Nancy Lovallo, Josephine Fratamico, Mary Marrara, Nora Hinkley, Palma Yanni, Dr. Clarice Zaydon and Mary Rose Spano



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

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Deadline for July issue is June 3rd**
- **990 IRS Filing**
- **Dues Payments**
- **Chapter Reports**
- **District Reports**
- **Register for Convention**

QUEENSBORO, NY

Queensboro UNICO Donates to Gary Sinese Foundation

On Sunday, Feb. 10th, members of Queensboro UNICO had the privilege of presenting a check to Gary Sinese for The Gary Sinese Foundation. The meeting was held at Friends of Firefighters Hall in Brooklyn, NY. As part of his tireless effort in helping Veterans and First Responders, Dan Prince, an active member of Queensboro UNICO, arranged for us to personally meet with Mr. Sinese to present him with the check for over \$11,000 which was the money raised at Queensboro UNICO's Annual Cigar Night, held every Sept. at Giando on the Water. Mr. Sinese was in town to promote his new book "Grateful American". He was very appreciative of our donation and assured us it will be put to good use.

Dan Prince is also the recipient of this year's UNICO National Americanism Award. To read more about the work of the Gary Sinese Foundation, visit his website, www.garysinesefoundation.org. If you are interested in attending this year's Queensboro Unico Cigar Night, contact frankfabrico137@gmail.com.



L to R: Dan Prince, Enrico Boletti, Michael Mucaria, Frank Fabrico, Gary Sinese, Sal Tomaselli and Gaspare Mistretta.



Save the Date!

Coccia Foundation's 18th Annual Italian Studies Golf Classic

WHERE: Join the Italian enthusiasts on the green at the prestigious White Beeches Golf and Country Club

WHEN: Monday, June 24th, 2019

Breakfast, lunch, dinner, open bar and dolci are included in your registration. In addition, enter the putting contest for a cash prize; First, Second and Third place golf awards will be announced at the Awards Dinner and there are raffle prizes and a Super 50-50! Singles, twosomes, threesomes - all are welcomed!

100% of all funds raised will go toward Study Abroad Scholarships to Italy to worthy students who major or minor in Italian Studies.

TITLE SPONSOR:



AWARDS DINNER SPONSOR:



Visit the Facebook page for more details in the 2019 golf brochure. To make a reservation to golf or attend the dinner portion of this event, contact Elisa Coccia at elisacoccia@cocciafoundation.org. Register with a credit card prior to May 1st and receive a free putt ticket (value \$20.00). Sponsorship opportunities are open - contact Joseph Coccia III at josephcoccia3@cocciafoundation.org.



CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO celebrated the feast of St. Joseph by holding dinner at Café Gallo complete with all the Italian traditions of the La Tavola di San Giuseppe – St. Joseph’s Table. Tradition has it, centuries ago, villagers prayed to Saint Joseph during a famine in Sicily. After the dreadful famine ended they held a feast of Thanksgiving to commemorate the saint thus starting the celebration of this tradition. At the Clark celebration, a five course meal was prepared by the chef’s at Café Gallo complete with Fava beans, antipasto, symbolic breads, pastas and of course the famous St. Josephs zeppole.



AVON, CT

Avon UNICO gives \$70,000 to the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center, from proceeds from their annual dance! Fourteen National officers generally attend this event each year, this year’s date was April 6, 2019!



SCRANTON, PA

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



Front row from left are: 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, PA

Keystone UNICO celebrated St. Valentine’s Day with their Annual Valentine Social. Guests were invited to participate in the Kissing Booth Analyzer, which gave each guest a synopsis of their personality based on the imprint of their kiss. Of course, ALL attained a positive personality rating. After a scrumptious Buffet Dinner three volunteer couples participated in the Keystone UNICO version of the “Newly Wed Game”. Alas, only one couple could win, but great fun was had by ALL!



Some of the participants with the Kissing Booth Analyzer are Toni DiVizio, Chapter President Nanine Gramigna, Cathy Gerard and Michele McDade.



Contestants in the Keystone UNICO “Newly Wed Game” seated from left are Peter and Sallie Noto, Eileen and Bob Kovatch and Nanine and Mike Gramigna.



The winning couple in the Keystone UNICO “Newly Wed Game” is Bob and Eileen Kovatch center with Keystone Program Director Marge Ruggiero on the left and Game MC Sylvia Tagert on their right.

NUTLEY, NJ



Nutley, NJ annual raffle co-chairs Mark DiMaggio and Tom Sposato with chapter President Sal Ferraro.



Dan and Cathy Marucci from the Nutley, NJ Chapter with the February meeting speaker, Ornella Fado, from the TV show Brindiamo.



Nutley, NJ Chapter Christmas Party Chair, Debbie Bellucci (standing) with Mario Cocchiola (standing) and Alan Genitempo, Nutley Mayor Dr. Joseph Scarpelli, Carmen D'Aloia and Lynne Jacks (seated).

The Deadline for the July 2019 issue of ComUNICO:
MONDAY, JUNE 3RD
 Please send all submissions to:
comUNICO@UNICO.org

WESTFIELD, NJ



Enjoying a few moments at the Scranton Chapter's Charity Ball at Genetti's on Feb 23, 2019. L to R: PNP Joe Agresti; PNP Rich D'Arminio; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Columbus Chairman Ralph Contini.

ORANGE W/ ORANGE, NJ

Orange/West Orange UNICO Announces Scholarship Opportunities

The Orange/West Orange UNICO Chapter has announced that it will award seven scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 to students of West Orange High School (WOHS) and West Orange residents attending Seton Hall Prep as well as an Italian Language Award in the amount of \$500 to one student at each school.

Scholarships are open to all students regardless of race, creed or ethnic origin.

Four general scholarships, to be awarded to any student attending a four-year academic college or university, include the Anthony & Flora Gonnella, Vecchio Family, Frank Franklin and the William Martini Scholarships. Three scholarships that are unique and specific to WOHS include the AFJROTC Scholarship, Virtual Enterprise International (VEI) Program Scholarship and the Automotive Technology Scholarship.

To obtain an application, contact Lisa Wnek at the WOHS Counseling Department or Barbara Farley at the Seton Hall College Placement Department. Contact UNICO's scholarship chair, Frank Gonnella, at fvgonnella@gmail.com with any additional questions.

HAZLETON, PA



Our own Nick Pane playing in an Italian tradition of Fingers in a local tournament to help raise money for C.H.I.P.S. Always helping our community!

In addition, UNICO National will award nearly \$100,000 in scholarships this year to undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate students for the 2019-2020 academic year. Areas of study include medicine, engineering, nursing, fine arts, literature, Italian studies, general graduate studies and undergraduate studies. Applications for these scholarship can be found on the UNICO National Website.

The Orange/WestOrange Unico Chapter has offered to sponsor those who apply and encourages those interested to check the specific requirements each scholarship, as many are open to all students regardless of their ethnic background.



West Orange UNICO Establishes New VE International Scholarship for West Orange High School students.

WEST ESSEX, NJ

On Wednesday, February 6, 2019, the West Essex Chapter swore in another new member.



L to R: Chapter President Dr. Frank Greco, new member Eleanor Veteri, and UNICO National 1st VP Steve Pelonero who performed the swearing in ceremony.

NJ DISTRICT VII

District Seven supports the 2019 Convention fundraiser.



L to R: 1st Deputy District Gov. Guy Di Napoli, Exec. Vice President Dr. Frank DeFrank, and District Gov. Bob Montanino.

PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ

At our March Chapter Meeting, we were honored to have our member Evelyn Tosi's grandson, Sgt. Ed Moore, who served in Iraq, as our guest.



Our Chapter President Carmen Gaita exchanging gifts with Sgt. Moore. Thank you for your service.

LIVINGSTON, NJ

Pres. Kevin Francione, Domenick Romano, and Sec. Lauren Cherney present a donation from Livingston Chapter to the Special Olympics. Our guest from West Essex HS, Domenick proudly shared his experiences and his many medals with us.



L to R: Pres. Kevin Francione, Domenick Romano, and Sec. Lauren Cherney.

ST. JOES MONTVALE, NJ

In November our new Chapter President, Frank Masella, our new ACES board for 2018-2019 school year and our new members were installed by our past Chapter President Robert Kievit.



FARMINGTON, CT

Our members generously donated gifts for families at Klingberg Family Center in New Britain, CT.



L to R: Pres. Bob Fiondella, Rocco Mancini.

AVON, CT



Avon UNICO donates \$1000 to the WTIC Salvation Army Holiday store. On air talking about UNICO, Dr. Doug Hope, Dr. Joe Pavano, President Jim Fanelli.

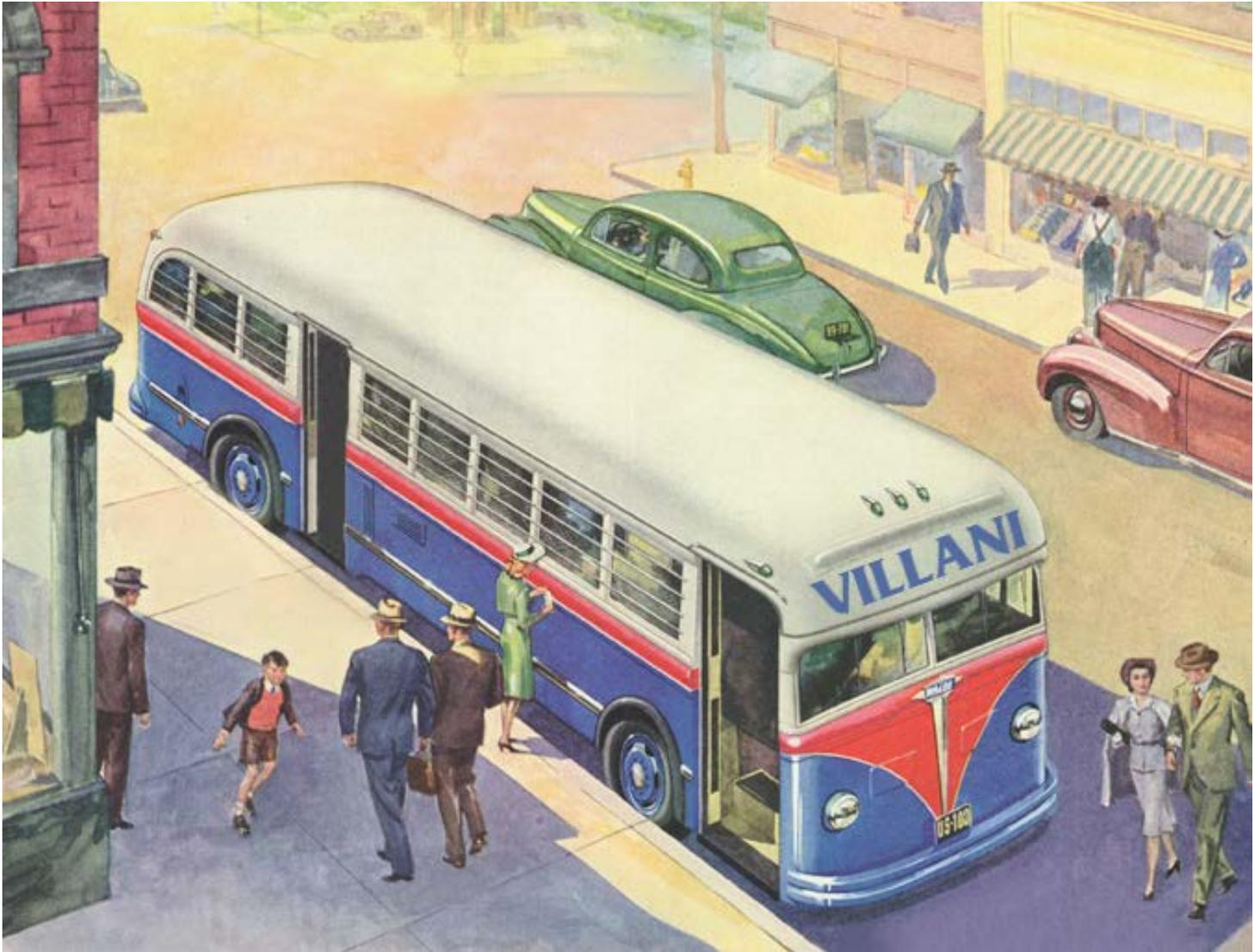
PLAINFIELD, NJ

The Plainfield Chapter of UNICO made a special scholarship presentation at their monthly meeting for college student Mary Abate, who is a freshman at Rider University. Mary was a graduate of South Plainfield High School in June 2018.



L to R: Joe Abate, Lisa Abate (parents of Scholarship Recipient Mary Abate), and to her right is Robert Bengivenga, President of the Plainfields Chapter of UNICO National.

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ST. JOES MONTVALE, NJ

For Halloween under the direction of Deacon Joe Sisco, our ACES delivered candy and cheer to residents at the Paramus Veteran's Home, Woodcliff Manor Nursing Home and Sunrise Assisted Living. They also ran a Halloween program for young students at St. Peter's Elementary School in Belleville as well as a small after school fundraiser snack sale.



SOLANO, CA

Chapter member Bill LaBar is being honored for his twenty-five years of devoted service to the chapter.



Original chapter member Bill LaBar, (R) accepts plaque from chapter president Nick DeLisa.

WATERBURY

PDG Dr. Joseph Pavano (CTII), DG Dr. Al Fusco (CT1), PNP Tom Vaughan, and DG Wayne Ditore (MAII) were on hand to support National Secretary Francine Nido who served as Event Chair for the Waterbury UNICO Italian Corned Beef Dinner on March 13th. Over 500 people feasted on a full Corned Beef Dinner and yummy Pasta e Fagioli. Traditional St. Joseph's Day Zeppoles were sold as well. Proceeds from the event benefits local projects and scholarships.



SPARTA, NJ

My Thanks to the Sparta UNICO Members who marched in the Newton 2019 St. Patrick's Day Parade accompanied with Sandy Andrade who heads the local Girl Scouts Troop that has helped out Sparta Chapter in many ways. The day was filled with hundreds of groups from local Irish Bag pipers, farmers and organizations who help to make Sussex County a Great Place to Live!



KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone Chapter is putting together a first time Senior High School Chorus Competition for Lackawanna County High Schools.



The events committee: (seated from L to R): Cathy Gerard, Toni DiVizio, Co-chair; Michele McDade, Chairman; and President Nanine Gramigna. Standing from L to R: Louise Ligi, Marge Ruggiero, Peter Noto and Valerie Riggi.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



Rutherford UNICO members prepare for Kip Center Senior Spaghetti Luncheon.



Almost ready!



Andreas Preinfalk, Grandson of PDG Nick Iocca, entertains guests at the Rutherford Chapter Spaghetti Dinner.

UNION, NJ



Union Township Chapter President Joseph Almeida inducted new member Allen P. Insabella (right).

CARBONDALE, PA

Celebrating St. Joseph's Feast Day

The chapter members gather around the traditional table to Celebrate La Festa Di San Giuseppe. The event included the blessing of the St. Joseph bread by Father Seth Wasnock and eating a meatless meal to give thanks to St. Joseph for saving the people of Sicily from famine during the Middle Ages.



Mary Ann Kearney (seated, middle right) chair of Italian Language and Culture committee, plans this annual event.

PITTSFIELD, MA

New Member

On January 21, 2019 the Pittsfield Chapter of UNICO National installed Wendy Aiken as a new member. She joins the other 108 active members who continue to fulfill the national UNICO mission of "service above self". Wendy and the other members are looking forward to an active spring including our Wine Tasting and Scholarship Awards.



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BLOOMFIELD, NJ

50's Dance Night

The Bloomfield Chapter Rock 'n' Rolled on February 23rd at their first "50's Dance" held at Saint Thomas' Heron Hall in Bloomfield . . . Oh What a Night it Was!

The 185 attendees danced the night away to their favorite 50's songs provided by DJ "1st Kiss". It was a night filled with nostalgia.

The Saint Thomas Holy Name Society announced their "Man of Year" which added to the excitement of the evening. A special thanks to our committee who organized a great night out for family members and friends of the chapter and to the Saint Thomas Youth Group who assisted the committee.



Michael Sisco, President with 50's Pink Ladies.

PLAINFIELD, NJ

Plainfields UNICO President Bob Bengivenga (Left) and UNICO National Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga congratulate Plainfields' UNICO member Rob Bengivenga on his induction into a record 5th term on the South Plainfield, NJ town council. This will mark Rob's 13th year as a councilman, something no one in the past has ever achieved in South Plainfield.

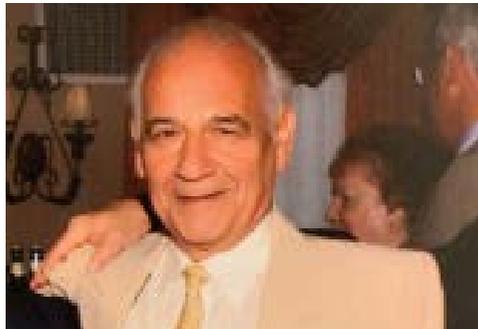


MEDIA, PA

The UNICO Media Chapter has lost a great man, Carmen T. Iuliano, age 86, of Glen Mills, PA, a former 55-year resident of Upper Darby, PA, passed away on January 23, 2019.

Carmen is survived by his wife, Joan Iuliano (nee Blythe), his children Thomas, Lawrence and Michael Iuliano (Janis) and Tina Cwikla (Tony Cordingley), his stepchildren Michael Martin (Debbie) and Joseph Martin. He also survived by his grandchildren Thomas, Nicholas, Lawrence, Samantha, Angel, Kevin, Amber (Keith), Kellie, Joey and Bailey and his great-grandchildren AJ, Callie, Rorey and Mya.

Carmen joined the Unico Media Chapter in 1978. At the meetings he loved telling stories of his latest trip to Happy Valley to watch favorite college football team Penn State. Carmen was always there for all that know him and was a true gentlemen. He was loved by his family, friends and just about everyone that knew him.



From all of us at UNICO Media Chapter we love you and will miss you.

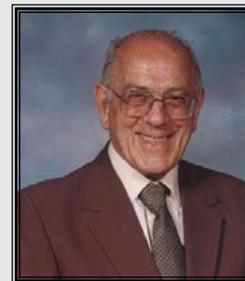
CARBONDALE, PA



ACES Member, Gianna Arnese receives her pin by Terri Pettinato president, as her grandfather, member Jerry Arnese, proudly stands by her side.

In Memoriam

**ROCCO DISTEFANO
1925 - 2019**



Rocco DiStefano, age 94, of Saddle Brook passed on January 24, 2019. He is predeceased in life by his wife Antoinette. Beloved father to his four daughters Anne Brauer and late husband Robert, the late Lorraine DiStefano, Lisa Sturdy and husband Vincent, and Maria Faustina and husband Mark. Rocco cherished his eight grandchildren, Brian, the late Michelle, Anthony, Angela, Ashley, Vincent, the late Shawn, and Alyssa, and his eight great grandchildren Mitchell, Matt, Chris, Ryan, Lacey, Anthony, Michelle, and Autumn, and many other beloved family members.

Rocco was a member of the Arcola Methodist Church, as well as a charter member of Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO. During his 52 years of membership, he served as Chapter President for five terms and District Governor of New Jersey District VII, for one term. He received the Cianci Humanitarian Award from UNICO National. He truly lived the motto of UNICO National, "Service Above Self". He will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were at Kugler Community Home For Funerals 311 Fifth St. Saddle Brook, on Friday February 8, 2019. Services were performed on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 10 AM. Entombment followed at George Washington Memorial Park, Paramus, NJ.

Condolences can be sent to the family at:
The DiStefano Family
c/o Mrs. Lisa Sturdy
302 Schepis Avenue
Saddle Brook, NJ 07663

KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone Chapter Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd at Sand Springs in Drums, PA. This year we are partnering with Saint Mary's Villa. Look for us on the UNICO National Calendar.



Seated from L to R: Adeline Rocco, Director of Mission at St. Mary's Villa Nursing Home; Val Riggi, Keystone UNICO Golf Tournament Chairman; Nanine Gramigna, Keystone Chapter President; and Mark McDade, committee. Standing from L to R: Bob Kovatch, Peter Noto, Mike Gramigna and Ray Tropeano, Committee; and Dave Leonori, Marketing Director at St. Mary's Villa.

NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley, NJ Chapter has seen an increase in membership to 149 members. Those sworn in at the February monthly meeting were Marta Cirelli-Kuebler and Richard Rubino. The January meeting was chaired by past-president Phyllis Coldebella. The guest speaker was member Dan Geltrude, a financial consultant and frequent guest on the Neil Cavuto TV show, who is also known for his work with Melanoma prevention in memory of his dad, Mike Geltrude, a chapter member who passed due to this disease. Our February meeting was chaired by past-president Tom Sposato. Guest speaker was Ornella Fado, the creator, hostess, writer and producer of the TV show, Brindiamo, which promotes Italian food, culture and life style as she meets with real chefs in their kitchens. Also in attendance were National President Lee Norelli and Al Focarino. The meeting was highlighted by the drawing of the winners of the annual \$100 per ticket raffle. All 325 tickets were sold and first prize went to Bob Montano & Family, 2nd prize to Corrado

Giancaspro, third prize to Dan Cocco and 4th prize to Alex Borgess.

Committees: Nominees for Chapter Awards (Unican of the Year and Lifetime Achievement) are being reviewed by the Awards committee. The Nominating Committee is working on nominating officers for the 2019-20 year. The Scholarship Committee met in March to select this year's recipients. In 2018 the Chapter presented over \$35,000 in scholarships. The Piccolo Scholarship Committee also met to select its male and female recipients for this year. The annual Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast is scheduled for May 19. The guest speaker is Carol Blazejowski, former President and General Manager of the NY Liberty of the Women's National BKB Assoc. She was a Hall of Fame player at Montclair St. University, led the nation in scoring in 1976-77 and holds the collegiate record for either sex at Madison Square Garden scoring 52 points in a game. She was enshrined into the National Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUEST FORM

From: Dr. Frank DeFrank - Executive Vice President

Dedicated members who are interested in serving on UNICO national committees should complete the form at the right as we are beginning the process early in order to have a complete listing soon after the 97th Convention.

To facilitate this process please return this form by **June 3, 2019** to:

UNICO National
Attn: Lee Norelli
271 U.S. Hwy 46 West
Suite F-103
Fairfield, NJ 07004

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

Yes, I am interested in becoming a committee member!

NAME: (please print) _____

CHAPTER _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

1. Committee _____
2. Committee _____
3. Committee _____
4. Committee _____

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS JANUARY, FEBRUARY, & MARCH



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.

BRICK
Marie Brennan

CLARK
Louis F. Arcuri

DELMARVA
Dominic F. Caruso
Elvira Caruso

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY
Daniel Fedeli
Gabriel Romano
Frank J. Sortino III

GREATER TAMPA BAY
Geraldine Lemen

GREATER WESTFIELD
Myriam Restrepo

HACKENSACK
Angelo D Arminio Jr.
John Fedele
Joseph A. Martucci III
John A. Motta
Donald Roman Dr.

HAZLETON
Joann Leone
Lauren Sacco

HIGHLAND BEACH
Marcella Brideru
Carl Labruna
Michael Marcisak
Elaine Santowasso
Kimberly Sciarretta
Steven Sciarretta
Millie Seda-Marcisak

ISLIP/SMITHTOWN
Chet Budhwa
Maria Budhwa
Robert Prendimano
Maria Prendimano
Marie Sabini
John Sabini
Jennifer Budhwa
Alexa Speciale

MONTCLAIR
Frank Mondsini Jr.
Sandra Guaspari Rosenthal

MONTVILLE
Donna D'Alessio

NORTH SHORE
Kyle Sadis

NUTLEY
Mike Gerbino
Marta Cirilli Kuebler
Richard Rubino
Frank Turano Jr.

ORANGE / W ORANGE
Richard Campanella
Sally Gorman Campanella
Enrico A. Stefanelli

PITTSFIELD
Wendy Aitken
Ronald Q. Patti

QUEENSBORO
Albert Malafronte

RUTHERFORD
Patrick A. O'Boyle, Esq.
Anthony J. O'Boyle, Esq.

ST. JOES HS MONTVALE
Zyrus Hernandez
Michael Mazzei

STAMFORD
Rick Andrew Corbo Sr.
Paul Fanelli
James Sarnelle, MD

TORRINGTON
Annamarie Pagano Corrolo
Lisa Shimels

UNION
Allen P. Insabella

VERONA
Leonard Andriuzzi
Jeanne Andriuzzi
Kimberly Maziarz Carlucci DC
Eileen Lombardi
Gail Pisciotta
Cosette Anelle Russo
Lela Salamat Taghavi
Frank S. Zarro Jr.

WAYNE
Michael D'Aloia
Chris Lorah

WEST SPRINGFIELD
Jacob Balboni

WETHERSFIELD
Jason Amenta
Michele Leconche
Antoinette Marie Munoz
Susan Oades
Robert Pascale

WILKES BARRE
Meredith Rynkiewicz

*The Deadline for the
July 2019 issue of ComUNICO:*

MONDAY, JUNE 3RD

*Please send all submissions to:
comUNICO@UNICO.org*

FOOD BANK AND SHELTER GRANT APPLICATIONS

Available through the National Office. Deadlines for consideration are 60 days before either the Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting or the Annual Convention.

UNION, NJ

At their December meeting, the Union Chapter donated toys to the “Santa in Blue Toy Drive”. The Township of Union Police Department has been collecting toys for local families in need for 21 years. Extra toys are also given to children in disaster areas or children with serious health issues.



NUTLEY, NJ



Attending the Nutley, NJ Feb. dinner meeting were Alan Focarino, Past District VII Governor; Dist. VII Governor Bob Montanino; Chapter President Sal Ferraro; and National President Lee Norelli.



Nutley, NJ chapter new members Marta Cirelli-Kuebler and Richard Rubino were sworn in at the Feb. dinner meeting by National President Lee Norelli along with Chapter President Sal Ferraro.

Italian Children's Market



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NJ DISTRICT X

NJ District X at Mid-Year

NJ District X members and officers congratulate the 2019 Marconi Science Award Recipient Federico Capasso, at the UNICO National Mid-Year Board Gala in Orlando Florida on Saturday March 2, 2019.



L to R: PNP Dr Ann Walko; Marconi Award Recipient Federico Capasso; Plainfields Chapter V.P. Santi Buscemi; NJ District X Governor Geri Samuel; Past ERDG Bob Tarte; Paola Capasso.

MANCHESTER, CT

President Peter Miller and Golf Tournament Chair Jay Smith attend a construction ceremony at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Farmington, CT for the new Infusion Center underway which will open in April 2019. They signed the construction steel girder as “Manchester UNICO” to be preserved through the life of the building. Some of the proceeds from our annual golf tournament were donated to help develop this center.



BRIDGEPORT, CT CHAPTER 90TH ANNIVERSARY



Left: Ilene Ianiello, Deacons' Wives Ministries representative, Chapter donation recipient.

Right: Vince Santilli, CEO Homes for the Brave, Chapter donation recipient.



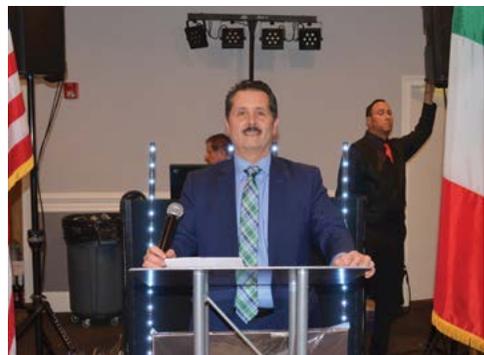
Mario Bartoli, VP; Donna Viselli & Anna Rodrigues, Event Chairs; Perry Vincenzi, Chapter President.



Bpt Chapter Officers Mario Bartoli, VP, & Perry Vincenzi, Pres.; Lee Norelli, National President with Anniversary Print.



Bpt Chapter Officers from L to R - Front row: Mario, Perry, & Joseph Vincenzi, Secretary. Back row: Dan Ianiello, Chaplain; Gino Venditti, Sgt-of-Arms; Lee, Anthony Tucci, Treasurer; Len LaSalandra, VP.



Perry Vincenzi, Chapter President, and Shelton, CT Mayor Mark Lauretti.



Joseph Ganim, Bridgeport Mayor; Perry Vincenzi, Chapter President, and Lee Norelli, National President.



Perry Vincenzi, National Officers and Len LaSalandra.



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Don't know what to buy your favorite UNICAN. Why not get him or her something from the UNICO Store. The store sells a wide variety of UNICO merchandise: long and short sleeved polo shirts for men and women, denim and oxford shirts for men and women, baseball caps, knit caps, scarves, ties, membership pins, sweatshirts, windshirts, bibs for babies, flag sets, golf towels AND the new UNICO THROW BLANKET (proudly made in the USA) which benefits the National Scholarship Fund. To place an order, contact either the

National office or

Lou and Celeste Pandolfi at lpandolfi@verizon.net or 201-368-2409.

UNICO NATIONAL & THE NJ DEVILS



NORTH SHORE, L.I., NY

On Wednesday, January 16, 2018, The North Shore Long Island Chapter installed new member Kyle Sadis, grandson of never forgotten UNICO NSLI chapter member, Joseph Leto and nephew, of our First V.P. Patricia Stake. Kyle is a wonderful addition to our UNICO family and we are delighted to have him as part of The North Shore Long Island Chapter! Welcome Kyle!



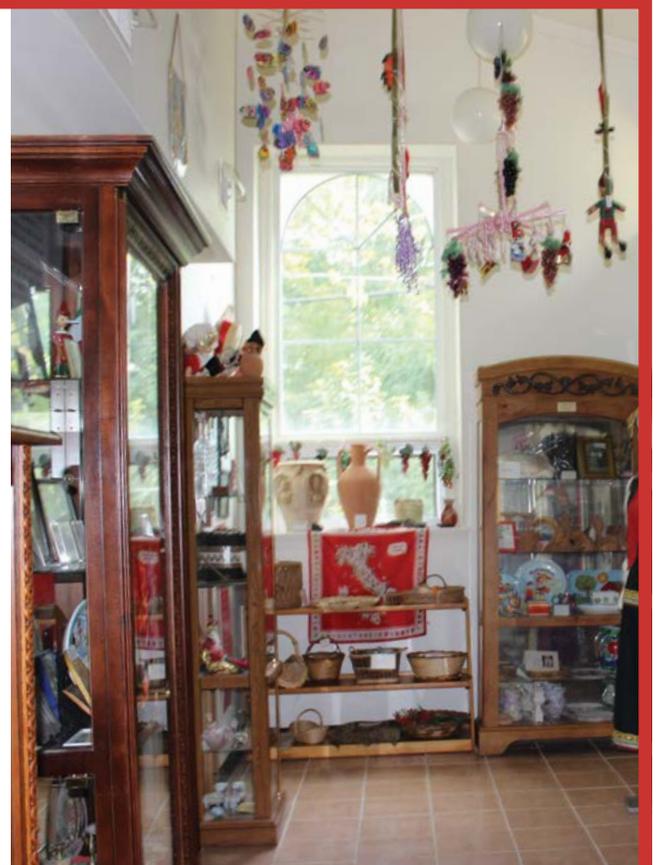
L to R: North Shore Long Island Chapter President Robert Di Rico, Kyle Sadis and Chapter past president, Jason Nappi.

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



GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The Greater Binghamton NY chapter steadily moves forward using the monthly dinner meetings not only to bring its members together for a festive Italian dinner but to enrich their intellectual hunger as well with guest speakers on a range of topics. The chapter also has monthly themed donations to area charities. The first quarter of 2019 is especially noted for having Antonio Gobbom from Little Italy Endicott and Michael Maione from a startup company named Agzeit, focused on indoor farming of leafy greens including lemon and Thai basil. Charities included the Pajama Project, Binghamton University Pantry and the Literacy Legacy Program.



L to R: Lorraine Rogers and Gerry Docteur Binghamton University Pantry Donations.



L to R: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Maione of Agzeit.



L to R: Antonio Gobbo and President Michael Marinaccio.

WESTFIELD, NJ



At the Mid Year Board Meeting in Orlando Florida. Plainfields' Chapter President Bob Bengivenga (Left) and Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga after thanking two distinguished Air Force officers at the hotel lobby.

SCRANTON, PA

The Scranton Chapter UNICO National inducted two new members at the first meeting of the year held at the Victor Alfieri Society.



L to R: Chris DiMattio, installing officer and past national president; Joanne Quattrone, sponsor; Gayle DeAntona, sponsor; Janet DeAndrea, new member; Al Masi, new member; Frank Gervasi, sponsor and Melanie Naro Chapter President.

TORRINGTON, NJ

On March 14, 2019, the Torrington Historical Society and the Torrington Chapter of UNICO National sponsored a workshop on researching Italian Heritage at St. Peter Church Hall in Torrington, CT. The workshop was conducted by Alessandro Bovino, President and CEO of Bella Italia Genealogy, who was visiting the US from Benevento, Campania, Italy. This Italian Genealogy Workshop was free to all Italian Americans and others who are interested in researching their Italian heritage. Approximately 140 people attended the workshop that evening and included attendees from five other UNICO chapters in Connecticut. The event was streamed live on Facebook with people listening in from as far away as Michigan. The evening is considered to be a resounding success. The workshop highlights included:

- A history of Italians in America
- What you need to begin your Italian research
- Civil and historic Italian records
- On-line and on site research
- Heritage tours to meet your living ancestors
- How to apply for dual US/Italian citizenship
- Questions and answers



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 24th 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.



HAZLETON, PA



Our Elena Timko and Allison Barletta at Telethon with chairperson from ACS Jane Dougherty.



Our treasurer and Secretary, Patsy Ignar with ACS administrators. Hazleton UNICO proudly donated \$500 and time to help the ACS TELETHON.

KEYSTONE, PA

The Keystone Chapter Pig Roast Committee is conducting their 7th Annual Pig Roast.



Pictured with the committee is Mary Ann Iezzi, the Executive Director of Dress for Success Lackawanna. Seated in front are Lenore Latarewicz, President Nanine Gramigna, Iezzi, and Pig Roast 2019 Co-chairs Sylvia and Bob Tagert.

ORANGE W/ ORANGE, NJ

On Sunday February 24, 2019, the Orange-West Orange Chapter of UNICO National held its 45th Annual Sports Awards Breakfast honoring two students from each of the local high schools. They were Hannah Villasin, Terrence Toussaint from West Orange High School, Jameer Reed, Chisom Onyewuenly, from Orange High School, Luca D'Emilio, Louie Magliaro, from Seton Hall Prep and Zece Brown, Eva Hale from Golda Och Academy. Also honored were the West Orange High School Girls Soccer Team, the 2018 North 1, Group 4 State Sectional Champions.

One of the highlights of the Sports Breakfast was our guest speaker, "Dwight "Doc" Gooden, who gave an extremely interesting talk, highlighting his years with the New York Mets and the 1986 World Series and his years with the New York Yankees, including his no-hitter. Gooden had the kindness to answer many questions and was extremely gracious signing close to 150 autographs and having his picture taken with many breakfast patrons.



In attendance was UNICO National President Lee Norelli, who addressed the group and praised the Orange - West Orange Chapter for their hard work and dedication to UNICO. Also in attendance was Dr. Frank DeFrank, Executive V-P; Steven Pelonero, 1st VP; and Gene Maddalena, New Jersey District XI, Governor.



Approximately 310 guests attended, many were long time attendees who, enjoy our effort and program each year.

WESTFIELD, NJ



Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga (right) swears in new member Myriam Restrepo as Chapter President Richard Esposito and Immediate Past President Bob Tarte look on at the February Greater Westfield Chapter dinner meeting.

WAYNE, NJ

The Wayne, NJ Chapter recently swore in our new Officers for 2019-2020. Congratulations to all the new Officers, and incoming President Joe Zisa! Shown below are some pictures of the swearing-in process.



NJ District IV Governor Steve Calantone swore in Joe Zisa. Also on hand was Anthony DeGennaro, one of our past Presidents, and current 1st Alternate DG for NJ IV.

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO held their annual Bowling night at Garwood Lanes. Over 60 Unicans from the chapter joined in on the fun – bowling, eating and drinking. Door prizes were given out and a 50/50 was held. Coordinators Anna Pace and Secretary Fran Parisi organized the social event with the help of a bowling committee. A great time was had by all.



Members Joe and Cathy Campanella, Karen Demarco and Debbie Bruno prepare to hit the alleys.



Member Dominic Prete shows off his bowling serve.



President Joe Arancio welcomes the group as Treasurer Henry Trani explains the rules.



Member Mark Conforti shows off his new mink coat for proper bowling attire.



Terri Spingola tries to find the lightest ball.

MEDIA, PA

7th Annual Beef and Beer

On Saturday, November 3, 2018, the Media Chapter held its 7th Annual Beef and Beer at The Oaks Ballroom. Approximately 150 family and friends came out and shared this lovely night. It was filled with great laughs prizes and live music that made people get off their seats and dance. The prizes consist of 50/50 and approximately 50 different give baskets.

More importantly, everyone attended because they knew it was all for a great cause. With this event we were able to generate approximately \$7,000 to donate to different charities that the Media Chapter has been donating to for many of years. Thank you to everybody that attended and everyone that helped sponsor this special event.



The Deadline for the July 2019 issue of ComUNICO:
MONDAY, JUNE 3RD
Please send all submissions to:
comUNICO@UNICO.org

AVON, CT

Avon UNICO serves the homeless at the Immacares homeless shelter in Hartford over Christmas! This annual event serves over 100 men and supplies gift bags to each for Christmas!



LIVINGSTON, NJ

Cristina, of Healthy Italia, of Madison NJ, spoke to us about her journey to America and what led her to open Healthy Italia which holds cooking demos, children's cooking lessons as well as a retail store.



L to R: Chapter Pres. Kevin Francione, Cristina Bossini, Heritage comm. member Frank Cifelli.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL

Frank LoRe District Governor and Highland Beach Chapter Member of UNICO National, spoke about Italian heritage and what the Highland Beach Chapter contributes to the Palm Beach County Community. The chapter is a sponsor of the FAU's Italian program and helps by sending students to study in Italy.



ST. JOES MONTVALE, NJ

Our ACES still had time for their adopt-a-grandparent visits and bingo at Woodcliff Lake Manor.



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

Available at: Amazon.com
and Barnesandnoble.com
Visit: booksbymikedelucia.com

books by Mike DeLucia

@mdeluciabooks



Mike is available to do book signings and talk about his book *Madness* for Chapters and Districts

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO hosted a presentation – cookbook author Dana Ferraro – “The Sunday Gravy – you call it sauce – I call it gravy” at the Clark library Thursday January 31st. Dana together with her father, Anthony Ferraro talked about her grandmothers recipes and old world Italian traditions along with stories about their Italian deli that they owned and operated for 22 years. Anthony living in the Italian neighborhood of Bellville grew up with Frankie Val-lie and the other members of the Four Seasons. After the presentation, Dana offered homemade Italian cookies for all to sample and signed her cook books.



Shown here are Clark UNICANS Anna Pace, President Joe Arancio, Anthony Ferraro, Dana Ferraro, Secretary Fran Parisi and Vice President Ralph Bernardo.



HAZLETON, PA

UNICO Christmas in the Park

Hazleton UNICO Christmas in the Park open for all youth in the area at no cost. The event included sleigh rides, visit with Santa Misses Claus, the Grinch and Olaf, and a smores pit.

Members worked the food stands – all food served was given FREE to all attendees. Members included Gloria Cerullo, Jen Danzিয়েzen, and Patricia Ignar.



Santa arrives on the Hazleton Township Fire and Rescue Truck.



Mike Decosmo SR grills up the Hot Dogs.



Pet Keselicka fries up meatballs.



UNICO Hazleton Banner.



Prep for the event at Alta Pizzeria (thanks to Renee Cherico). Jen Denzিয়েzen, Brenda Curcio Conway, Patricia Ignar, Joe Cerullo, Gloria Cerullo, and Donna Delehanty (President UNICO Hazleton).



UNICO Hazleton Sponsors and Supporters for this event.



Buon Natale Elves L to R: Gloria Cerullo, Donna Delehanty, Hazleton Chapter President; Jen Danzিয়েzen.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Past National Presidents Sal Manganò and Michael Veselka.



National President Lee Norelli and 1st Vice President Steve Pelonero.



National Secretary Francine Nido and Treasurer Sam Prudente.



Scholarship Director Joan Tidona and Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga.



First Vice President Steve Pelonero and Second Vice President Peter Pettinato.



L-R Ron Giometti, Ralph Contini, Sue Anzelmo and Pat Pelonero.



Mark and Michele McDade.



Barbara Laborim and Mark and Michele McDade.



Nina Held, Linda De Frank and Kris Manganò.



Jim Baress, Lynda Cook, Rosie Gaetano, Celeste Pandolfi and Nina Held.



Melanie Naro and Mike Rescigno.



Ellen Leone and Lou Di Rico.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Leonard and Stephanie Fodera.



New York and Connecticut Members.



Mario Giovannucci and Mike Fortunato.



Dr. Joe Pavano, Mario Giovannucci and Mike Fortunato.



Vincent and Mary Catania



Glenn and Terri Pettinato.



Geri Samuel and Bob Bengivenga.



Wayne Ditore, Tom Vaughan and Brian Guarco.



Lou Mattaliano, Peter Pettinato and John Di Napoli Foundation President.



John Alati and Joe Agresti.



Sam Prudente.



Dr. Frank Greco Jr.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Frank Blasi and Francine Nido.



Debbie Benvenuti.



Steve Pelonero.



Sal Benvenuti.



Michael Spano and Francine Nido.



Nina Held.



Dr. Ann Walko.



John Alati.



Mike and Marlene Veselka.



Joe Marino and Paula Varsalona-Marino.



John and Angela Di Napoli.



Ralph Contini and Ron Giometti.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Vinnie and Barbara Laborim.



Tony Garrigan and Geri Samuel.



Santi Buscemi and Bob Tarte.



Vincent and Mary Catania



Lou and Celeste Pandolfi.



Lou Mattaliano and SherryLynn Trotta.



Elsa and Lou Di Rico.



Leonard and Stephanie Fodera.



Dr. Frank Greco Jr.



Ellen Leone.



Francine Nido and Dr. Frank Greco Jr.



Dr. Joe Pavano and Ann Pavano.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Ann and Brian Guarco.



Andrea and Mario Giovannucci.



Len Lasalandra and Michel Vaughan.



Len Lasalandra, Michel Vaughan and Dr. Joe Pavano.



Linda-Gail and John Alati.



Joe and Arlene Agresti.



Cris and Sal Mangano.



Gene and Michelle Maddalena.



Michelle Maddalena, Cris Mangano, Nina Held and Linda-Gail Alati.



Glenn and Terri Pettinato.



Marconi Awardee Dr. Federico and Paola Capasso.



Joan and Frank Tidona.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



First Lady Debbie Norelli and National President Lee Norelli.



Dr. Ann Walko and Michael Walko.



Debbie and Sal Benvenuti.



Paul Benvenuti.



Maggie and Peter Pettinato.



Linda and Dr. Frank De Frank.



Steve and Pat Pelonero.



Sal Ingallina.



Michele and Mark McDade.



Mike Rescigno, Frank Blasi and Sam Prudente.



Rosie Gaetano, Melanie Naro and Lynda Cook.



Michele and Mark McDade, Donna Brown and Sue Anzelmo.

MID-YEAR BOARD MEETING



Ralph Contini, Ron Giometti and Michael Spano.



Glenn Pettinato.



Natl. President Lee Norelli, Dr. Federico Capasso, and Glenn Pettinato.



National President Lee Norelli presenting Dr. Federico Capasso the Marconi Science Award along with Glenn Pettinato the Marconi Award Chair.



The Marconi Award Committee with Dr. Federico Capasso, Joan Tidona, Dr. Ann Walko, National President Lee Norelli, Glenn Pettinato and Peter Pettinato.



National President Lee Norelli, Dr. Federico Capasso, Glenn Pettinato and John Alati.



Dr. Frank De Frank, National President Lee Norelli, Donna Brown, Dr. Federico Capasso, Paola Capasso, Glenn Pettinato, Peter Pettinato and Steve Pelonero.



UNICO NATIONAL 2019

97th 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>FEES AND CHARGES</u>	<u>PER PERSON</u>	<u>CHILDREN (12 & under)</u>	<u>NOT REGISTERED UNDER "UNICO ROOM BLOCK"</u>
Convention Package to include WEDNESDAY NIGHT ICEBREAKER INAUGURAL GALA	\$350.00	\$50.00 per child	\$450.00
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:

(Circle one below)

MasterCard Card number _____ Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____ (3 or 4 digit)

Visa

Discover Signature _____ Print name _____

Amer. Express

**COMPLETED FORM SHOULD BE EMAILED, MAILED OR SENT BY FACSIMILE TO:
UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2019**

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

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



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

TO MAKE YOUR

SOLD OUT

• **ONLINE** at [UNICO 2019](#)

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 5PM ON THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH.

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.

**NEXT - FILL OUT YOUR REGISTRATION FORM BY JULY 12, 2019
AND SEND IT WITH PAYMENT TO:**

UNICO NATIONAL

271 US HIGHWAY 46 WEST, SUITE F-103 FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004-2458

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



UNICO NATIONAL

97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION 2019

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



The Inn at Opryland

2401 Music Valley Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37214

TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION

- YOU CAN CONTACT THE HOTEL DIRECTLY BY CALLING

1-855-584-3466

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

- BOOK ONLINE AT [UNICO 2019](#)

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 5PM ON TUESDAY, JUNE 25TH.

UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE

\$148 + tax

Group rate available from July 23 through July 28, 2019.

Parking: Free

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.

**NEXT - FILL OUT YOUR REGISTRATION FORM BY JULY 1, 2019
AND SEND IT WITH PAYMENT TO:**

UNICO NATIONAL

271 US HIGHWAY 46 WEST, SUITE F-103 FAIRFIELD, NJ 07004-2458

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

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT XI

The traditional foods served during St. Joseph's Day are symbolic of both the legends associated with the saint and the very real struggles of the Sicilian peasantry. The fava bean plays a prominent role in the feast and can be seen on both altars and in the traditional pasta dish. Once considered food for animals, the hardy bean was not affected by the droughts and famines of Sicily, making it an invaluable food source to the peasants. Wild fennel and chickpeas were also some of the few plants available to these poor people and thus became important parts of the Sicilian diet. These are just some of the simple and rustic ingredients that go into the unique Pasta di San Giuseppe.



Zeppole.



Executive Vice President Dr. Frank De Frank, NJ District XI Governor Gene Maddalena and First Vice President Steve Pelonero.



First Vice President Steve Pelonero, Executive Director Sal Benvenuti, Executive Vice President Dr. Frank De Frank, NJ District XI Governor Gene Maddalena, Past National President John Alati, Past National President Sal Mangano, Sal Ingallina and Sergeant @ Arms Dr. Frank Greco Jr.



NJ District XI Chapter Presidents.



St Joseph's Table.

NORTH SHORE, L. I., NY

On January 16, 2019 the North Shore Long Island Chapter welcomed guests, Tracy and Catherine Posillico to their monthly dinner held at Mario's in Hauppauge. Tracy Posillico lost her baby daughter, Whitney, to a very rare form of cancer. Tracy informed the chapter of a wonderful organization called the Whit Whit Foundation. The Whit Whit foundation's goal is to help those born with this rare type of cancer. The chapter was thrilled to present to Tracy, a check for one thousand dollars to donate to the Whit Whit Foundation. The chapter would like to recognize member Kathryn Petritis for organizing this wonderful act of charity! It was a great night!



L to R: Member Kathryn Petritis, Catherine Posillico, Tracy Posillico and receiving check from chapter president Rob Di Rico.

CLARK, NJ

About 30 Clark UNICANS came out February 19th to help make over 100 bologna and cheese sandwiches for St. Joseph's Food Bank in Elizabeth. The club also collected over 100 jars of sauce and boxes and boxes of pasta. The staff at St. Joseph's were very appreciative of our donations. This is just one of the many services that the Clark Chapter of UNICO has done this year.



The Deadline for the July 2019 issue of ComUNICO:
MONDAY, JUNE 3RD
 Please send all submissions to:
comUNICO@UNICO.org

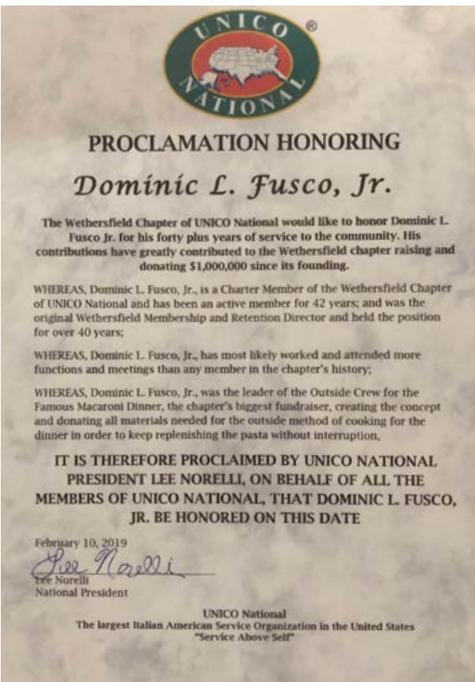
ISLIP/SMITHTOWN, NY



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

WETHERSFIELD, CT

Founding Member Dominic Fusco, Jr. received a NUMBER of amazing honors prior to this “retirement.” For all 40 years of Wethersfield UNICO he has served as Membership Chair. Thank you to Dom for all your hard work, loyalty, and support!



WESTFIELD, NJ



First Lady Debbie Norelli wins a prize as she is teased by National President Lee Norelli, in the drawing of the raffle prizes by Pig Roast Chairman Tony Valles and Chapter President Rich Esposito at the Greater Westfield Pig Roast on Jan 26.



Chapter President Richard Esposito; Chapter V.P Sandy Giordano; M&R Director Anthony Bengivenga and Rachel Bengivenga at the Greater Westfield Chapter Annual Pig Roast on Jan 26.



The Greater Westfield (NJ) Chapter members and Clark (NJ) Chapter members enjoying free time at the Greater Westfield Annual Pig Roast on Jan 26, 2019.

HAVE YOU FILED YOUR 990 WITH THE IRS?



Attending the annual Greater Westfield Chapter's Pig Roast on Jan 26 are Plainfields' Chapter President Bob Bengivenga & April Bengivenga; National President Lee Norelli; Steve Banaitis.



SCRANTON, PA



Maria-Rose Contini; Rachel Bengivenga; Manuela D'Arminio; PNP Ann Walko At the Scranton Chapter Charity Ball at Genetti's on Feb 23, 2019 honoring the UNICANS of the year.

WETHERSFIELD, CT



Comedy Night for Wethersfield UNICO was another success!

UNICO NATIONAL



First Lady Debbie Norelli, Linda De Frank, Executive Vice President Dr. Frank De Frank, and National President Lee Norelli at a night out for fun and raising funds for Convention 2019.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The Greater Binghamton chapter inducted new member Dot Marinaccio at the January 2019 meeting.



L to R: Dot Marinaccio and President Mike Marinaccio.

A N X M A R T E D I B E L L O
 G R O B U O N G I O R N O B T
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UNICO WORDSEARCH

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| BELLO
<i>Beautiful</i> | LUNEDI
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| BRUTO
<i>Ugly</i> | MARTEDI
<i>Tuesday</i> |
| BUONASERA
<i>Good evening</i> | MERCOLEDI
<i>Wednesday</i> |
| BUONANOTTE
<i>Good night</i> | MINUTO
<i>Minute</i> |
| BUONGIORNO
<i>Good morning</i> | OGGI
<i>Today</i> |
| BUONO
<i>Good</i> | ORA
<i>Hour</i> |
| BUONO
<i>Delicious</i> | OROLOGIO
<i>Clock</i> |
| CALENDARIO
<i>Calendar</i> | PERFAVORE
<i>Please</i> |
| CATTIVO
<i>Bad</i> | PICCOLO
<i>Small</i> |
| CIAO
<i>Hello</i> | PREGO
<i>Your welcome</i> |
| DOMANI
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<i>Second</i> |
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<i>Friday</i> |

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60TH ANNUAL SCRANTON CHAPTER CHARITY BALL

The 60th Annual Scranton Chapter Charity Ball was held on February 23 at Genetti Manor in Dickson City. This year the Chapter honored Patricia and Bob Montalbano as UNICANs of the Year.



Phil and Mary Marrara with Patti and Bob Montalbano.



National Officers seated from left are Dr. Frank DeFrank, Executive Vice President; Debbie and Lee Norelli; Bob and Patti Montalbano; Melanie Naro; Glenn Pettinato, Past National President.



Scranton Chapter, UNICO National, congratulated the POETS on their retirement and presented each with a Scranton Chapter jacket at the Charity Ball.



Seated are Johanna Gregory, Bob and Patti Montalbano; Lori and Michael Nozzi. Standing Ben Montalbano; Danielle Corby King; Sandy Corby; Michelle Corby.



Seated are Palma and Pat Yanni; Phil Marrara. Standing Michael Cappellini; Pat and Steve Pelonero; and Mary Marrara, Charity Ball Chairperson.



UNICO National Scranton Chapter awarded Patricia and Robert Montalbano, UNICANs of the Year at the Charity Ball at Genetti Manor in Dickson City. From left: Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Melanie Naro, Scranton Chapter President; Patricia and Robert Montalbano, UNICANs of the Year; Charlie Spano, Past UNICAN of the Year.



Michele and Jerry Musheno; Robert Montalbano; Sister Maryalice Jacquinot, IHM; Kristin Cianfichi; and Sister Ann Walsh, IHM.



Michael and Lori Montalbano Nozzi with Bob and Patti Montalbano.



Wilkes Barre Chapter Members.



Past UNICANs of the Year – seated from left are Pat Yanni; Debbie and Lee Norelli; Chris DiMattio; Charlie Spano. Standing are Frank Castellano, Esq.; Frank Blasi, Esq., Palma Yanni; Mary Marrara; Frankie Gervasi.

HILLSIDE, NJ

Attached are some photos from Lodi UNICO Comedy Night held at “Make Wine With Us” in Wallington NJ. We had about 70 people attend and 3 Comedians.



UNICO NATIONAL

UNICO National officers with Coccia Institute officers at the Italian Language and Culture Day 2019 on March 14 at Montclair State University in NJ where high school language classes participated in an all-day competition presenting Italian Masterpieces by performing in skits and songs.



Seated L to R: Office Manager Pat Pelonero; Cav. Mary Ann Re, PhD; Coccia Institute Co-Founder Elda Coccia; Honorary Consul of Italy in NJ Dominic Caruso, Esq; Standing L to R: Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; First Vice President Steve Pelonero; PNP Frank Tidona and Scholarship Director Joan Tidona; Josephine Maietta; Serena Ferlisi; PNP Joe Agresti; Executive Director Sal Benvenuti.

HILLSIDE, NJ

NJ District X & Hillside Chapter hosted the annual St. Joseph’s banquet at Costa’s restaurant in Roselle Park, NJ on March 19.



L to R: District X Governor Geri Samuel; Alt. Deputy Governor Carole Cascio; National M&R Director Anthony Bengivenga; Raymond Guarriello (Elizabeth Chapter).



L-R: Greater Westfield Vice Pres Sandy Giordano; Greater Westfield’s President Rich Esposito; Alt. Deputy Governor Carole Cascio; Plainfields’ Chapter Vice Pres Santi Buscemi; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Hillsborough Chapter President Nate Santoromita; District X Governor Geri Samuel; Elizabeth Chapter President Nino Quaglia; Hillside Chapter & St Joseph’s host Angelo Bonanno.



PNP Ann Walko and Greater Westfield Vice President Sandy Giordano enjoying the festivities.



Plainfields Chapter Vice Pres Santi Buscemi (right) and Hillsborough Chapter President Nate Santoromita (2nd from right) in festive mood as members of Hillsborough look on.



Greater Westfield Chapter members enjoying the goodies. L to R: Deanna DeMarco; Mike Colucci; Bob Tarte; Carmine Monaco; Joanne LaRosa.



Members enjoying the festivities.

WETHERSFIELD, CT



Welcome NEW members - Susan Oades, Michelle LcConche, and Jason Amenta. Pictured with President John Rossi (left) and Membership Chair Peter Susca (right).

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

WETHERSFIELD, CT



OUR CREW! 40th Annual Wethersfield UNICO Macaroni Dinner - 1,000 dinners served!!



Wethersfield UNICO Member/Past National President Tom Vaughan with Brian Guarco, UNICO Eastern Regional District Governer.



Making the meatballs.



Left: Member Tony Marzano and his nephew.

Right: Volunteers (and future UNICANS?!) Adam Ammirata & Bryce Mayo helping at the 40th annual Macaroni Dinner.



Left: Members Nick Follacchio & Rich Amenta.

Right: Time to make the SAUCE – Members Jon Ciottono & David Lanciano



Left: Members Peter Aiello & Tom Vaughan pose with their hats!

Right: Founding member Dan Camillieri working the 40th annual Macaroni Dinner.



Meatball making crew - 40TH DINNER for Wethersfield UNICO this year!



Andrew Pace, Grandson of Member Dan Pace enjoys his pasta dinner.



SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM!

Join Us Today!

UNICO National is the largest Italian American Organization in America. With over 125 local Chapters in 20 states, with more being formed, we have an unparalleled track record of giving that dates back to 1922.

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

ThroughourmanyNationalAwardCommittees we present awards in sciences, militaryservices,athletics,andliterature.

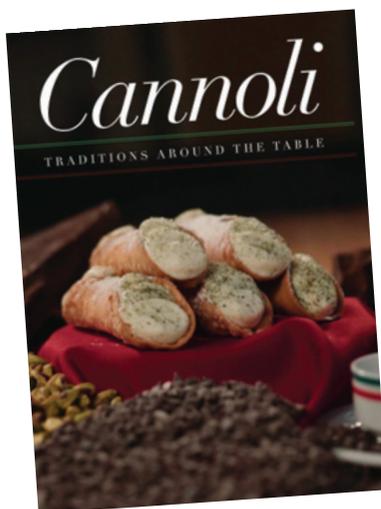
Through our Anti-Bias Committee we promotepositiveimagesofItalianAmericans and battle negative stereotyped.

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

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

To find out more, call 973-808-0035 or visit www.UNICO.org





KING CANNOLI

Love cannoli? You're going to adore "Cannoli, Traditions Around the Table," a heartfelt cinematic exploration of the profound impact that food can have on culture. In this 18-minute documentary crafted by Francesco Cordaro and Andrea Cordaro, cannoli enthusiast Allison Scola takes the viewer from the dairy farm to nonna's kitchen, and then out into the streets of New York for her annual Cannoli Crawl. Winner of Best Documentary at NYWIFT's Online Shorts Festival, "Cannoli" was a grant selection for the Russo Bros. Italian American Film Forum. To view the video, visit orderisda.com, go to Film Forum under Resources, click on "Watch films from last year's grant recipients," and scroll down.

Admiral Ed Giambastiani will serve as honorary chairman of the 31st National Education and Leadership Awards Gala. The event will take place on May 23 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Washington, D.C. This year's honorees are Bruno Ciacciarelli, president of Roadtex Transportation (Excellence in Business Award); Vivian Cardia (National Education and Leadership Award); the Frank & Angela Donio Family (Humanitarian Award), and Retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Raymond Palumbo (Courage & Patriotism Award). Scholarships also will be bestowed at the event. Actor Joe Mantegna will serve as emcee. (www.nelagala.org)

STAR POWER

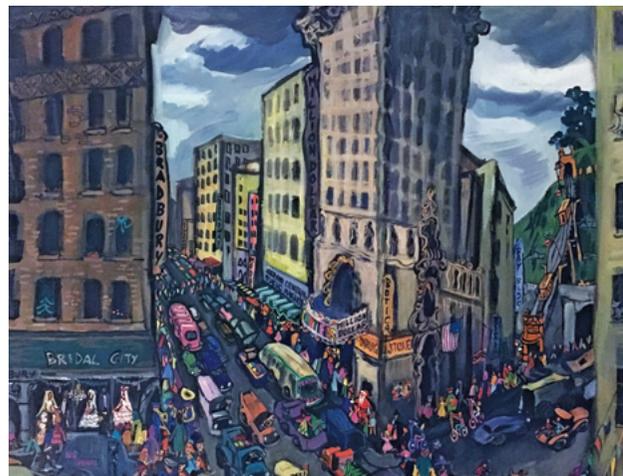


SHROUD PROUD

The Chapel of the Holy Shroud of Turin has been restored to its former glory thanks in part to a \$30,000 donation by the National Italian American Foundation. "We decided to restore this chapel because we were aware of the devotion to the Shroud of all the Italians and Italian Americans in the United States," said NIAF Chairman Emeritus Joseph V. Del Raso, Esq. "Today more than ever, our projects are aimed at preserving Italian treasures, but this intervention has a special importance, as a symbol of our attachment to our Christian roots." Located near the Turin Cathedral, where the shroud is enshrined, the chapel houses a museum that contains a replica of the shroud and a host of related artifacts.

ARTISTIC ANGELENO

The paintings of beloved artist and Caldecott Award-winning author Leo Politi will be on display at the Italian American Museum of Los Angeles through May 19. Best known as the "Artist of the City of Angels," Politi demonstrated an undying love for the region's diverse cultures and a reverence for its history. Showcasing works rarely exhibited that span 60 years, "Leo Politi's Los Angeles: Works of Love and Protest" transports the viewers to bygone eras — Watts in the late 1960s and San Pedro during the apex of the fishing industry — along with forever altered places like the legendary Bunker Hill neighborhood and World War II-era downtown Los Angeles. (iamla.org)



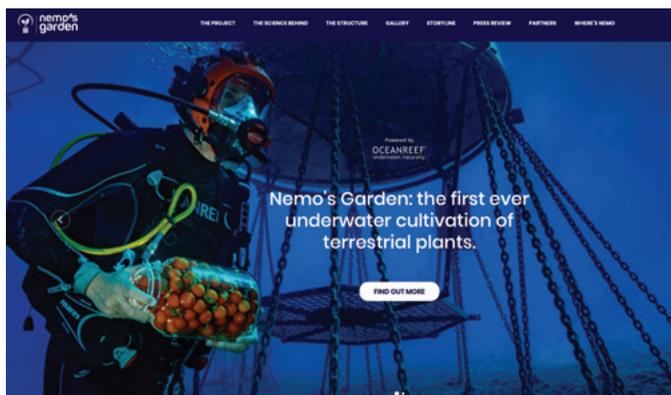


LEONARDO IN LIGHTS

May marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, and Italy's government is intent on reminding the world of his Italianate brilliance. Commemorations are planned throughout the country. Cities with a close relationship to da Vinci — such as Florence and Milan, where he spent much of his life — are staging major exhibitions in his honor. Meanwhile his hometown of Vinci in Tuscany created an exhibit focusing on his formative years. Vinci has also created a “Leonardo Itinerary” where tourists can follow in the footsteps of the young master.

WORTH THE WAIT

Even by Italian standards, three quarters of a century is a long time for a building to be closed for renovations. But that's how long it took to restore the historic Galli theater in Rimini, which had been closed since bomb damage caused the roof to collapse during World War II. The theater, which first opened in 1857 with a performance of Verdi's “Aroldo,” has now been faithfully restored to its classical splendor while being updated with the latest technology. Following two months of inaugural festivities the theater has resumed its performance schedule ... a mere 75 years later.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

The Italian aptitude for growing fruits and vegetables is recognized the world over. But one Italian, Sergio Gamberini, a scuba diver from Liguria, has taken this talent to a whole new level by creating the world's first underwater farm. He began by attaching a plastic balloon filled with a little pot of soil and basil seeds to the seabed 22 feet below the surface. After a few days, tiny basil leaves were sprouting. A couple years later his “farm,” dubbed “Nemo's garden,” now counts six underwater greenhouses hosting an estimated 700 plants including basil, tomatoes, greens and strawberries.

CYBERDOCTOR

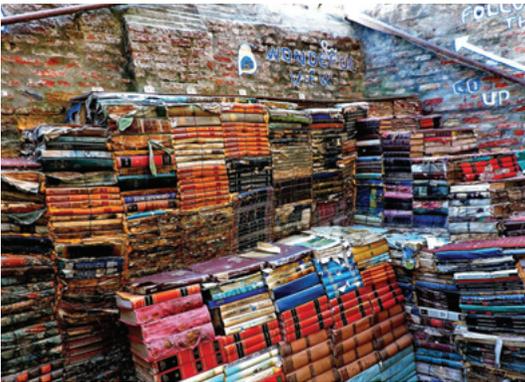
If the bedside manner of some of the medical staff at the San Giovanni Rotonondo hospital in the Puglian town of Foggia seems a bit impersonal, there's good reason. The hospital has begun using humanoid robots for various tasks as part of a two- to three-year pilot project before being adopted by other hospitals. One of the robots, dubbed “Pepper,” will “control wards, alerting doctors to emergencies,” while another, called “R1,” will “dialogue” with patients to gauge their emotions and make a preliminary diagnosis.





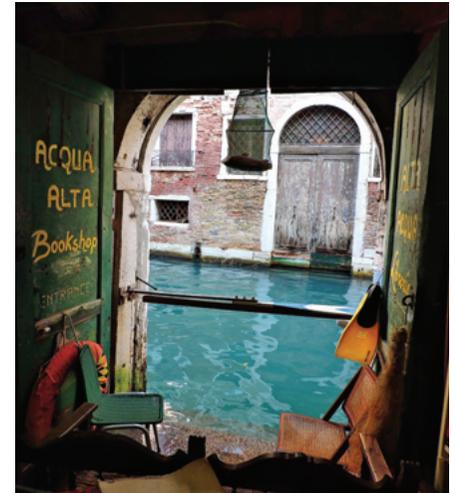
FACING WEST TOWARD TURIN

When officials at Cairo's Egyptian Museum recently decided to completely revamp the famous institution, which houses more than 136,000 objects related to the archeological finds of ancient Egypt, the model they selected to emulate was Turin's Egyptian Museum. The Turin museum, begun by Italy's Savoy dynasty, is one of the world's most important museums dedicated to Egyptology. Experts from the Turin museum will oversee the three-year project in Cairo, which will include development of a master plan "aiming for a rethink of the site in its entirety."



BOOKS AHOY!

A Venice bookstore has given new meaning to the Stephen King quote that "books are a uniquely portable magic." Tired of seeing its tomes destroyed in the city's frequent floods, the Libreria Acqua Alta (High-Water Bookstore) has taken to displaying its books in waterproof bins, bathtubs and even a full-sized gondola. Now, when the shop floods, the books simply float about in their various containers until the water recedes.



HISTORY IN A CUP

Lavazza, the company that has been synonymous with Italian coffee for more than a century, has opened a coffee museum in the company's new headquarters, located in Turin's futuristic glass-fronted "Nuvola" or "Cloud" building. Billed as a "journey through the history of Italian coffee," the high-tech museum presents guests with an "interactive espresso cup," which is used to activate each of the museum's 52 installations by placing it on various focal points. The museum is further proof that "you can't get depresso as long as there's espresso!"

IT PAYS TO CYCLE

In a move to improve public health while reducing traffic congestion, the southern Italian city of Bari has launched a pilot program that pays its residents to ride their bikes. Upward of 1,000 bikes owned by individuals in this city of 330,000 are being fit with GPS devices to measure mileage and award riders €0.20 per kilometer (about \$0.36 per mile) for any bike journey between home and work. For leisure biking, participants will get €0.04 per kilometer, with the overall amount paid in a month capped at €25 per person.



by Robert Allegrini



▲ EUGENE MIRABELLI ▲

EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK

I had kept hoping to die but it hadn't happened and after a while I gave up trying and pretended to live, just doing the things that living people do. I got up and shaved and showered and got dressed in fresh clothes. I shopped for food every day, mostly just to leave the empty house. Nadeau's grocery was nearer, but Big Valley Farms was larger and extra-bright inside and there were lots of people to be around. When I got out of the car in the big parking lot I'd haul myself up straight to show that I was Alba's husband and proud of it. It was hard to do. I kept my back straight and my face up, because she had loved me of all in this whole world. Still, I would rather have been dead.

RENATO AFTER ALBA

By Eugene Mirabelli

- PAGES: 188
- COST: \$24.95 (paperback)
- ISBN: 978-1-62054-026-8
- BUY: Amazon.com

Love labors AFTER LOSS

by Fred Gardaphe

It's a simple story. Man and woman fall in love; live together a long time, and then she dies first. For Renato Stillamare, that's not enough. He wants his Alba after his death, probably more than he ever did when she was alive, but that's hard to tell.

How does a man come to the thought that he would prefer death to life without his one true love? Could this be the love everyone dreams of, the stuff that made Hollywood films iconic, which in turn shaped a whole generation's idea of what love could and should be? No, but a story like that, in the hands of a master storyteller like Eugene Mirabelli, becomes so touching, so real, that you believe it.

"Renato After Alba" is the latest in a long line of Mirabelli novels that have challenged what stories are and how they can be told. Beats or breaths of sentences, some short, some a few pages long, take the place of chapters, as Renato fumbles through past and present trying to figure out just what to do with the years he will now have to face without her.

Sometimes he's down: "I could not believe in the loving God and be true to Alba, so God was swept away and I stayed with Alba. Alba loved me and loved our children. God could have taken instruction from her." Sometimes he's up: "The gods have given us love instead of immortality." But throughout these shifts in moods, Renato always struggled to tell us what it's like to live in and with grief, trying to figure ways to make life after Alba matter.

Sure, his kids are there for him, as are old friends, and the new ones he makes, like Shannon, the 30-something tattooed

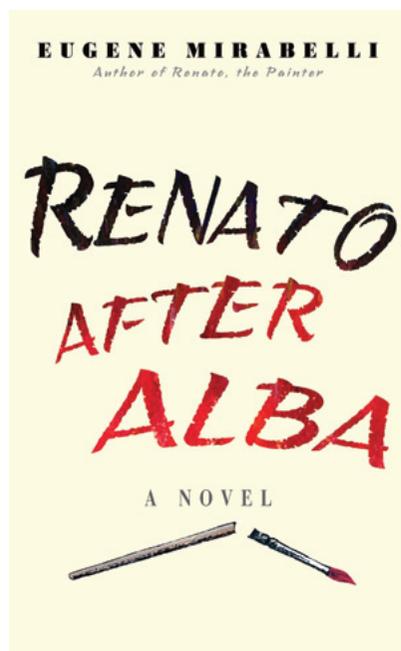
barista at the local café who lost her husband to cancer just before Renato lost Alba. Shannon's attitude serves to bolster Renato's belief that there must be something to this life that can make it matter when love is lost. The key to

Mirabelli's story is that he doesn't force a plot in order to plant a message or moral. As we follow Renato through his struggle, we can't help but examine our own attitudes about life, death, love, hate, friendship, work and play, and through it all, without resolving anything, we are faced with the simple fact that life is little more than what we do day to day to deal

with whatever it is that we face.

As Renato recounts their life together in no chronological order, he sifts through his past the way one plays with a plateful of mixed foods: a little sweetness here, a little bitterness there, one bite at a time. His childhood is filled with family — a father who is a tough stone worker and educated uncles whose word duels help shape his own philosophy of life and his approach to his career as an artist. He returns to his profession reluctantly after a long hiatus, forcing him to challenge his own value as a human being who is lost without the love that once made it all matter so much more.

The result is a powerful and facile story that conjures complex responses, making this tale of grief a delightful read.



Red-hot ROCKER

by David Witter

Known primarily as the lead guitarist for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, John Frusciante has been voted by Rolling Stone Magazine as the 18th Greatest Guitarist of All-Time, ranking just behind Carlos Santana and Jeff Beck. His intro to “Under the Bridge” helped make it one of the most influential tracks of the '90s.

A musical prodigy, Frusciante was playing the solos of Jimmy Hendrix, Jeff Beck, Jimmy Page and Frank Zappa at 12. By 18, he was a member of the Chili Peppers and by 21 his work on the album “Blood, Sugar, Sex, Magic” helped sell 13 million copies. But alas, it may have been too much, too soon. His life spiraled downward into an all-too-familiar pattern of drugs, divorce and isolation, which he almost didn't escape.

Frusciante's grandfather, Generoso, left Benvenuto, Campania, amid the rubble of World War II to find a better life in America. His son John played piano and studied at the Julliard School of Music in New York City. John Jr. inherited his musical inclinations from both his parents as well as his grandfather, who played Italian folk songs on the guitar.

Frusciante's parents separated when he was 7, with his mother moving to Los Angeles. Not yet 11, Frusciante was already playing guitar better than most adults. With the permission of his parents, he dropped out of high school at 16 to pursue music full time. He wanted to be in Frank Zappa's band, but Zappa was known for enforcing a no-drugs policy. In what was to be a fateful decision, he didn't audition, telling Guitar World Magazine in 1997 that, “I realized that I wanted to be a rock star, do drugs and get

girls, and I wouldn't be able to do that in Zappa's band.”

A year before, he had attended a Red Hot Chili Peppers concert. He idolized their guitarist, Hillel Slovak, learning every lick he played, and even jammed with Chili Peppers' bassist Flea. Slovak died from a heroin overdose in 1988, and the young Frusciante — who knew Flea and all the songs — was in. The 1991 re-

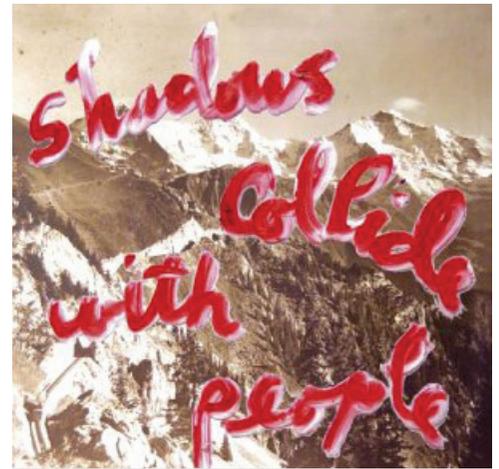


John Frusciante

lease of “Magik,” with its hit single, “Under the Bridge,” paved Frusciante's way to stardom. But during the world tour that followed, the 22-year-old guitarist became overwhelmed and left the band.

“I went on tour, but I didn't know what being on tour as a musician meant,” Frusciante told *Il Mucchio Selvaggio* Magazine. “I felt like my life was over at 22. I left the band and decided to become a drug addict.”

For five years, he lived a life of drugs and depravation, so much so that it even astonished his friend, Johnny Depp. The drug use was so bad that his rotted teeth needed to be completely replaced, as did the scarred skin on his forearms. In 1997, he got clean and rejoined RHCP. The 1999 release of “Californication” once again catapulted him to stardom. Frusciante played with the Peppers until 2009. Although living a semi-reclusive lifestyle, he has continued to record solo and other projects, earning enough money that a judge ruled he had to pay his ex-wife \$72,000 a month. In July he was spotted with Flea, fueling rumors of a third stint with the Chilis, and adding another chapter to the continuing saga of John Frusciante.



SHADOWS COLLIDE WITH PEOPLE

John Frusciante

Although he is one of the most technically gifted guitarists of his era, John Frusciante has always considered himself to be a musician and band member first and guitarist second. Even at a young age, he indirectly criticized idols like Jimi Hendrix, talking about how playing notes fast and loud, and astonishing audiences with lengthy solos, took away from the band as a whole. Instead, Frusciante's brilliance can be found in his ability to play harmonically complex chords and lead lines while blending in with the other musicians, creating a tapestry of sounds. His solo album, “Shadows Collide With People,” is a perfect example of this.

While his name and reputation could have earned him 35 minutes of searing guitar solos, the album doesn't take that path. Instead it is an uplifting collection of '90s alt, '60s rock, and even pop. Frusciante's vocals soar throughout the album with surprising clarity and charm. Touches like a '60s era organ highlight “Second Walk” while “Wednesday's Song” has a flower-child ring. “Chances” may remind some of the '70s pop group The Electric Light Orchestra. “Negative 00 Ghost 27” expresses his belief in the supernatural, while cuts like “Song to Sing When I'm Lonely,” “Water” and “In Relief” blend '90s alternative rock with the feel of bands like Free and Badfinger, a far cry and surprising departure from the grungy funk of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Everyday life, ELEVATED

by Jeannine Guilyard

“Cinema is about the gaze, about where someone is looking. I love to make movies where a character is thinking the line but not speaking the line.”

— Ferzan Ozpetek

One of Italy’s most prolific and visionary filmmakers draws inspiration from everyday life, bringing his unique point of view to bear in turning the ordinary into the extraordinary.

Born in Turkey in 1959, Ferzan Ozpetek moved to Rome two decades later to work in theater and assist various film directors. In 1997, he made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed “Hamam Turkish Bath,” which won two Golden Globes for Best New Director and Best Soundtrack. Since then, Ozpetek has directed some of the most beautiful and profound films of contemporary Italian cinema. Calling upon his own life experiences when deciding on a film project, Ozpetek and his writing partner of more than 30 years, Gianni Romoli, transform an idea into a masterpiece with the perfect combination of drama and comic relief.

So much in an Ozpetek film remains unsaid but is revealed through the characters’ eyes. “During the shooting of ‘La finestra di fronte’ (Facing Windows),” I told Giovanna Mezzogiorno several times, ‘Don’t speak the line. Just think the line and gaze,’” Ozpetek shares. Fifteen years later, the pair teamed up again for “Naploi velata” (Naples in Veils), the story of a woman overwhelmed by sudden love and loss. Clearly infatuated with the city, Ozpetek’s love for its streets, architecture and shore transforms Naples into one of the protagonists. Combined with the explosive dramatic per-

formances of the film’s stars, Mezzogiorno and Alessandro Borghi, the film is a feast for the eyes and soul. And speaking of feasts, food is always a part of his films, and “Naples in Veils” is no different. Eccentric family and friends sitting around impeccably made tables enjoying



decadent repasts is an Ozpetek trademark.

Known for provoking emotionally-charged performances, he got exactly that from Kasia Smutniak and Francesco Arca, who play Elena and Antonio in his 2014 film, “Allacciate le cinture” (Fasten Your Seatbelts). The two characters could not have been any different to begin with, and when he adds to that volatile mix the fact that Antonio is engaged to Elena’s best friend, Ozpetek creates a cauldron of bliss, fear, anger and guilt.

Rewind to 2007 and his ensemble hit “Saturno contro” (Saturn in Opposition). The film follows a group of contemporary 30- and 40-somethings as they struggle to come to grips with youthful dreams that didn’t come true. Ambra Angiolini plays the role of Roberta, a girl-next-door type whose unflagging



▲ FERZAN OZPETEK

Born in Turkey and immersed in Italian culture for four decades, he sheds a unique and memorable light on his adopted land.

support, light-heartedness and loyalty endears her character to the audience. Hers is a subtle-but-memorable role that underscores Ozpetek’s delicate way of motivating his actors to breathe life into his screenplay.

“I choose my actors without auditioning them. I choose them from instinct,” he told me at last year’s Open Roads: New Italian Cinema festival in New York. “I know if they will be perfect for the part, then I fall in love with them, but not in the sense of real love or in a sexual way: in a way that I want the best for them. My rapport with the actors is the best part of my cinema.”

Having been born into one culture and living in another, Ozpetek combines the best of both worlds in terms of traditions and relationships. People are people wherever you go. We have the same problems, concerns, fears and desires. Ozpetek’s films mirror life and the struggles people go through. He appreciates physical beauty but also the beauty and purity of an honest, vulnerable soul. His films are visual art, and his actors are lucky to be in his hands.

“Naples in Veils” is still being shown at film festivals throughout the world. “Hamam Turkish Bath,” “Facing Windows,” “Fasten Your Seatbelts” and “Saturn in Opposition” are available through Amazon.

Master PODCASTER

by Louis Carlozo

While our immigrant forebears sat by giant radio consoles to absorb the news, music and culture of Italy, today's Italian Americans have podcasts and, among them, one has remarkable traction. How much? Try roughly 20,000 listens per episode. Not bad for a program that's less than four years old and the product of programmers learning the ropes as they go.

The driving force behind "The Italian American Experience" (italianamericanexperience.com) and its every-other-week companion, "The Italian American Power Hour," is John Viola. If that name sounds familiar, it's no wonder: Viola served as president and chief operating officer of the National Italian American Foundation for close to five years. Now he's taking to a role that naturally extends his lifelong passion for all things Italian: a highly visible man building community in audible, laudable ways.

Lou&A spoke with Viola to find out what Italian pride means to him and how he has embraced podcasting as a way to rally other Italian Americans to preserve and promote culture for future generations.

Lou&A: Tell us about your Italian roots.

John Viola: I'm Italian on both sides; my father's parents came from southern Campania and my grandfather's father came from Basilicata. My mom's father is from Palermo and her mother is from Bari. I've always harkened back to the roots in Southern Italy — it's very important to me.

Lou&A: You grew up in Brooklyn, but your family moved to Chatham, New Jersey, which is very Irish. How did this affect your ethnic identity?

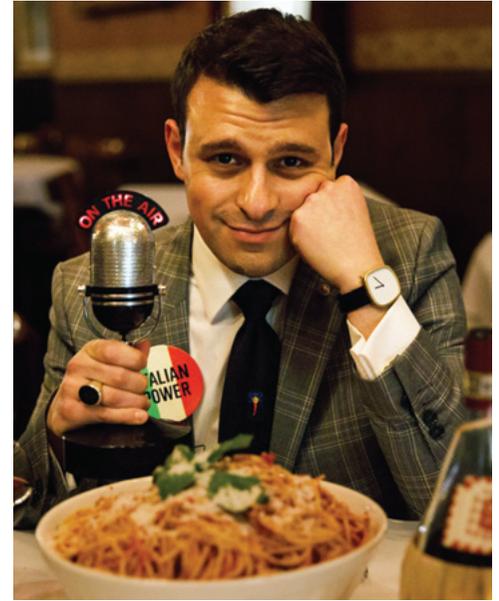
Viola: Leaving a very Italian neighborhood for a place where we were isolated probably made my ethnicity more central to who I am. It was that other-



ness — the secret sauce — where I knew I had something unique in my giant, extended family. We all moved out together from a tenement house to a 10-block radius. My parents were building their businesses and knew no fear of failure. You always knew you had the family and the kitchen. Everything else was gravy. (Laughs)

Lou&A: So how did the Italian American Podcast get its start?

Viola: It's interesting the way it came about. The original podcast started in 2015. I was at the National Italian American Foundation when I was approached by Dolores Alfieri and Anthony Fasano. They'd started an Italian-American podcast, and I really liked their whole vision and project. I was honest in telling them that NIAF didn't have the funds, but I said, "I want to support you personally, help you book talent, and maybe advertise on the



▲ JOHN VIOLA

Through "The Italian American Experience," he shines a light on all that makes our heritage great.

show." Well, the show really took off and their professional lives started to take off, too. Dolores became Gov. Andrew Cuomo's director of Italian American Affairs for New York State.

As they found it more difficult to keep up, we decided to keep it going with Patrick O'Boyle — my best friend, whose mother is Neapolitan. Just over a year ago we created the Italian American Power Hour, which airs every other week, and Rosella Rago from "Cooking With Nonna" joined us as another co-host. The audience has exploded — we're getting close to 20,000 listens per episode — and this has become more a vocation than a hobby. I'm so passionate about it.

Lou&A: What was your experience like at NIAF? When you left in January 2018 you were president and COO.

Viola: I'd been a member since I was a teenager. I found the NIAF Gala through a friend of the family, I joined the youth council, and my family got involved. It was a dream job to work for a community I love so, so much. It's a strong, self-identified community; two censuses ago, it was 18 million people, and the last one it was 18.2, so it's not going away. But in terms of membership and participation, it's very different and sometimes these institutions have a dif-

Continues on page 62 ...

ficult time, especially across generations.

I was full-time in Washington D.C., driving back to New York City to be with my wife on the weekends for Sunday pasta. [Laughs.] So after I left NIAF, I took a long overdue role at the family office — working with real estate, investment, sports and entertainment. But this podcast has become such a passion of mine, I'm working on that full time.

Lou&A: You've used the word "passion" twice in relationship to the podcast. What's behind your dedication and love?

Viola: There are so many great stories out there, people in the community who have done so much. And with a podcast, the barriers of entry aren't there. You can begin reaching people right away.

Lou&A: Then there's the food tradition.

Viola: People who've listened say, "We love that you're sitting around a table, drinking wine and cracking walnuts." We did two episodes where we cooked and ate a Christmas Eve feast. My grandfather died when I was 16, so for the past 18 or 19 years I've been cooking for the whole family. They used to prepare Christmas eel and my grandmother still made it even after [my grandfather] was gone — it was almost a good luck token. So I told myself, "I can keep this on the table every year for my younger cousins who weren't around when my grandmother prepared it." Starting a couple of years ago, we had to buy two eels because we were running out.

Lou&A: What's been the most satisfying part of producing this podcast?

Viola: In my mind, I'm a professional Italian American. [Laughs.] I'm a member of every group and lodge president of a new chapter of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, based in New York City. So it's gratifying to see the interaction with the audience as we try to evangelize for our culture.

Lou&A: And in supporting the arts, you've been vocal — in more ways than one.

Viola: Over the years Lena Prima (daughter of Louis Prima) and I became really, really close friends. She would sing at the NIAF Gala weekends and was always a big hit. So we started a conversation about her dream project; she's a great talent and community advocate, and I wanted to spotlight her. I served as

executive producer on her album "Prima La Famiglia." (Reviewed in the March issue of *Fra Noi*).

Well, she needed a duet partner for the song, "See That You're Born an Italian." Joe Piscopo was going to do it but was stuck in New Jersey. So she said to me, "Why don't you lay down a scratch vocal and we'll keep it there until we get the actual vocalist?" And she tricked me. She liked the vocal so

much that I have an uncredited duet on the record.

Lou&A: At the end of the day, why are you so proud to be an Italian American?

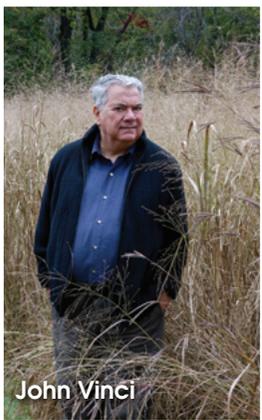
Viola: Our identity is the last great lifeboat for our culture when the rest of the world is saying, "You don't need your culture." This is a world where it's increasingly difficult to find authenticity. I'm doubling down on it, I guess.



The best of BOTH WORLDS



John Vinci early in his career



John Vinci



“Chicago is as much John’s city as it ever was Louis Sullivan’s, Frank Lloyd Wright’s or Mies van der Rohe’s.”

Chicago architect and activist John Vinci has led a fascinating double life, advocating for the preservation of some of Chicago’s most cherished landmarks while charting a unique course in the world of modern design.

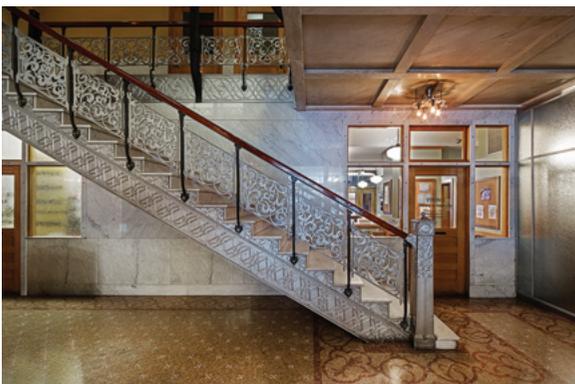
The son of Italian immigrants, he restored such architectural treasures as Louis Sullivan’s Stock Exchange Trading Room and the Carson Pirie Scott Building, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Home Studio and Robie House, and Burnham & Root’s Monadnock Building.

All the while, he was bringing the rigors of his early training at the Illinois Institute of Technology and the brio of the First Chicago School of Architecture to bear on his own work, which included the Arts Club of Chicago and National Italian Sports Hall of Fame, as well as a host of award-winning residential commissions.

That duality of spirit is celebrated in “John Vinci: Life and Landmarks,” a comprehensive and authoritative account of one man’s contribution to a city’s architectural trove.

Passionately written by Robert Sharoff and lushly photographed by William Zbaren, this prodigious work “makes it clear that Chicago is as much John’s city as it ever was Louis Sullivan’s, Frank Lloyd Wright’s or Mies van der Rohe’s,” according to J. Paul Getty Trust President James Cuneo.

www.nupress.northwestern.edu



A nation of BRIDGE BUILDERS

by Robert Allegrini

It appears that everyone in Italy wants to be an engineer, specializing in building bridges, or “ponte” in Italian. A ponte is the expression used to describe the connection that clever Italians create between holidays to extend their already generous vacation time.

For example, a ponte can be made between New Year’s Day and the Feast of the Epiphany on Jan. 6 by taking four days off. Similarly, a ponte can be made between April 25 — Italy’s World War II Liberation Day — and its Labor Day on May 1. Before you know it, Italians are off to the mountains or the seashore for weeks at a time while only using a few official vacation days.

“Bridge building” is a key part of Italy’s La Dolce Vita ethos. Few countries relish time off like the Italians. It’s worth noting that even during much of World War II, when lives were at risk, the Italian War Ministry still closed between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to allow the general staff to enjoy the traditional afternoon break. Who could blame them in a country where the weather is so pleasant, and the food is so delicious?

Luckily for the Italians, they have erstwhile allies in their quest for time off in both the European Union and the Catholic Church. The European Union mandates that workers receive four weeks of vacation per year. Meanwhile, the church ensures that, in addition to the 12 annual public holidays recognized by the Italian government, residents of different cities enjoy additional days off on the name day of their city’s patron saint. So Romans take St. Peter’s Day as a holiday while Neapolitans are off on the Feast of St. Gennaro, etc.

The church has also had a hand in the establishment of many of the national holidays, such as Assumption Day, All Saints Day and Immaculate Conception Day. In a lovely example of church-and-state cooperation, the day after Easter is celebrated as the national holiday of Pasquetta, which translates literally into “Little Easter.” This affords Italians a 3-day Easter weekend, which many use to visit friends. In fact, they have an adage, “Natale con i tuoi e Pasqua con chi vuoi” which rhymes in



Italian and translates to “Christmas with your family and Easter with whomever you please.”

By my count, we are now up to 33 annual days off for all working Italians. A great deal for sure ... but wait, there’s more! The law provides for a minimum of 20 vacation days. The average Italian receives 30 vacation days a year and when added to holidays, saints’ days and a minimum of three sick days (which are inevitably used) this comes to 9 weeks off each year. Additional sick leave is often available to employees at a reduction in daily pay that many Italians apparently deem tolerable and indeed preferable to working.

A few years ago, Gianfranco Polillo, a junior minister in the Italian government, conducted an extensive study of the country’s industrial worker productivity. His findings: “I discovered that an average worker is in the factory for nine months and that for three months they are more or less on holiday.” He speculated that Italian workers were supplementing vacation time with sick leave. Polillo concluded that workers had a misplaced sense of entitlement to holiday time because they lived in such a beautiful country. In the end, he simply admitted that in Italy, “We are accustomed to leisure.”

That sense of entitlement, misplaced or not, allows most Italians to feel guilt-free about taking the entire month of August off as well as two weeks at the holidays when Italy’s “engineers” create the longest ponte of the year, from Christmas through St. Steven’s Day and New Year’s Day all the way to Epiphany on Jan. 6. La vita, in Italy, is truly dolce.



The people's PIAZZA

by Judith Anne Testa

In a contest for which piazza constitutes the heart of Rome, the Campo de' Fiori would rank near the top. It's not the largest or most historic or most architecturally splendid square in the city, but it's a large, multi-purpose piazza beloved by natives and tourists alike for its lively, colorful, earthy atmosphere.

Visitors hoping to find traces of "Roma com' era" (Rome as it used to be) will find it here. They'll also, unfortunately, find some of the problems of Rome as it is today, but those issues haven't overwhelmed this intriguing old segment of the Eternal City.

Its unique name, which means "field of flowers," most likely derives from its desolate appearance during Rome's medieval centuries, when it was an open area overgrown with weeds and wildflowers. A more fanciful explanation claims it comes from Flora, the name of a woman beloved by Pompey the Great, the Roman general of the 1st century B.C. whose huge theater stood near where the Campo is today. Archaeological excavations in the square have uncovered (then covered up again) portions of the outer perimeter of that theater, along with the remains of stables where the chariot-racing teams of the ancient Roman Circus Maximus kept their horses.

In the mid-1400s, as part of their efforts to revive and improve Rome, several popes developed this abandoned stretch of land. Work began under Cal-

ixtus III Borgia in 1456. He had the area paved and encouraged the construction of houses and inns around it. Several noble families also built palaces in the area, but none of them face directly into the piazza, so it has retained a popular rather than aristocratic appearance. The modest, cheerfully mismatched sur-



Piazza Campo de' Fiori market

rounding residences add to the picturesque quality of the square. Today, at the eastern end, there's a hodgepodge of buildings, terraces, half-destroyed houses and an old movie theater. Among the nobles who built nearby in the 1400s are the Orsini, who enlarged and renovated an older residence with a new facade that angles away from the Campo onto via del Biscione, giving the Campo its shoulder, so to speak. The curious name "Biscione" means large snake, and may refer to the creature — sometimes identified as a snake and sometimes as an eel — that appears in certain versions



▲ CAMPO DE' FIORI

Architecturally bland but rich in populist history, it has been a thriving mercantile hub for half a millennium.

of the Orsini family coat of arms. The enormous Palazzo della Cancelleria, constructed in the late 1480s by Cardinal Raffaele Riario, one of Pope Sixtus IV della Rovere's over-privileged nephews, pokes a corner toward the Campo along the via del Pellegrino (Street of the Pilgrim). Constructed by Sixtus, this street leads to and from the northwest corner of the Campo. It formed part of the papal processional route from St. Peter's to St. John Lateran and thus ensured that cardinals and other prelates, as well as ordinary pilgrims, would pass

through the square, adding to its importance as a mercantile center.

By the 1500s, the Campo de' Fiori had become the hub of a thriving neighborhood of inns and taverns offering hospitality to travelers. It also housed the workshops of various trades and crafts, recalled in many of the surrounding street names deriving from the trades that used to be practiced in those narrow little lanes. Among them are via dei Balestrari (cross-bow makers), via dei Baullari (trunk-makers), via dei Cappellari (hat-makers), via dei Chiavari (key-

Continues on page 66 ...

makers), via dei Chiodaroli (nail-makers), via dei Barbieri (barbers), via dei Pettinari (comb-makers) and via dei Giubbonari (tailors).

The Campo retains its reputation as a place for hospitality. There are many restaurants facing into the Campo, and in the surrounding neighborhood are still more restaurants and trattorie, as well as snack bars, cafés, bakeries, pizzerias, wine bars and pubs. But what really whets the appetite of anyone who enters the square between early morning and 2 in the afternoon is the famous outdoor market that fills the piazza and offers a vast selection of edibles and — recalling the square’s name — gorgeous flowers. There’s every variety of brilliantly colored fresh vegetables and fruits, all laid out enticingly for the potential buyer. Some of the older vendors still utter their individual “cries” — traditional patter in Roman dialect that has been repeated for



centuries, urging the throngs of buyers to purchase their particular and superior wares. In addition there are vendors selling spices from all over the world, along with others offering different flavors of honey and assorted exotic condiments. Increasingly in the past few decades, however, the market has also been invaded by people selling tourist trinkets, souvenir t-shirts, cheap clothing and housewares. If you want to avoid the mobs of tourist curiosity-seekers who wander around taking pictures and not buying anything, arrive early in the morning, when determined Roman housewives and dedicated hotel chefs scout out the best of the best produce.

Although originally almost every building around the Campo had an inn, today no hotels face directly onto the piazza — fortunately, given how noisy it is at all hours of the day and night. Still, the neighborhood isn’t lacking in lodgings. According to the results of my web search, within half a mile of the square there are 330 possibilities: hotels, pensiones, bed-and-breakfast places and short-let apartment rentals. The building that once housed the square’s most famous inn, the Taverna della Vacca (Inn of the Cow), still stands in the Campo, at the corner with via del Pellegrino. It belonged to Vannozza Cattanei, the long-time mistress of Pope Alexander VI Borgia and the mother of four of his illegitimate children. She was a shrewd businesswoman who outlived all three of the husbands Alexander chose for her, “in order to preserve her good name,” as a guide once told me with a straight face. She bought the building in 1513, shortly after Alexander’s death, at which time she invested her considerable capital in different kinds of Roman real estate, but especially in hotels and inns. The Vacca was among her most successful enterprises. The much-eroded coats of arms of two of her husbands, seeming to cower under the enormous stemma of her papal lover, are still visible on the corner of the building.



Vannozza's Inn



Campo de' Fiori in 1700s

Aside from its colorful connection with the sex life of one of the most notorious and worldly popes, the other historical aspect of the Campo de’ Fiori is much darker. Along with its commercial uses, the Campo was also a place for public tortures and executions. In addition, papal bulls against heretics were read and hung up there. These edicts are named for the large seal, known as a “bulla,” attached to them. The last one ever placed there, in 1860, railed against the patriots who were unifying Italy under a secular government. Until 1798, a gibbet loomed over the square. On this device — a wheel on top of a pole — people were hanged by their arms for minor crimes, a torment that caused excruciating shoulder pain. The nearby Via

della Corda (Street of the Rope) refers to the makers of the special rope used for this torture and not, as is often assumed, to the ordinary rope-maker’s craft.

The most famous execution to take place in the Campo de’ Fiori occurred on Feb. 7, 1600, when the Dominican theologian, philosopher and free-thinker Giordano Bruno was burned alive at the center of the piazza for refusing to recant beliefs the Catholic Church had declared heretical. A huge bronze statue of Bruno now stands on a tall pedestal on the same spot where his ghastly death took place. Oblivious tourists often use the step at the base of the statue as a place to sit and rest, or to consume goodies purchased from the market stalls, unaware of the identity of the grim figure who towers above them, facing defiantly toward the Vatican. The statue, by Ettore Ferrari, was erected — over strenuous

objections from the Vatican — in 1889, after Rome had been removed from papal control in 1870. Medallions showing other famous heretics decorate the pedestal, and it bears an inscription composed by Giovanni Bovio, a late 19th-century Italian philosopher who, like Bruno, had been excommunicated for his ideas: “To Bruno, the century that he foresaw [erected this] here, where the pyre burned.”

Giordano Bruno remains to this day a powerful symbol of intellectual freedom. The “era foreseen” by Bruno refers to the liberal, anti-clerical atmosphere that prevailed in Italy in the late 19th century, at the time the statue was put in place. Bruno’s death at the hands of the Inquisition made him a hero to Italy’s 19th-cen-



print by Giuseppe Vasi



Vannozza Cattanei

19th-century anti-clerical liberals, although his rambling, often opaque writings are unlikely to have been familiar to the busy political activists who founded modern Italy. Every Feb. 17, the mayor of Rome lays a wreath, draped in red and gold ribbons, at Bruno’s feet.

Although Pope John Paul II marked the Holy Year 2000 as a time for the church to apologize for past errors and excesses ranging from the Inquisition to the persecution of Jews, he drew the line at pardoning Giordano Bruno. A Vatican spokesman stated that the church “regretted” resorting to violence in Bruno’s case but insisted that his writings remain “incompatible” with Catholic thinking and that he therefore remains a heretic. That was actually good news to Italy’s militant minority of anti-clerical free-thinkers, several hundred of whom also gather every year at the base of Bruno’s statue to

commemorate the man they, and most Italians, revere as a martyr to free thought. As one man at the event explained gleefully to a reporter: “There was no way the church could lift the heretic label. Bruno doubted the virginity of Mary and said Jesus was a wizard!” That certainly does clarify why John Paul II wouldn’t let Bruno off the heretical hook.

The Campo de’ Fiori could be said to lead three lives. Depending on the time of day you visit, you’ll have three distinctly different experiences. As noted, from early morning until around 2 p.m., there’s the crowded, colorful fruit and vegetable market. After that, the stall holders vanish, and the sanitation workers arrive to clean up the mess left behind and to hose down the pavement. Once this is done, the Campo becomes a charming and spacious piazza where both visitors and locals can sit and relax at the outdoor tables of the many restaurants that line the square on all sides. The third transformation begins around 10 p.m. and lasts until the wee hours of the morning. This is when droves of young people, both Italians and foreigners, converge on the

square, swarming in and out of the many bars and pubs in the neighborhood. As the hour grows later, the racket and rowdy behavior increase and spill into the piazza, causing frequent problems with local residents, some of them serious enough to require intervention by the police. These problems are intensified by the violence associated with “tifosi” — fanatical and mostly drunk soccer fans of rival clubs who sometimes engage in armed attacks on one another. This might seem like a uniquely contemporary problem, but let’s remember what lies beneath the Campo de’ Fiori: stables for the horses of the bitterly rivalrous chariot-racing teams of imperial Rome. According to ancient historians, people got into violent fights over rival teams back then, too. Some things about Rome really are — for better or worse — eternal.

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▼ TRAVEL TIPS ▼



La Carbonara

WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

The Campo de’ Fiori is in the southern part of Rome’s historical center, approached from all directions by a maze of narrow streets. However, from Rome’s main street, Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, you can walk directly into the Campo on via dei Baullari, which has been widened to allow vehicular traffic into the square. The closest forms of public transportation are the many buses that run along Corso Vittorio Emanuele.

WHAT SHOULD WE SEE?

The only monument in the Campo is the huge, impressive statue of Giordano Bruno, which every visitor should stop and look at for at least a few moments. Otherwise, the main attraction of the piazza is the outdoor market, held Monday through Saturday from early morning till around 2 p.m.

DINING DELIGHTS

Too numerous to list! The most famous restaurant on the square is La Carbonara, at number 23. It is open for lunch and dinner and offers two floors of indoor seating plus outdoor tables. Other restaurants, along with bakeries, salumerie (delicatessens), sandwich shops, pizzerias, pubs and cafés, line the perimeter of the piazza and fill the surrounding neighborhood.

WHAT ELSE IS NEARBY?

Several of Rome’s grandest palaces are close to the Campo. Just to the south is Palazzo Farnese, now the French Embassy but once the largest private residence in Rome. Slightly to the north is the magnificent Palazzo della Cancelleria, now property of the Vatican. Neither is open to the public, but both can be visited by reservation with guided tours.

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by Mary Ann Esposito

A salad SAMPLER

Ask for a salad in Italy, and the standard choices will be *insalata verde* (green salad) or *insalata mista* (a mixed salad with vegetables like shaved carrots, radicchio and fennel).

Salad has always been an integral part of the Italian meal, traditionally served after the main course as a digestive. This practice still exists in many places, but in larger cities, salad is often served with the main course.

Italians prefer salad greens on the bitter side. A mix of chicories — like radicchio, with its gorgeous deep purple leaves and white veining; sturdy escarole; romaine and dandelion greens — are popular. Romans adore *puntarelle*, a chicory grown in the countryside and tossed with an anchovy-and-olive-oil dressing, and *agretti*, a wispy grass-like salad green in season for just a short period of time.

Salads are typically dressed with extra virgin olive oil and red wine vinegar or fresh lemon juice. In restaurants, cruets of oil and vinegar are brought to the table for you to dress your own.

Some regions offer more than just green salad. In Milan, I enjoyed a splendid salad with a Gorgonzola cheese dressing. In Tuscany, *panzanella* (bread in a swamp) is a classic raw vegetable salad made with the addition of small stale bread cubes soaked in red wine vinegar. In Sicily, *rinforzata* (reinforced salad) contains cauliflower and other vegetables that are added each day to the original salad. Fennel and blood oranges make an unusual flavor combination in Sicilian salad. In Amalfi, the ubiquitous *insalata Caprese* (Capri style) can only mean juicy tomatoes, mozzarella cheese and fresh basil with a drizzle of extra vir-



gin olive oil. Creamy burrata cheese from Puglia marries beautifully with roasted pears.

A salad starts with the freshest ingredients and, in the case of a green salad, crisp lettuce that has not been water sprayed to death, as is the practice in many grocery stores. To revive limp lettuce crisp, soak the leaves in ice water for about 30 minutes. Afterward, drain it and spin it dry in a salad spinner to remove the excess water from the leaves, otherwise the dressing will not adhere very well.

Do not saturate the leaves with too much dressing; if puddles lay in the bottom of the bowl, you have used too much. When the tossing is done, the leaves should be lightly coated. I use a ratio of one part extra virgin olive oil to two parts vinegar, but that's a personal choice. Toss the leaves with the olive oil, then the vinegar and last the salt. Some cooks dissolve the salt in the vinegar first before adding it to the salad.

Whether salads come before, with or after the main course, they remain a healthy component of the Mediterranean diet.

ARUGULA, RADICCHIO AND ROMAINE SALAD

Insalata di Rucola, Radicchio e Romana

Serves 4

Arugula is a spicy chicory that's very easy to grow and lasts well past the first frost. It is available in most grocery stores. Arugula is best partnered with other greens for an *insalata verde* (green salad), rather than served alone. It is also made into a pesto for pasta.

Salad

- 1-cup torn into bite-size pieces radicchio leaves
- 1-cup torn into bite-size pieces arugula leaves
- 1-cup torn into bite-size pieces Romaine leaves

Dressing

- 1 heaping tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar (or more to taste)
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Wash and spin dry all the lettuce leaves or dry them well with a towel. Place them in a salad bowl. Add the olive oil and toss well to coat the leaves; add the vinegar and toss again. Sprinkle with salt and pepper and toss to combine well.

Excerpted from "Ciao Italia: My Lifelong Food Adventures in Italy."

For more from Mary Ann Esposito, visit www.ciaoitalia.com and [facebook.com/maryannesposito](https://www.facebook.com/maryannesposito). ©2019, Mary Ann Esposito.

Fizzy MEMORIES

by Robert Calvert

You remember Lambrusco — fizzy, fruity, affable, affordable! It was the best-selling Italian wine here in the 1970s and 1980s.

Lambrusco can be more subtle and varied than we may recall. The term Lambrusco includes at least 60 sub-varieties of the grape that flourish in three provinces in Emilia — Modena, Parma and Reggio. Alessandra Pradelli tells me that Lambrusco is grown in “the entire territory of the Po Valley adjacent to the Po River, including in the Province of Piacenza.” The grape can be found in Piemonte, Trentino — and even in Basilicata.

The principal strains of the grape that we hear about are Lambrusco di Sorbara, Lambrusco Grasparossa di Castelvetro, Lambrusco Reggiano, and Lambrusco Salamino di Santa Croce.

My first experience with differentiated Lambrusco took place years ago in Massa, when a colleague and I dined at a restaurant near our hotel.

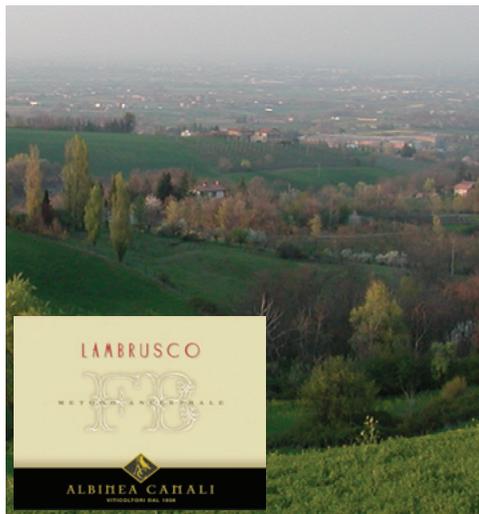
It was a dark and stormy night. The eatery was all but empty when we arrived. Dinner was excellent, and we paired our food with a liter or two of the house red. In truth, my colleague and I were yucking it up pretty good. Richard, who lived in New York City, was regaling me with tales of the upside-down musical world there. Eventually we completed our meal, still guffawing. The owner brought our check and inquired whether we would like to enjoy a glass of wine with him — Lambrusco.

A wine epiphany ensued. Our host’s Lambrusco was not like the Lambrusco Richard and I had enjoyed at home. It was dry, minimally effervescent and elegant in its fruitiness. Tasting it was the apogee of a memorable evening. We were amazed, delighted and edified.

Years later, I recounted this story to a friend from Genova who now lives in the U.S. It turned out that he had been a

Lambrusco enthusiast since his childhood.

Ennio’s family used to sit down on Sundays for a simple dinner — cappelletti in brodo followed by boiled chicken with salsa verde genovese (made with parsley.) Sometimes they dined on boiled beef instead of boiled chicken. Dessert usually was zuppa inglese. (They’d had



cheese in the cappelletti already.)

The wine at dinner was Lambrusco, which in those days (the late 1950s and early 1960s) was obtained from relatives in the country. In Ennio’s family, wine was for everybody, including “the kids,” for whom there was a ritual. One of the adults would slosh a little Lambrusco into a child’s glass, and as the wine foamed up, the slosher would exclaim, “Drink the foam. It will make you smart!” (“Bevi la schiuma, ché diventi furbo!”)

In September everyone went to a tiny town near Reggio to vacation, help with the harvest and “step on grapes.” When the family visited friends, their hosts would haul out a wooden tray loaded with local salami, coppa,



prosciutto and pancetta. The meat was consumed with store-bought bread. There were no olives or artichokes: cold cuts only. Dusty bottles of Lambrusco from the previous harvest were brought up from the cellar. The wine paired perfectly with the “heavy food we used to eat in those days.”

Albiea Canali Metodo Ancestrale Lambrusco (\$20) is 100 percent Lambrusco di Sorbara. Its rich rosé color is complemented by a bouquet of strawberries. Discreetly fizzy, its tart flavor evokes strawberries with hints of blood orange and even cider. The wine is made in the old style: it is partially fermented, then bottled, where it undergoes a second fermentation, leaving a slight residue of yeast. The importer notes that the natural yeast reminds us “how much our ancestors enjoyed this same style of Lambrusco.” Like our ancestors, we loved this wine.

We also tasted Albiea Canali’s excellent Ottocentonero. Of course, we drank the foam from both wines, and yes, the foam made us smart. We drank the rest of each bottle to be sure. (Furbi noi.)



Albiea Canali Lambrusco Metodo Ancestrale

REGION:

Emilia IGT

DESCRIPTION:

Intense rosé color; fresh, fruity aroma, hints of bread crust; dry, velvety, refreshing.

PAIRING:

Cured meats, stuffed pastas, grilled meat.

Beyond GREENS

by Dolores Sennebogen

May is National Salad Month. The event was created in 1992 by the Association for Dressings and Sauces to promote their products and encourage us to incorporate more salads into our diets. While I enjoy a well-dressed bowl of greens, the word salad conjures up many more ideas for serving vegetables, rice, pasta, legumes, poultry and meat. One particular dish came to mind recently when I heard several Sicilian cooks talking about soup night at their house. Some mentioned that their family served the meat from beef soup bones as a salad. I remember this meal well but never realized it was a common Sicilian preparation. I always assumed the beef salad was a concoction of my mother, who could take the most bland or common food and make it mouthwatering. This works best when you use very meaty bones such as beef shanks for your beef broth. Paired with crusty bread, this contributes to the ultimate “soup and salad supper.”

With months of warm weather ahead, I’m also including ways to prepare salads using fresh spring and summer produce.

INSALATA DI CARNE (Boiled Beef Salad)

- 2 cups boiled beef from soup bones
- 2 or 3 green onions, sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped Italian parsley
- 2 ribs celery heart, sliced
- Salt and pepper
- Lemon and oil dressing (see below)
- 1-1/2 teaspoons capers (optional)
- Shredded lettuce
- Tomato wedges, hard-cooked eggs, black olives (optional)

After preparing beef soup with meaty bones such as beef shank, remove the

meat from the bones and trim off any fat. Dice or shred the beef and put it into a bowl. Add the green onions, parsley and celery. Season with salt and pepper. Toss with a sufficient amount of the lemon dressing to moisten the meat. Add the capers and 2 or 3 cups of shredded lettuce. Toss again. Serve as a salad with your beef soup. An alternative way to serve the salad is to line a platter with the shredded lettuce and mound the dressed beef salad in the middle. Garnish the platter with the optional tomatoes, quartered hard-cooked eggs and black olives.



Lemon and olive oil dressing

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

Ream the juice from 2 or 3 lemons until 1/2 cup is accumulated. Put it in a bowl and add all the ingredients except the olive oil. Mix and stir to dissolve the salts. Add the oil, slowly beating it into the mixture. If not used immediately, store the dressing in a tightly covered container in the refrigerator. Shake well before each use.

— Ann Sorrentino

INSALATA DI POMODORI A STRATI (Stacked Tomato Salad)

- 1 medium vine-ripened red tomato
- 1 medium golden yellow tomato
- 1 large (8-10 ounce) ball of fresh mozzarella

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... continued from page 71 ...

Sea salt
Black pepper
1/3 to 1/2 torn-up fresh basil or to taste
2-3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Whole basil leaves for garnish

The tomatoes should be about the same circumference as the ball of mozzarella. Slice the ends off of the tomatoes and then slice each into 4 even slices. Cut the mozzarella ball into 6 slices. On two small salad plates, lay one tomato slice and sprinkle generously with the sea salt and pepper. Top with a slice of mozzarella, some torn basil and a generous drizzle of good olive oil. Repeat the layers, alternating yellow and red tomatoes. Do not be stingy with any of the ingredients. Top with whole basil leaves for garnish. Makes 2 stacks.

VARIATIONS: You may try making this same recipe using burrata cheese, which you will have to spoon on top of each slice of tomato. If desired, you can substitute pesto for the fresh basil or use additional toppings between each layer, such as olive tapenade.

— Dolores Sennebogen

INSALATA DI FRUTTA ESTIVA E POMODORI

(Fresh Summer Fruit and Tomato Salad)

2 large stone fruits (see below)
1 large vine-ripened tomato, halved
and thinly sliced
12 ounces burrata or fresh mozzarella
a cheese
1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/3 cup torn basil, loosely packed
2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
1-1/2 tablespoons Balsamico di Modena

Select your favorite in-season stone

fruits, such as peaches, nectarines or apricots. Halve them and remove the pit. Slice them thinly. On a round or oval platter arrange the sliced fruit and tomatoes in concentric circles. Place the cheese in the center. If using burrata, leave it whole and slice into it at the table. If using a fresh ball of mozzarella, pre-slice it and arrange it in the center. Sprinkle everything with salt, pepper, basil and chives. Drizzle with the balsamic vinegar just before serving.

— adapted from Whole Foods Market

TONNO E FAGIOLI MARINATI

(Tuna and Bean Salad)

2 (15-ounce) cans cannellini beans
2 or 3 plum tomatoes
4 tablespoons chopped green onions
1 tablespoon chopped flat-leaf parsley
Italian salad dressing
1 clove garlic, pressed
1 (6-ounce) can tuna fillet in water
Chopped fresh basil (optional)

Drain the beans. Rinse them gently with cold water and drain again, very well. Cut the tomatoes in half, scoop out and discard the seeds, then dice into small pieces. Toss the beans with the diced tomatoes, chopped onions and parsley.

You may use the Lemon and Oil dressing described in the first recipe, or an Italian dressing of your choice. Add some of the dressing to the beans to moisten. Drain the tuna, add it to the beans and toss again. At serving time add additional dressing and taste to correct seasonings. Refrigerate any unused dressing.

— Dolores Sennebogen

INSALATA MISTA COLORATA

(Colorful Mixed Salad)

6 cups torn mixed greens
1 carrot, shaved into curls
1 pint mixed-color cherry tomatoes
1/2 cup pitted black olives
18 asparagus spears
1 small red or yellow pepper
3/4 cup artichoke hearts,
halved or quartered

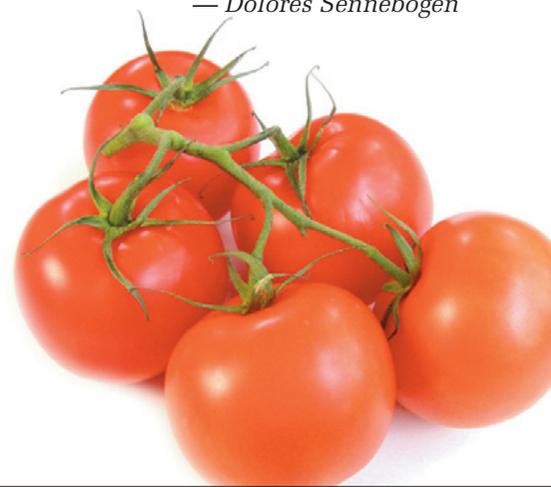


1/3 cup sliced red onion
1 cup mozzarella pearls,
very well drained
Dressing (see below)
Homemade croutons

Select an interesting mix of fresh lettuces, such as romaine, red leaf lettuce, radicchio and an assortment of spring greens. Place the torn greens in a bowl. Halve the cherry tomatoes and black olives. Cut the tips (about 2 to 3 inches) off of the asparagus, saving the bottom stalk for another use. Cut the red or yellow pepper into 1-1/2-inch squares. Blanch the asparagus tips and pepper squares in a small amount of boiling salted water very briefly. They should still be tender-crisp. Drain very well. Place all of the prepared vegetables and the mozzarella pearls on top of the greens. Toss the ingredients with just enough dressing to moisten everything well. Add the croutons and toss again.

DRESSING: 5 tablespoons red wine vinegar, 1 teaspoon each oregano and basil, 2 teaspoons prepared mustard, 1 large clove garlic (through a garlic press), 3/4 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon sugar, 1/8 teaspoon black pepper, 1/2 cup olive oil. Blend the vinegar with all of the seasonings, combining well. Gradually beat in the olive oil. Taste for seasonings, adding more salt if desired.

— Dolores Sennebogen



Tailored TABLE

by Dolores Sennebogen, Photos by Elizabeth Minchilli

When Elizabeth Minchilli was 12 years old, her family moved to Rome for two years. Her love affair with Italy began immediately. Years later, as an architectural graduate student in Florence, “I fell in love with an Italian architect,” she explains, “and within a year I had an Italian husband, an Italian baby, an Italian house and an Italian dog.” She has never looked back and feels privileged to be spending her life writing about her adopted country. She has been recognized for her books and articles on lifestyle, architecture and travel, and began writing a blog in 2009. Eventually, food took center stage in her blogging and has led to three cookbooks. Her latest, published last month by Rizzoli New York, takes the reader on armchair excursions to enchanting settings.

“The Italian Table: Creating Festive Meals for Family and Friends” shows us that while the food on our plate is paramount, authentic Italian style also takes account of our surroundings, our companions, and our own personal flair for entertaining. The book not only provides menus and recipes but also detailed guidelines for creating memorable celebrations. Each chapter begins with delightful insights into local culture and then suggests a lovely locale and a mouthwatering menu. Minchilli maps out ways to set a charming table, time our preparations efficiently, and select beverages our guests might enjoy.

The second chapter proposes “A Sunday Lunch in Emilia-Romagna.” Engaging photos of the occasion, taken by the author, invite us to pull up a chair. Even if you are not lucky enough to find yourself there, the inspiration is provided for a delicious meal of radicchio and pancetta appetizers, ricotta and Swiss chard tortelli, pork roast stuffed with mortadella, and a spinach torta. Whether Minchilli trans-

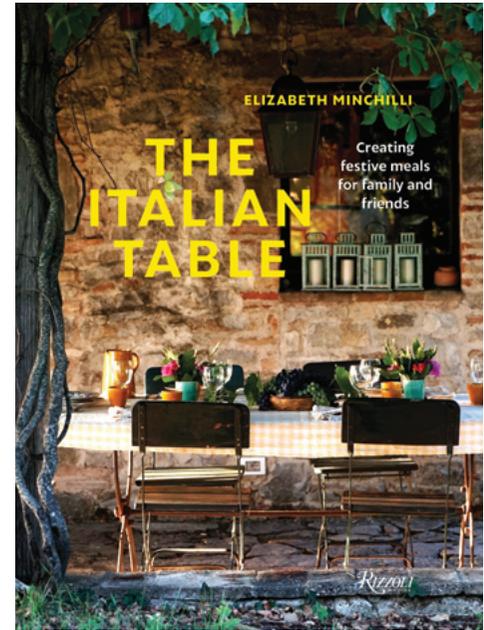
ports us to a table by the sea in Positano or lunch in a market in Florence, we find appealing recipes, a treasure trove of Italian food culture and an encouragement to entertain. The dish below was served at a country guesthouse in Puglia.



PASTA CON POMODORINI SCHIACCIATI E RUGHETTA

Pasta with smashed cherry tomatoes and arugula

This is one of those effortless recipes that relies on extraordinary ingredients. The cherry tomatoes used here are datterini, a particularly intense variety grown on the estate. If you’re unsure if your cherry tomatoes are up to the job, just taste one. If it’s watery and bland, this recipe won’t do anything to improve it. Better to move on



to another recipe or else search out better tomatoes. The arugula used here is the perennial variety, which grows wild in Puglia. Tough and spicy, it adds both flavor and texture to the dish. Pre-washed, bagged hothouse arugula may not have the same effect but will be close. (Serves 6)

- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound of cavatelli or orecchiette
- 1/3 cup of extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for drizzling
- 1 pound of cherry tomatoes
- 1/4 cup of fresh basil leaves
- 1 bunch of arugula or other spicy green, rinsed and dried
- 4 ounces of ricotta salata, grated (1 cup)

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Add the pasta and cook according to the package directions until al dente. In the meantime, pour the olive oil into a large frying pan (big enough to hold the drained pasta later). Add the cherry tomatoes, basil, and salt and pepper to taste. Cook over high heat for about 10 minutes, until the tomatoes have started to break down. Drain the pasta and add it to the tomatoes. Using the back of your spoon, smash the tomatoes to let their juices run out. Toss well to coat the pasta completely. Divide the pasta into six individual bowls. Scatter the arugula leaves and ricotta salata over the top. Drizzle with more olive oil and serve immediately.

Peace, AT LAST

by Nicola Orichuia

Marciano della Chiana is one of those tiny villages in the middle of Tuscany that radiates tranquility, although the town's history is far from serene. The whole area, which is just a few miles east of Siena, was once densely populated by the Etruscans. The fertile lands were also widely cultivated by the Romans, but in Medieval times, a good part of the territory devolved into swampland, forcing the locals to migrate onto the nearby hills.

Marciano evaded turmoil through much of the Middle Ages under the rule of Arezzo, which invested heavily in

building a wall around the town and towers to guard the perimeter. By the late 1300s, however, Siena and Florence had become the major powers in the area, and Arezzo had to bow to its mightier neighbors, yielding its holdings in the process. In 1382, Siena took over Marciano, building a massive fortress in its center. Two years later, Florence forced the Senese out of town, and remained in Marciano for hundreds of years.

An important and memorable battle took place in the Marciano valley on Aug. 2, 1554. The so-called Battle of Scannagallo saw Florentine and Senese forces

clash in what would prove to be Siena's ultimate capitulation. Less than a year later, the Republic of Siena ceased to exist, surrendering to Spain on April 21, 1555. The impressive clash is recorded by the Renaissance master Giorgio Vasari in one of the murals hanging inside Florence's Sala dei Cinquecento.

Nowadays, the town of Marciano and its 3,500 inhabitants live a much more tranquil existence. Most of the economy is rooted in agriculture, while tourists can visit the Medieval fortress and enjoy a Chianina steak, from its famous local cows, along with a glass of Chianti.



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