



NOVEMBER 2016 | VOL 72 | ISSUE 01

# Com **UNICO**

The Voice of UNICO National

The Largest Italian American Service Organization in America

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- Lisa Aduabato.....Administrative Assistant
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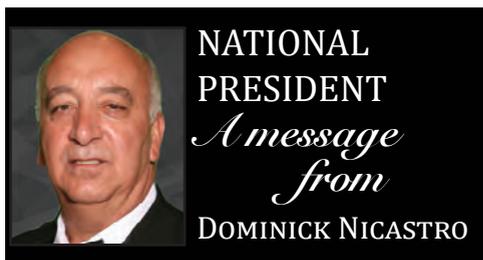
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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- December 1, 2016** National Open House Holiday Party
- December 16, 2016** Deadline for the November 2016 issue of ComUNICO
- January 3, 2017** Grant Applications Due National Office
- March, 2017-TBA** Mid-Year Board Meeting
- April 15, 2017** Scholarship Applications Due to National Office
- July 26 - 29, 2017** National Convention, Scottsdale, AZ

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

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The Executive Board has been busy this year working as a team with the National Office and Executive Director Andre' DiMino. My theme this year has been making UNICO our second family. We must work together and help one another by attending each other's events. Doing so, members from various Chapters see what works and what they wish to be part of as well.

Our Eastern Regional Meeting was held November 10-13. Accommodations were at the beautiful five star Chatham Bars Inn, in Chatham, Cape Cod, Massachusetts. It is always crucial for all officers and members to attend the Eastern Regional, Mid-Year Board Meeting, and National Convention to not only handle important business, but to also make time to enjoy ourselves.

The location and dates of our Mid-Year Board Meeting will be named shortly. Expect it to be the second week of March 2017. The Annual National Convention will be held in Arizona at

the JW Marriott in Scottsdale July 26-30, 2017.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the earthquake victims in Italy. If you have not donated, I urge you to send in whatever you can afford to the UNICO Foundation Disaster Relief Fund to help those affected.

UNICO has taken a stand in the attack from the NEA Union on Columbus Day. We have had a tremendous outpouring of support from: Sons of Italy, One Voice Coalition, Anti-Bias Committee, NIAF, UNICO Chapters and various other Italian organizations. A meeting was held at the National Office to approach the NEA as one united group and show support against changing the Columbus Day holiday by denouncing our Italian hero. We wish to urge any teachers, present or retired to write a letter of support to preserve Columbus Day as it should be. Please forward any letters to the President of the NEA in Washington, D.C. and also to the Anti-Bias Committee care of the UNICO National Office. We must stand united on this and not waver.

Overall membership is at a record low. However, Andre' DiMino's Italian Heritage Program works in attracting new members. I will continue to support his program, because I believe in it and it is success.

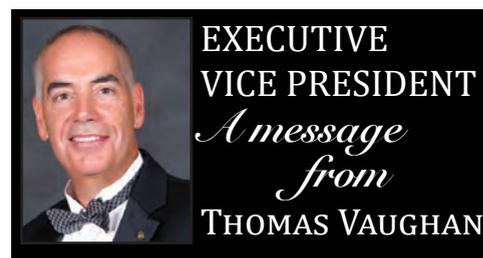
Please remember all Chapters and

Districts must file their 990 tax return card. If you miss three consecutive years, the IRS will revoke the 501c-4 Non-Profit Chapter status and the Chapter's Executive Board may be held responsible. If help is required to file, please do not hesitate to contact the National Office for assistance.

Our new Youth Chairperson, Joya Diaz, is diligently working along with our Historical Chairperson Grace Gynn to find new ways to develop a drive of membership for our youth. There will be more to follow on this matter.

In closing, on behalf of my family and myself, I wish all members and their loved ones a happy healthy Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year. I hope you take time to truly enjoy your time together and honor the traditions which we have always held dear such as having seven fish on Christmas Eve, the traditional Christmas dinner, homemade cookies and wine. My grandmother used to prepare smelts at midnight along with preparing sausage and onions for New Year's Eve. I vividly recall watching Guy Lombardo and the ball dropping in New York. Treasure the time you have with your family. Never be too busy to make new memories.

God bless all of us and god bless UNICO.



In this issue, you will see a lot of pictures from the Columbus Day celebrations around the country. One of the highlights of the UNICO year for me is marching up 5th Avenue in Manhattan with my fellow UNICANs in New York. We had glorious weather as we followed President Nicastro up the avenue waving to all of the people and handing out American flags to children of all ages. We heard opera singers, saw traditional dancers, watched members of the police and fire departments from Italy marching, and saw Maseratis on display. The

Scranton Chapter brought their rolling mini-music machine, so we sang along with the crowd to *C'e' La Luna*, *That's Amore*, and got everyone involved in a rousing rendition of New York, New York. I was marching with the President and Vice Presidents and we all made a point to thank the hundreds of police officers assigned to provide security.

Somehow, Columbus Day has become controversial. Manny Alfano is always sending us news articles where people are denigrating Columbus' achievements and the holiday. We saw a small number of protesters in New York and I respect their right to their opinion; but they were certainly outnumbered by the thousands of people that lined the streets to enjoy the pride we have as Italian Americans. There were people of all races, nationalities, and age groups smiling and waving Italian flags, applauding us as we marched by. On Columbus Day

we are celebrating our pride in our culture and heritage.

I don't think we should ascribe 21st century morality to past history. Columbus Day is for Americans to salute the contributions of Italians and Italian-Americans. Other people can have their own days to observe their own heritage, but please leave Columbus Day alone.

As the holiday season is upon us, Michele and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are thankful for all of the friends we have made through UNICO and grateful for all of the tremendous work you do to make us the outstanding Italian American service organization we are. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to discuss anything UNICO. I would love to hear from you.



**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**  
*A message from*  
**Lee Norelli**

This is a very busy time of the year for UNICO. The Columbus Day parades in Philadelphia, PA, Seaside Heights, NJ, New York City as well as other locations were very well attended by members of UNICO. The Philadelphia Chapter members volunteered as Marshalls for the Philadelphia parade. Although the weather didn't cooperate in Seaside Heights, many of us still participated in (the rain) the parade. Many UNICO Chapters participated alongside 35 thousand marchers in the New York City, the world's largest celebration of our Ital-

ian American culture. Many thanks to our Columbus Day Chair Ralph Contini for his dedication to preserve, protect, and defend Columbus Day – "a great American Holiday". We, as proud Italian Americans, must do our part to preserve, protect, and defend "our" holiday.

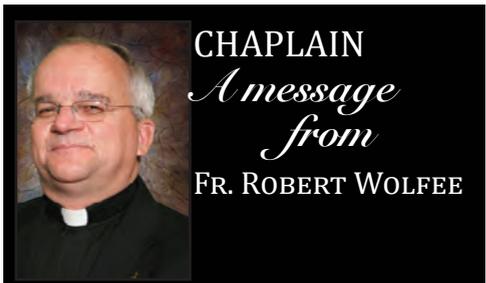
The NY, NJ, and PA Meet the President dinner was a huge success. More than 375 people attended to honor our National President Dominick Nicastro.

Many Chapters and Districts are planning their holiday events and I ask them to keep the National Office informed so the National Officers can participate in these events. I know many Chapters will be providing food for those less fortunate in our communities. Each year, the Greater Philadelphia Chapter provides complete Thanksgiving Day Baskets to 100 plus families. Christmas parties are also being planned for those less fortunate. Members of the Greater

Philadelphia Chapter become chaperones to under-privileged children to shop for their families. This is a most rewarding day for the members to see the impact we have doing good for others.

This year, as First Vice President, I am charged with supervising the activities of the District Governors. Fortunately, we have three outstanding Regional District Governors and outstanding District Governors. District Governors are the link between the Chapters and the National Office. You have my commitment to assist you in any way I can. Please let me know as soon as possible of your District meetings schedule. I look forward to receiving the 1st Quarter District Reports and communicating with all members. I am always available by e-mail at [lnorelli@unico.org](mailto:lnorelli@unico.org) or by phone 609-685-7860.

Together, let's continue the great work of UNICO.



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

In biblical times, many sicknesses and handicaps were thought to be the result of either sin or evil. To keep the evil or sin from spreading, people were labeled as "unclean" and exiled from the community. People with leprosy were quarantined to remote desolate places to live away from contact with the rest of society.

Jesus always reached out to people who were on the margins of society: sinners, those who were poor or sick,

women, foreigners. It was these people who seemed to be the most open to the message of hope that he brought. On the other hand, the people at the center --- the people at the heart of the Jewish religion --- were some of the ones most resistant to his teaching. For example, when Jesus cured ten lepers, only the Samaritan leper went back to him to thank him for his cure.

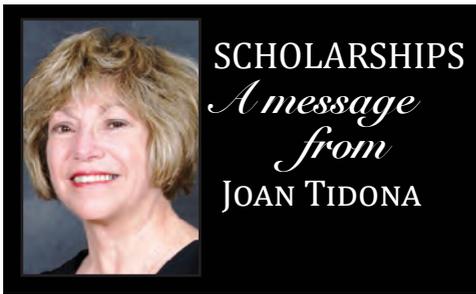
Even though we are not lepers in the literal sense, each of us carries his or her own personal wounds and needs healing. We may need physical healing from some illness or we may struggle with mental health issues. We may carry the burden of taking care of a sick person, living in a loveless marriage, working at a dead-end job or not having a job at all. These are experiences of living at the edges of life, of being marginalized. In these situations, it might seem that there

is no hope. However, often it is through hardship and real struggle that we might experience God most powerfully.

The attitude of thanksgiving shown by the Samaritan is a sign of a deeper healing. God had touched him in a profound way; he was made whole in a way that wasn't just skin-deep. His faith had saved him. His hopelessness was turned into thanksgiving. The only thing that God wants from us in return for the many gifts he has given us is our sincere gratitude. Do we recognize and thank God for the gifts we have received? Are we filled with awe and praise, amazed at the love that God has for us? Do we allow God's love, mercy and healing to truly touch us and affect the way we live our lives? In this month of Thanksgiving, are we truly grateful?

God bless.





**SCHOLARSHIPS**

*A message from*

**JOAN TIDONA**

**Off to a Good Start**

*Chi ben comincia, è a metà strada attraverso il suo compito.*

**Italian Proverb**

*Who begins well, is half way through his task.*

Although the scholarship program is nowhere near to being half way through, we are certainly off to a good start.

Updated scholarship applications will be e-mailed, by mid-November, to UNICO Executives, District Governors, Chapter Presidents, Scholarship Chairs and the Scholarship Committee. All are asked to assist in making applications available to potential candidates. Any-

one preferring hard copies, may request them from the office.

Revisions, to previous forms, will be reflected in 2016-2017 applications. The modifications simply clarify requirements; they do not change conditions of submission. Amended forms will state that: incomplete, altered, outdated or unofficial applications will not be considered. Only completed, hardcopy applications will be accepted. The effective date will be prominently indicated on the front page of the application. We will also specify that the scholarship must be applied to the academic year of the award and recipients must submit the scholarship agreement documentation and a bursar's receipt as proof of enrollment, upon notification.

Nominees must reside in the home state of an active UNICO Chapter. Candidates **MUST** meet the eligibility requirements stated on each of the respective applications. Applications may be acquired from and submitted through a State Chapter, the District Governor or

the UNICO National Office. Online degree programs do not qualify for UNICO scholarships.

The initial offering of our newly established Marie and Paolo Alessio Southern Italy Scholarship will be in place. This scholarship will be provided to an American citizen of Southern Italian heritage, pursuing a degree. We thank Dr. John Alessio and the members of the Alessio family for choosing to set up this program through the UNICO Foundation.

For further information on Scholarships, please contact the UNICO National Scholarship Director, Joan Tidona at [jtidona@unico.org](mailto:jtidona@unico.org). To find a local Chapter, please visit <http://unico.org/search.asp> or contact UNICO National at 973.808.0035.

Owing to the strong support of our members, I think you will agree, we have begun well!

Please see page 25 for a list of Scholarships and their respective requirements.



**MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION**

*A message from*

**ANTHONY BENGIVENGA**

The excitement of celebrating Italian Heritage Month in October is behind us. There were so many great UNICO events surrounding Columbus Day weekend and I cherish every moment spent at the various wreath layings, flag raisings and especially the parade on 5th Ave in New York City. It indeed was a great opportunity to attract new members and to publicize our organization with our fellow citizens.

Now as we approach late fall and winter, the giving season is upon us. The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays have always been UNICO's shining moments of true generosity. Let us publicize our charitable events and banquets

through the local media and Facebook, and various other outlets to invite the public to join us in the positive side of our great heritage. As our National President Dominick Nicastro has stated so well, we are a family and we welcome everyone to join our family. As Italian Americans, we know how to do it with delicious food, fantastic music and incredible conversation while still making our generous contributions to great charitable causes.

I continue to encourage our Chapters to have an Italian Heritage night as a community event to attract new members. The best time for such an event is usually a Sunday afternoon in a public venue. Our National Office will help you in the planning and will reimburse you for the necessary postage for the publicity mailing for this event. Our Executive Director Andre' DiMino will emcee the event and keep your target audience entertained with his power point presentation and a brief Italian lesson. A lead time of approximately 8 weeks is needed

so you must plan ahead. Please contact me if you are interested and I will give you more additional detailed information on getting started.

If you would like one of our Membership and Retention Committee members to attend one of your Chapter or District meetings, please contact me. My e-mail address is [anthony@bengivenga.com](mailto:anthony@bengivenga.com), and my phone number is 732-310-6031.

Grazie e un abbraccio a tutti! Thanks and a big hug to everyone



Carbondale Chapter Banquet honoring Past Carbondale Chapter Presidents.



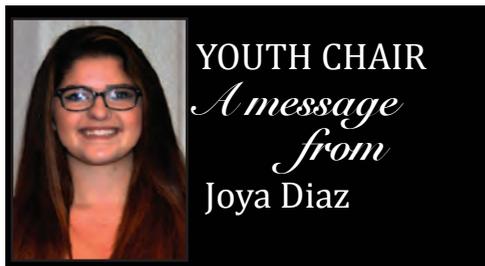
**COMUNICO  
EDITOR**  
*A message  
from*  
**PAT PELONERO**

This is the time of year we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday and give thanks for the many blessings that have been afforded to us. When we think of Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims and the Native Americans it is a reflection of our rich and meaningful history. There has been much commotion about Christopher Columbus and the way he lived. The times that Columbus lived in were much different and were tolerated in his day. Does that make his actions right,

absolutely not. However Columbus did bring the two worlds together and without his voyage our history may have been quite different. I think as a society we need to revisit how our history has affected us the good and the bad. Today we look at men and women that lived centuries ago and want them to have our values and a civilized demeanor that is not realistic. I do not think we give them credit for living in those times when survival was much harder and most of us do not understand the peril they were under just to make it through a new day. As time goes by the new generations will forge a new direction. If they could only focus on what it did to start our country and appreciate that we now live our lives differently and the atrocities that were tolerated then would never be tolerated now. That came with the

growth of our Nation and civilization. So before people think to give up on the Columbus Day holiday and change it. It would also in a way be giving up on the history of how our country evolved.

The staff at UNICO National wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season. It is always hard to believe how quickly the season comes around. We hope to see many of you at our holiday party Thursday, December 1st from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM held at the National Office. It is always a great day and it gives our members a chance to celebrate the season together. Come join our UNICO family and eat, drink and be merry!



**YOUTH CHAIR**  
*A message  
from*  
**Joya Diaz**

My name is Joya Diaz and President Nicastro appointed me as National Youth Chair this summer to help recruit young people to join and get involved in UNICO.

I currently attend Towson University in Towson, Maryland. I am studying Business Administration with concentrations in both Finance and Accounting.

Before attending college, I spent my high school career at Point Pleasant Beach High School. Here, I tried to stay involved in many different activities such as the marching band, the environmental club, the drama club, and especially UNICO. Growing up in Point Pleasant Beach, I was given all these opportunities and also grew to love the beach more and more, which is why I spend much of my spare time when I am home at the beach, no matter what the weather! I became interested in UNICO when I was a sophomore in high school.

My Italian teacher, Marena Lobosco, who is a member of Point Pleasant Beach Chapter started an ACES program that participated in UNICO sponsored events. We marched in Columbus Parades with the Chapter banner and we were invited to Chapter dinners and meetings. Each year all the ACES would join in on National Community Service Day. But we would do our own volunteer charities as well. We made Christmas stockings for disabled residents and supported a wounded animals' zoo. I am most proud of our work on the annual clothing drive where part of the proceeds go to a Youth Scholarship. Although I am now a Youth member, I would also like to help Chapters expand our ACES and Youth programs in high schools as well.

It is easy for each Chapter to get a group of young people together. Get one or two members to go to a local high school or church or contact an Italian teacher. Most high school students are interested in doing community service for their college or confirmation requirements. But mostly young people are interested in their heritage and learning the Italian language and culture. My parents were so impressed by my involvement that my mother also joined UNICO.

Although I am away at college now,

I still keep in contact with the other Youth members using e-mail and twitter. When we are home we attend Chapter meetings and during holidays we are invited to Chapter Christmas party. This month I am coming home for the Point Pleasant and Brick UNICO Italian Heritage Dinner.

In today's world young people are busy with school and work and cannot always attend meetings. But we know how to communicate by the use of the internet. In my next article, I will explain how groups of youth in your Chapter can get together and run meetings online.

Start now by getting e-mail addresses of member's children and grandchildren as well as past scholarship recipients. Ciao for now.



National Youth Chairperson Joya Diaz (far right) meets with Point Pleasant Beach Youth members from left: Nicole Meyer, Loren Balunis and Josie Diaz.

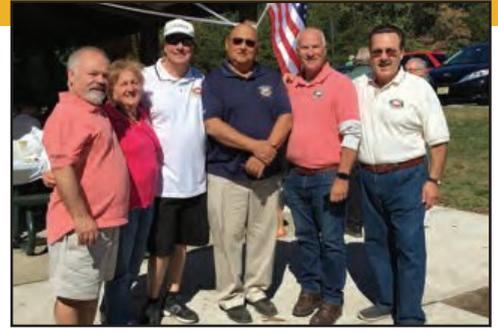
# NEW JERSEY DISTRICT XI BOCCE TOURNAMENT



First Place-Wayne UNICO. From left: Frank Paolercio, Rocco Riccardi, Emelio Baldino, Helder Rebelo, Gene Maddalena, Cosino Gianmotta and Andy Governale.



Second Place-Montville UNICO. From left: Tony Speciale, Karen Arakelian, Frank Paolercio, Dominick Nicastro and Lisa LoBiondo.



From left: Mike Colucci, Deanna DeMarco, Frank Greco, Joe Agresti, Anthony Bengivenga and Sal Ingallina.



From left: Joe Agresti, Debbie Bailey, Lee Norelli, Tom Vaughan and Morris Borea.



The Garfield Chapter.



National President Dominick Nicastro and Past National President Mike Veselka play a serious game.



Garfield President Sam Faltas watches as Anthony Staropoli takes his shot.



From left: Joe Marino, Frank Paolercio, Dominick Nicastro, Tom Vaughan, Lee Norelli, Frank DeFrank, Joe Agresti and Mike Veselka.



Tournament Participants.



The Food Crew take a cigar break.



Joe Agresti joins Chris and Diane Tomasello.



New Jersey District XI members.

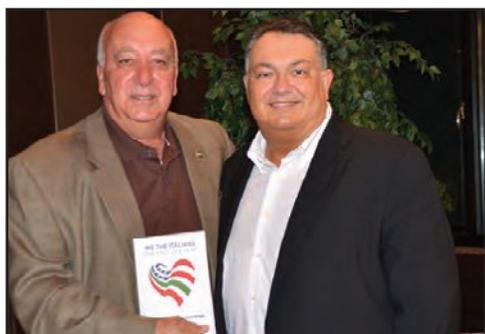
# UNICO NATIONAL ITALIAN LANGUAGE CLASS



George Clark teaches the Italian Language class prior to a book signing.



The class practices what they have learned.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro with author Umberto Muti.



From left: Steve Pelonero, George Clark and Dominick Nicastro.



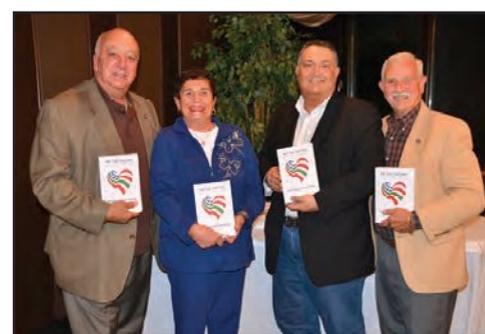
From left: George Clark, Andre' DiMino, Umberto Muti, Dominick Nicastro and Pat Pelonero.



From left: Jenny DiMino, Dominick Nicastro, Umberto Muti and Andre' DiMino.



Umberto Muti with representatives from the Italian School, NJ.



From left: Dominick Nicastro, Sue Carol Scannelli, Umberto Muti and Jim Scannelli.



From left: Umberto Muti, Andre' DiMino, Sal Ingallina and Dominick Nicastro.



Umberto Muti signs a copy of his book for the Kievit family.



From left: Dominick Nicastro, Umberto Muti and Allan Focarino.

**FOOD BANK AND SHELTER**

**Food Bank Grants**

Orange/West Orange Chapter President Paolercio and UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli stopped by the Holy Trinity-West Orange Food Pantry to present a \$1,000 Ralph Torracco Food Bank and Shelter grant award.

Food Pantry Administrator Cynthia Cumming was recognized by the Chapter at their annual breakfast with the Ben L. Spinelli Award for Community Service.

“I was surprised and honored to receive the award,” said Cumming. “UNICO is such an integral part of the West Orange community and it meant a lot that they recognized my efforts to grow and develop the pantry so we can continue to serve our clients.”

At the breakfast, Paolercio mentioned to Cumming that UNICO offered grants for pantries and he dropped off an application.

“I try to take advantage of grant writing opportunities,” noted Cumming, “because

our financial donations are not consistent.” Paolercio contacted Cumming to advise that UNICO had awarded the pantry a grant for \$1,000.

“We were happy the UNICO Foundation was able to give the pantry the grant and help them out,” commented Paolercio. “What they’re doing here is a good thing,” added DiNapoli.

To find out more about the Holy Trinity-West Orange Food Pantry, go to <http://holytrinitywo.org/food-pantry> or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityWestOrangeFoodPantry](http://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityWestOrangeFoodPantry).

St. James of the Marches R. C. Church was the recipient of a \$500 award. This award will be used to purchase food for the parish’s Food Pantry. St. James’ Food Pantry is operated under the auspices of the parish’s St. Vincent De Paul Society volunteers. The Food Pantry provides food on a monthly basis for up to 18 families. The De Paul Society volunteers ready the food for distribution and deliver to the recipients.



From left: UNICO Foundation President John DiNapoli, Holy Trinity-West Orange Food Pantry Administrator Cynthia Cumming and Orange/West Orange Chapter President Frank Paolercio.



From left: Roni Corrado, Passaic Valley UNICO member; Jim Beagin, Chairperson of the St. Vincent De Paul Society; Father J. Patrick Ryan, Pastor; and Sr. Mary Cecile, C.S. JB. Pastoral Associate.

**PLAINFIELDS', NJ**



For the past 40 years, Past National President Renato Biribin has been a staple at the annual St. Bartholomew / Scotch Plains/Fanwood UNICO Italian Festival.

**MARIN, CA**

The Marin Chapter recently held their annual awards dinner at Marin Joe’s in Corte Madera, California. President Ron Benjamin, Treasurer Bill Asiano and Secretary Vicki Masseria officiated in presenting cash awards to:

- Italian Community Services of San Francisco
- Whistlestop - (Meals on Wheels, Senior Accommodations, etc.)
- Marin Medical Reserve Foundation - (local disasters)
- Marin Catholic High School - (Italian language program)
- St. Patrick’s Church
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Presidio Riding Club - (Therapeutic services)
- St. Hilary’s Church

In addition a scholarship was awarded to youth member Nicolas Casey who is currently a student at the University of Puget Sound in Washington State.

The Chapter welcomed the newest member, Vicki Figone, with her membership certificate.

The annual bocce ball fund-raiser was held October 9 at Albert’s Park in San Rafael, California.

**BLOOMFIELD, NJ**

**Take Me Out to the Ball Game!**

The Bloomfield Chapter recently held a fund-raiser where 115 Chapter members, family and friends attended a New Jersey Jackals baseball game at Yogi Berra Stadium, located on the campus of Montclair State University. It was the Jackals’ first “Jersey Italian Night!” It was a great evening and a lot of fun for children of all ages! Doreen Benedetto and Dan Bitecola coordinated the fund-raiser and sale of tickets. Proceeds will be used to support the Chapter’s community events.



**AVON, CT****Hartford Lawyer Elevated to U. S. Bankruptcy Judge**

Hartford lawyer James J. Tancredi has become a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the District of Connecticut in Hartford.

Tancredi, who is a partner at Day Pitney LLP, began his judgeship September 1, 2016. He fills a judicial vacancy created by retired Connecticut Bankruptcy Judge Alan H.W. Schiff, who served for nearly 40 years.

For more than 30 years, Tancredi has represented financial institutions, creditors' committees, bondholders, investors and others in asset recovery actions, reorganizations, bankruptcies and insolvency proceedings. He has advised clients on complex, precedent-setting and highly-publicized national and regional bankruptcies and restructurings.

Tancredi is also one of the co-founders of Day Pitney's bankruptcy and restructuring practice. He has served as president of the Hartford County Bar Association (HCBA) and the Connecticut Turnaround Management Association (CTTMA).

Tancredi is a member of the Avon Chapter of UNICO National. When congratulated by Connecticut District II Governor Joe Pavano, Tancredi humbly stated "I will sit in court less than 100 yards from where my maternal grandparents raised a family of 12 on Front St., Hartford, after coming over from Italy"

Day Pitney Managing Partner Stanley A. Twardy, Jr., called him an "outstanding" choice for the district court.

"We are sorry to lose him from our ranks, but are proud that Jim's impressive career included time at Day Pitney," said Twardy.

Day Pitney has law offices in Boston, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, New York and Washington, D.C.

**OAKVILLE/WATERTOWN, CT**

The Oakville/Watertown Chapter recently held their annual Clambake at the Cercemaggiore Club in Oakville, Connecticut which was a big success! National Officers joined approximately 100 other attendees. Event goers feasted on raw and steamed clams, clam chowder, chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage patties, locally grown corn on the cob and soffritto.



From left: Chapter President Rich Gubbio, UNICO National Office Manager Pat Pelonero, Eastern Regional District Governor Chair Steve Pelonero, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, Connecticut State Representative Eric Berthel, Watertown Councilman Joe Polletta Jr., Connecticut State Senator Rob Kane and UNICO National Secretary Francine Nido.

**HAZLETON, PA**

Hazleton UNICO Bell 'Italia Festival "The Chef Lou Best Meatball Contest". Front row from left: Tony Pacelli, Judge; Drew Wandishin Judge from Theodora's and Buz Arthur, Judge from BJ's Pub. Back row: Don Galade, chairperson for meatball contest and Mike Thomas using his mom Betty Thomas' meatball recipe.

**PITTSFIELD, MA****Pittsfield Chapter 2016 Golf Tournament**

The Pittsfield Chapter recently held its twenty seventh annual golf tournament. This is the Chapter's biggest fund-raising event of the year from which the proceeds go to support numerous local charities such as The Pittsfield Boys and Girls Club, Hospice Care, the Salvation Army, Homeless Veterans, various food pantries and many more, as well as funding fourteen \$1000 scholarships to local high school students.

The Pittsfield UNICO golf tournament has become one of the largest and most successful golf tournaments in the region. It is well supported by Chapter members as well as 200 local businesses.



Chapter member Larry Salvatore tees off with the afternoon group after completing his morning volunteer duties.

**LA FESTA, SCRANTON, PA**

Past National President Joe Agresti, National Sergeant-at-Arms Frank Greco, Jr. and Gary D'Uva sample some great food at LaFesta Italiana in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

**PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ**



Passaic Valley Chapter President Bruce Ponchak presented Immediate past Chapter President John Barbieri with a plaque of recognition for his two years of service to the Chapter. All of their Chapter photos can always be seen on their website at [www.PVUNICO.com](http://www.PVUNICO.com).



Pictured at a recent Passaic Valley Chapter meeting are from left: Past National President Joseph Agresti, MaryAnn Re, Director, Coccia Institute at Montclair State University and Chapter President Bruce Ponchak. They were recognizing the MSU Study Abroad Grant Recipient, Joseph Scarpa, who was unable to attend the meeting.

**CLARK, NJ**



UNICO National Executives ready to board the float with President Dominick Nicastro.



Members of the Clark Chapter join other UNICO Chapter members as they prepare to march in the Annual Basilone Parade honoring World War II hero and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient John Basilone.



First Vice President Joe Arancio (l) and President Ralph Bernardo (r) march in the Annual Basilone Parade in Raritan.

**KEYSTONE, PA**

**Check Presentation to "Equines for Freedom"**

The Keystone Chapter presented a \$1,755 check to "Equines for Freedom" from the proceeds of their "Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast". "Equines for Freedom" is an organization that offers horse therapy to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disease (PTSD).



From left: Frank Coviello, Sylvia Tagert, "Equines for Freedom" executive board member and fund-raising chairwoman; Cathy Bianchi, Keystone Chapter President and Mary Ann Coviello.



The Applebee's Flapjack Fund-raiser committee members.

**MONTVILLE, NJ**



UNICO National President and First Lady, Dominick and Alina Nicastro help Chapter members prepare food at the Chapter's Annual San Gennaro Festival.



From left: Eastern Regional District Governor Chair Steve Pelonero, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, Gene Maddalena and Chapter President Steve Priola.

**ERRORS AND OMISSIONS**

**Page 12-** September 2016 Issue - The Manchester, **Connecticut** Chapter was misidentified as Manchester, MA.

**Page 45-** September 2016 Issue- Should read the **Ralph J. Torraco** Food and Shelter Grant. FoodShare, Inc, is located in Bloomfield, **Connecticut** not NJ.

**BLOOMFIELD, NJ**

**Bloomfield Chapter 4th Annual Bowl-a-Thon**

It was a perfect fall day for the Bloomfield Chapter's Fourth Annual Bowl-a-Thon held at the Garden Palace Lanes. The special young adults attending enjoyed a great morning of bowling and a pizza luncheon served by Chapter members. Past National President Paul Alongi presented the top thirteen (13) bowlers with McDonald gift cards.

Our Heartfelt thanks to all of our local sponsors who made this event a great success.



From left: Tina Buontempo, Tim Denton, Doreen Benedetto, Alan Navarro, Chapter President Mike Sisco and Past National President Paul Alongi.



From left: new members Steve Milazzo and Bill Ricigliano were installed by Chapter President Mike Sisco and Past National President Paul Alongi, at a recent Chapter meeting.

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The DEADLINE for the January 2017 Edition of ComUNICO is Friday, December 16, 2016

Send Chapter news to UNICO National Office:  
[comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)

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

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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

## SEPTEMBER

<b>BERWICK</b> Mary Holly Fort Morrison	Rose Katsch Carolyn Lafferty Joan Madonna Patricia Maturo Kathy Pillari-Merklein Sally Valenti	Joseph F. Sinopoli, Jr.	Michael Romano Marco Schechter
<b>BLOOMFIELD</b> Frank Materia William Ricigliano	<b>KEYSTONE</b> Anthony Mazzarella Pia Mazzarella	<b>PLAINFIELDS</b> Molly Anne Petti	<b>TWIN CITIES</b> Anthony Tedesco Samantha Villella
<b>CARBONDALE</b> Anthony J. Calabro III	<b>NATIONAL</b> Jason Alessio	<b>RARITAN VALLEY</b> Doreen Di Maria Kaitlyn Sapp	<b>WATERBURY</b> Cynthia A. Cipriano Lois A. Crucitti
<b>CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN</b> Dean Quarino	<b>PASSAIC VALLEY</b> Joseph Scarpa	<b>REHOBOTH AREA</b> Diane Saienni Albanese Julia Canterna Catherine D. Cofrancesco Kathleen V. Pizzadili Barbara Yablonski	<b>WEST SPRINGFIELD</b> Christopher Lodi
<b>GARFIELD</b> Louis Pacifico	<b>PHILADELPHIA</b> Stefano Di Rocco Brian Fritz Lou Pinto	<b>ST. JOE'S H. S. MONTVALE</b> Michael Cifelli Dominic Del Ponte James Gilhooley Patrick Luby Alex Malfa Anthony Matthews Matthew Mazzei	<b>WOODCLIFF LAKE</b> Jackie Romano
<b>GREATER RAMSEY</b> Donna Weber	<b>PITTSFIELD</b> Jayne E. Shogry Louis Michael Shogry III		
<b>HACKENSACK</b> Linda Masullo			
<b>HIGHLAND BEACH</b> Alma Blair Italia Brosseau Joseph Greco			

## OCTOBER

<b>BETHLEHEM</b> Frank Castellano	<b>CLARK</b> Holly Brown	Kim Novarese Phil Novarese Robert Raiteri Jr.	Luciana Rodak
<b>BROOKLYN/ STATEN ISLAND</b> Anna Maria Cespuglio-Vitoria Fred G. Darretta Maureen Miraglia Anna Marie Paunetto Grace A. Sferrazza Dante Vitoria	<b>GREATER RAMSEY</b> Ralph Caputo Leslie Paparone	<b>MILWAUKEE</b> Sandy Winard	<b>SPARTA</b> Mike Pugliese Robert J. Tiscornia Sandy Tiscornia
<b>CARBONDALE</b> Elaine Mazzoni Catherine Wilce	<b>HIGHLAND BEACH</b> Elizabeth Falcone Robert Falcone Gary E. Hughes Lori Mugavero Phyllis Perillo Sheldon R. Weiss Teresa Weiss	<b>NEWBURGH</b> Joseph S. Bilello Stephen Lazar Jr. John A. Lodato Jr.	<b>ST. JOE'S H. S. MONTVALE</b> Stephen Carlucci Julian Destephen Bryan Draper Adam Gonzalez Thomas Hals Brandon Hudon Eric Manfredonia Michael Marucci Anthony Panissidi Michael A. Roman Matt Timpanaro
<b>CEDAR GROVE</b> Donna Benelli Sharon Clarizio Rev. Vincent M. Corso Debbie De Francisci Frank Romeo Jr.	<b>ISLIP/SMITHTOWN</b> Ethan Selig Francine C. Selig	<b>NORTH SHORE</b> Alida Addeo Simona De Rosa	<b>WETHERSFIELD</b> Sandra Harding
<b>CHICAGO W. SUBURBAN</b> Peter Dilorio Alexander Indelicato	<b>KEYSTONE</b> R. Sylvia Tagert	<b>PARAMUS</b> Maria Adamo Stacy Ann Morena	
	<b>LONGMEADOW</b> Attilio Cardaropoli	<b>PT. PLEASANT BEACH</b> Frank Degironimo Stephen Di Giovanni Donna Maria Palsi	
	<b>MEMPHIS</b> Charles Feraci John Myers	<b>SCOTCH PLAINS/ FANWOOD</b> Joseph Appezato Jr.	

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**HAZLETON, PA**



Bell 'Italia 2016 Bocce Tournament winners were Team Un-Holy Rollers. From left: Kevin Judd, team captain; Edward Hoffman, Nick Avillion, Ryan Grega, and Nick from Eagle Rock team. The BOCCE Tournament this year was sponsored by Slusser Law Attorney Chris Slusser.

**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IV**



Attending the first New Jersey District IV Meeting are from left: Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga, District Governor Sal Ingallina, UNICO National Second Vice President Frank DeFrank and UNICO National First Vice President Lee Norelli.

**KEYSTONE, PA**



Members of Keystone UNICO set up a UNICO information table at the recent University of Scranton "Volunteer Fair". Seated from left: Sandy Collins, Chapter President Cathy Bianchi and Ann Summa. Standing from left: Mary Ann Coviello, Toni DiVizio, Pennsylvania District II Governor Mark McDade, Marilyn Vitali and Michele McDade.

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## ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

Rockaway Township Chapter Officers were invited to Camp Marcella by the Camp's Board President Mike Pacala. Mike provided a wonderful and informative tour of the camp located in Rockaway Township. This 200 acre camp provides a tremendous opportunity for visually impaired children to discover new skills and develop independence while having a great time in a scenic and natural environment. The Chapter runs an annual Beef Steak Dinner to raise money for the camp which helps in the modernization efforts of the on-site buildings. Chapter members will also be helping with Spring Cleaning to prepare the camp for next season's campers.

The Chapter's upcoming fund-raisers include a 60 mile escorted Motorcycle ride for St Jude's Children Hospital. Our participation in Montville UNICO's San Gennaro's Festival raises funds for college scholarships for Rockaway Township students of Italian descent. An annual Golf Tournament held at the Crystal Springs Resort will feature many award games and the chance to win a 2017 Infinity car with a hole-in-one. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Autism Speaks.

Also, our members, their family and friends, will attend a New Jersey Jackals baseball game on Italian night.

Please visit our website at [rtonico.org](http://rtonico.org) for more information about our Chapter and upcoming events.



Chapter President Sal Simonetti, Camp Marcella Board President Mike Pascala and Chapter Officers Judy Ricucci, Lydia DiMarcantonio, and Martha Paravati present a fund raising check to help the camp in their modernization efforts.



Mike Pascala gives a tour of Camp Marcella to Officers from left: Martha Paravati, Lydia DiMarcantonio, and Judy Ricucci.

## *In Memoriam*

**FRANK M. DEPAOLA**



We are saddened to learn of the passing of long time Waterbury UNICO member, past President and Board member, Frank M. DePaola. We extend our deepest sympathies to Frank's wife, Fran, family and friends. Frank served as the 45th President of the Waterbury Chapter of UNICO National from 1971-1973. In addition, he was a long-standing member and member emeritus of the Board of Directors. Frank was instrumental in fund-raising for one of UNICO Foundation's charities, Cooley's Anemia. We are forever grateful for his dedication and contributions to UNICO and to the Italian American community. Frank was fiercely proud of his Italian heritage and was proud to give his time to promote Italian heritage. He was a friend to many, but especially to the Waterbury Chapter of UNICO National. We will miss him sorely. May Frank rest in eternal peace.

Memorial contributions in Frank's name may be made to: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105. For more information and online condolences kindly visit [www.maiorano-funeralhome.com](http://www.maiorano-funeralhome.com).

## *In Memoriam*

**JOANN GALLO**



JoAnn Gallo Benight, a children's book author and former schoolteacher, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 in her Milwaukie home surrounded by family. JoAnn passed after a courageous three year battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Steve; daughter, Stephanie, son-in-law, Zachary Hill; father, Frank Gallo, Sr.; brother, Frank Gallo, Jr.; and a number of close relatives in New Jersey. She was preceded in death by her mother, Anna Mae. JoAnn was born in Paterson, New Jersey to Frank and Anna Mae Gallo. Her family moved to Atlanta, Ga. in 1970 where she attended Wheeler High School. She met her husband Steve in Atlanta and they married in 1978. In her life, she earned a B.S. in Political Science from Northeastern Illinois University, an M.A. in Teacher Leadership from Roosevelt University, and an Interior Design certificate. After living in Atlanta, Seattle, and Schaumburg, Ill., she moved to Portland in 2004. JoAnn founded UNICO Portland, a Chapter of UNICO, the largest Italian American service organization and served as its President for four years. She produced and hosted "Salute" - a cable TV show about wine and Italian culture. She authored two children's books, "The Adventures of Otis and Martha" and "Our Backyard Surprise" ([theadventuresofotisandmartha.com](http://theadventuresofotisandmartha.com)). She also was a volunteer with the Oregon Humane Society. JoAnn led a lifelong pursuit of making herself and those around her better. She will be dearly missed. In lieu of flowers, JoAnn requested donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for Cancer Research ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)).

## NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley Chapter began its 2016-17 year at a recent meeting with a presentation from Dominick Polifrone, who while working undercover helped take down the infamous “Iceman”, Richard Kuklinski, a legendary mob killer from New Jersey. The night’s menu was planned by our Culture and Heritage Chair Danny Marucci.

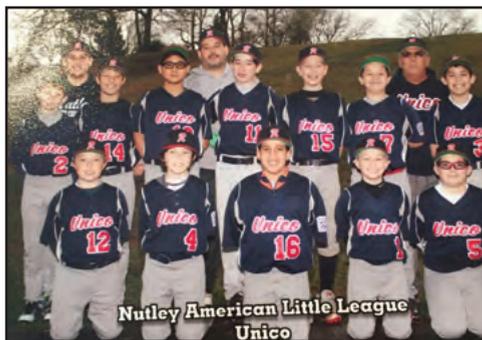
Marie Solimo reported on the Large Size Chapter awards won at the National Convention. They included the Chapter Achievement and Scrapbook categories. Marie has been preparing our scrapbook for this competition for years and has done a great job.

Several of our members participated in the New Jersey District IX bocce tournament. Team one was Pasquale Ferraro, Sal Ferraro, Bob Solimo and Daniel Carnicella. Team two was Tom Sposato, Ciro Violante, Lenny Guglielmello and Sergio Marricone. Team Two made it to the semifinals.

The hard work of the co-chairs, Tom Sposato and Dan Carnicella, along with their committee members, made the August annual golf event a great financial success, earning in excess of \$7,000 for the Chapter.

With October being officially Italian American Heritage Day in New Jersey, the Chapter had Jim Muzychko as the guest speaker at the October meeting. Jim spoke about creative creations of Fig Trees. The Chapter also sponsored and presented a Columbus Day ceremony at the Nutley Town Hall, followed by marching in the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade. Members who were honored by the Columbus Day Parade Committee at a recent dinner were: Barry Maurillo, who with his brother Joe and partner, Vito Cucci, were recognized as Grand Marshalls; Sal Cocco, Italian Heritage Award; Sal Rosamilia, Nutley Italian American Man of the Year; Michelle Fleitell, Nutley Italian American Woman of the Year and Carol Casale, Belleville Italian American Woman of the Year.

Upcoming activities include the Chapter’s recognition of our members who are veterans of the armed services in November and the annual Christmas Party in December.



Members of the American Legion UNICO sponsored team.



Participants in the Annual Golf Tournament.



Members of the Nutley Chapter accept donated checks as representatives of local charities and service groups.

## WEST ESSEX, NJ



Members of the Chapter sell pastries at the Annual Caldwell Street Fair. From left: Sal and Sophia Basile, Chapter President Frank Greco, Chris Massaro, Vince Lafrank and Ray D’Uva.

## STAMFORD, CT

The Stamford Chapter ITALIAN-OPEN Golf Tournament was another great success this year with over 120 golfers and 160 people attending the after-golf dinner at the Italian Center of Stamford. The thing that makes this event so successful each year is that the five course dinner is cooked and served by the Chapter members and people come just to attend the dinner. Antipasto, pasta piselli, linguine with lobster gravy and porchetta were just some of the items on the menu that the members prepared. Connecticut District I Governor Francine Nido not only attends each year but is a tireless volunteer at the event which raises the funds that the Stamford Chapter uses to fund the Scholarships we award at a dinner in May.



Connecticut District I Governor Francine Nido (c) with Golf Chairmen Tony Conte (l) and John Servidio (r).



Chefs for the Event from left: Tony Rizzi, George Papallo, Chapter President .Al Fusco, Tony Cardillo and Len Lasalandra.

**WATERBURY, CT**

**Love's in the Air!**

The Waterbury Chapter recently celebrated the engagement of two of their members, Zachary Keith and Ashley Briglia, at their monthly dinner meeting. Active members since joining, they have embraced the "Service Above Self" UNICO motto. Chapter leaders have told them that "the couple that volunteers together, stays together". Let's hope they heed that advice!!



Zachary Keith and Ashley Briglia.



Zachary Keith and Ashley Briglia.

The Waterbury Chapter recently held their 1st Annual Meatballs and Vino Fund-raiser with over 200 people in attendance. Attendees feasted on meatballs contributed from twelve restaurants and tasted wines from area distributors. Local celebrity judges awarded one lucky restaurant the coveted Golden Meatball Award. Funds raised from the event will benefit local projects. A great, fun and food filled time was had by all.



The winner's plaque designed exclusively for UNICO.



Cindy Rosa Lawson presents the award to D'Amelio's Italian Eatery – Gianni D'Amelio, Giuseppe D'Amelio and Bobby Gaetano.



Judges deliberating over verdict from left: Ron Napoli, Jr., Frank Tavera, Joe McGrath, Lynn Genovese Ward and Joe Costa.



From left: Dorene Rinaldi, Tim Clark, Cindy Rosa Lawson, Carol Anelli and Bob Gerace.

**SPARTA, NJ**



Sparta ACES held a clothing drive. All proceeds will benefit the Coach Paternostro Training Center being built at Pope John High School in Sparta.



Sparta UNICO helps to sponsor Sussex County 200 Club Trailer. The 200 Clubs mission is to provide immediate financial assistance to the families of first responders who lose their lives in the line of duty.

**KEARNY, NJ**



The Kearny Chapter recently held a fund-raising bus trip to the Tropicana Casino in Atlantic City. Bingo games and a 50-50 made the trip go faster and got everyone in the spirit to "win big." During a "lull in the action," members from the Kearny, Rutherford and Belleville Chapters enjoyed lunch at Chickie and Pete's. Everyone enjoyed the trip, especially the big winners.



**PARAMUS, NJ**



The Highland Beach Chapter has been sending care packages to our troops in Afghanistan for a year or more. From left: Marianne Regan, Madeline Lo Re, Ralph Gengo, Anne Matarazzo, Frank Lo Re Susan Gengo, Lisa Browne and Gail Guy. Highland Beach Chapter is proud to remember our troops and the sacrifices that they make for us.



These are some of the items that we send. Toothbrushes, power bars, lollipops, scrunches for the ladies, etc.

**POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ**

**New Officers—New Charities**

Several new officers were recently sworn into the Point Pleasant Chapter by Past District Governor Alan Floria. Charlie Brema, Evelyn Cottone and Diane Grabowski joined existing officers Donna Gallina and Paul Viggiano.

The new Chapter President, Bob Gynn welcomed all in attendance and outlined his goals for the upcoming year. While striving to attract more members to the Chapter, he vowed to keep the ones already involved, interested and motivated. He also requested the Chapter add additional local charities. Each month the Chapter has taken on one specific charity that members could donate time or items. At the meeting he already had hands raised to volunteer on special Christmas projects.

The Chapter was called to action when the Earthquake struck in Amatrice Italy. A local business owner, Joe Introna ran a fund-raiser at The White Sands Hotel which members attended and pledged contributions. In addition at the Chapter's Installation meeting, a fund-raiser was devoted solely to victims of the Earthquake. The Chapter was able to send \$440 to the UNICO Foundation Disaster Relief Fund.

Also that evening a special tribute was given to outgoing officers Jack Fiorino and Victor Damato. Camille Kreutzer, who served as Treasurer for the past ten years was also honored. Last but not least Debbie Vaccaro who served two terms as Chapter President was given a glowing testimonial by Vice President Paul Viggiano. The Chapter will hold their celebration of October as Italian American Heritage Month. Besides marching in the Ocean County Columbus parade, The Point Pleasant and Brick Chapters will be hosting an Italian Heritage Celebration with special guests National President Dominick and Alina Nicastro.



Past New Jersey District I Governor Alan Floria swears in Robert Gynn as President of the Chapter.



New Chapter Officers from left: Dominick Fiumano, Evelyn Cottone, Diane Grabowski, Past New Jersey District I Governor Alan Floria, Charlie Brema, Paul Viggiano and Donna Gallina.

**MONTVILLE, NJ**



Master Chefs Paul Henke and Bucky Deleasa at Montville's San Gennaro Feast.



National President Dominick Nicastro attended Montville's San Gennaro Feast. From left: Steve Krawse, Eastern Regional District Governor Steve Pelonero, Dominick Nicastro, Gene Maddalena, Chapter President Steve Priola and Mickey D'Addato.



Lucky winners at Montville's San Gennaro Feast.

## 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 6 pictures per issue for a regular event.

8. All award recipients (ie... Scholarship, Brian Piccolo) should be included in one picture. Do not send multiple pictures from an event with one recipient per picture.

9. Only pictures attached to an e-mail will be accepted. Pictures embedded in an e-mail will be returned to the Chapter and not included.

10. All submissions should be sent to [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org). Submissions sent to any other office e-mail address will not be included.

11. The deadline for submissions is 5:00 PM on the designated day.

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

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

The following are ComUNICO Guidelines for a Chapter to follow:

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

*The Deadline for the November 2016 issue of ComUNICO is Friday, October 14, 2016*

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— ATTORNEY AT LAW —

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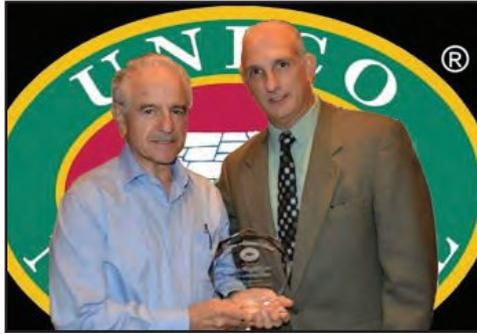
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**GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY**



The Greater Binghamton Chapter collected items for Robbie's Pantry. Members filled the pantry shelves with the items that were requested. Accepting the donations on behalf of Robbie's Pantry are Angela and Frank Carro.

**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT IX**



New Jersey District IX Governor Ron Targove presented Ralph Spataro from the Westwood Chapter with a plaque in memory of Marge Spataro for her years of service as the New Jersey District IX Immediate Past District Governor.

**KEARNY, NJ**



The Kearny Chapter entered a team in the bocce tournament sponsored by New Jersey District XI to raise monies for the Jimmy "V" Foundation for Cancer Research. At the tournament the team enjoyed playing bocce, the comradery of other UNICANs and, of course, the great food! From left: Lou Pandolfi, Ida Nigro, Walter Tomasheski, Celeste Pandolfi and Ettore Gencarelli.

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**LA FESTA, SCRANTON, PA**



The LaFesta Committee presented a commemorative color drawing of the festival grounds to the Lackawanna County Commissioners in recognition of their support for the past 40 years of preserving this annual Italian American heritage tradition. Participants at the ceremony were from left: Joseph Castrogiovanni, LaFesta Treasurer; Commissioner Jerry Notarianni, Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley, UNICO Scranton Member; and Christopher DiMattio, LaFesta President and UNICO Past National President.

**MONTVILLE, NJ**



Gene Maddalena of Montville is sworn in as New Jersey Deputy District XI Governor. From left: Gene Maddalena, Jim Bergamotto, and Vince Palumbo.



*In Memoriam*

**JOHN A. APPEZZATO**



John A. Appezzato of Scotch Plains died peacefully of natural causes at his home after a valiant battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 81 years old. John was a lifelong resident of Scotch Plains, the town he so loved and humbly served. John graduated from High School in 1953, earned his bachelor's degree from Seton Hall in 1957 and his law degree from Seton Hall Law School in 1965. John also served his country in the United States Army from 1958 to 1960. John served as both Chairman and committee member for the annual Italian Festival held at the Garden State Arts Center. John was honored by the Scotch Plains BPA in 2007 and in 1999 was appointed by Governor Whitman to the Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island. John was also a charter member of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Chapter of UNICO in 1973 and was honored by UNICO National as its "Man of the Year" in 1980.

Perhaps John's biggest legacy to the town he loved is the annual Labor Day Italian Feast held at St. Bartholomew's Catholic Church. In the early 1970s it was John who, with the aid of UNICO, spearheaded the resurgence of the feast tradition at St. Bart's which has since raised well over a million dollars for the Church and UNICO and its charities. "Service Above Self", a UNICO motto, was how John lived his life.

John's family wishes to offer their most heartfelt gratitude and thanks to Isabel Carlos, John's longtime caregiver and friend for her kindness and loving care she provided to John during the last years of his life; and to Raul Carlos for his kind friendship and support to John and John's family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Center for Hope Hospice 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

*In Memoriam*

**FRANK BIANCO**



The Queensboro Chapter is sad to announce the passing of our esteemed member, Mr. Frank Bianco, on September 24, 2016. Frank is survived by his wife Mary, who remained by his side through all the joys and endeavors of their life together. Frank was a member of our Chapter since September 1972. He held many offices and attended all our functions with fervor. He was best known for being "Frank the Bank", a title he earned because he collected dues and other funds. This made him our Chapter's financial secretary, a title and a responsibility that he was proud to hold. If there were raffle or picnic tickets to collect, you saw Frank. He was a good colleague and a fine friend and the type of person that you had to love. Of course, we all did and he will be sorely missed.

May he rest in peace, with love, from the members and friends of Queensboro UNICO.

*In Memoriam*

**JOSEPH MOLLIKA**



The members of Chicago West Suburban Chapter of UNICO observe the sad passing of Chapter Vice President Joseph Mollica who lost his battle with cancer at the age of 55. Joe served as Chairman of the Chapter's annual golf outing for the past several years, restoring the event to prominence. He is survived by his living sister Sunday, who gave Joe loving care in his last illness. You will be missed brother Joe.

**QUEENSBORO, NY**

The Queensboro Chapter, under the leadership of President Michael Mucaria, undertook our Chapter's Community Service Project this past summer. The renovation of the women's restroom at a local Church in Middle Village, New York included replacement of vanities, sinks, faucets, mirrors, and lighting. Wall paneling and ceiling removal, and full painting was also completed. The Chapter partially funded the project, with additional funds, materials, and labor provided by Queensboro UNICANS and associates. The project was completed in September and under budget. The Pastor of the Church graciously thanked the Chapter in his messages to the congregation, and personally during Queensboro's Board and General Meetings. Queensboro President Mucaria also praised the Chapter members for their commitment to "Service Above Self."



Before and after pictures of the renovated ladies room.

The Chapter recently held its annual Cigar Night. Chaired by Frank Fabrico and Co-Chaired by Gaspare Mistretta, the event was a huge success with almost 200 attendees from the greater New York area, including many from neighboring Chapters, who came out to support this great Queensboro Chapter event. We en-

joyed cocktails and wine, a delicious multi-course dinner, and some of the finest cigars available. The proceeds of the event go to the Queensboro Foundation and are included with funds that Queensboro donates to its various charities. Funds from past Cigar Nights and other Queensboro events have been used to purchase wheelchair-bikes for our disabled veterans; fund Italian American Heritage classes in schools, and support the Italian American Museum in New York.



It was a perfect end of summer evening with a backdrop of Manhattan and the Williamsburg Bridge.



From left: John Mistretta, Gaspare Mistretta, Anthony Cipriano, Sal, John, Anthony and Joey Porretto attend the annual cigar night.



From left: Immediate Past New York District II Governor Joseph Corsini, Phil Joseph, Lou Di Rico, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, New York District II Governor Ellen Leone, Edward Corsini and Queensboro President Michael Mucaria.



From left: Past National President Rick D'Arminio, Al Crecco, New York District II Governor Ellen Leone, Lou Di Rico and Ralph Contini.

**CLARK, NJ**

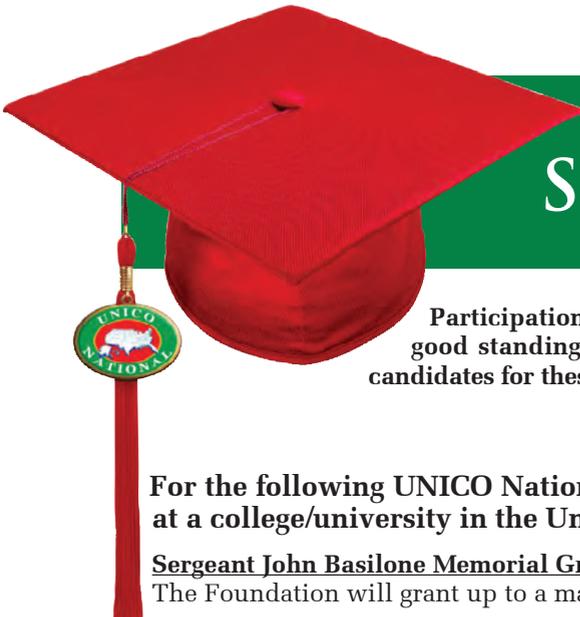


The 15th Annual UNICO Bowl took place recently in Hillside. Both teams competed for the annual trophy ceremony and bragging rights. Hillside won with a 27-23 Victory. The coin toss consisted of Clark Chapter President Ralph Bernardo and Hillside Chapter President Angelo Bonanno.



Hillside President Angelo Bonanno and Clark Chapter President Ralph Bernardo pose with the trophy.

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# SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

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

**For the following UNICO National Scholarships, the awardee must attend a full-time, accredited program at a college/university in the United States. A candidate must be a United States citizen of Italian heritage:**

**Sergeant John Basilone Memorial Graduate Scholarship**

The Foundation will grant up to a maximum of \$6,000, paid out at \$1,500 per year, for a graduate scholarship.

**Dr. Benjamin Cottone Memorial Scholarship**

The Foundation will grant a \$5,000 scholarship, paid on award, to a student pursuing graduate education at an accredited medical school in the United States.

**Undergraduate Awards:**

**Major Don S. Gentile Scholarship, Alphonse A. Miele Scholarship, William C. Davini Scholarship, Theodore Mazza Scholarship**

The Foundation will grant four scholarships valued at \$6,000 to high school seniors paid out at \$1,500 per school year up to a maximum of 4 years. Candidates are encouraged to apply for all four scholarships. To do so requires the original application and three complete copies, including attachments. Multiple copies are necessary because scholarships are judged at different locations.

**DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship**

The Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$1,250 each, for study in Italy. The study abroad program must be eligible for credit by the student's college/university.

**Guglielmo Marconi Engineering Scholarship**

The Foundation will grant a scholarship valued at \$1,250 paid on award to a sophomore, junior or senior college/university student majoring in engineering.

**Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship**

The Foundation will provide two literary scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each to a matriculated college/university student. Terms of submission require the candidate to present, in writing, an original short story or essay celebrating their Italian heritage.

**Marie and Paolo Alessio Southern Italy Scholarship**

The Foundation will provide a scholarship, valued at \$1,000, to a student enrolled full-time, in an accredited college/university program in the United States pursuing a degree. An applicant must be a United States citizen of Southern Italian heritage, specifically the regions of: Abruzzo, Basilicata, Campania, Calabria, Latium, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia, Sicilia.

**For the following UNICO National Scholarships, the awardee must attend a full-time, accredited program at a college/university in the United States. The scholarships are open to United States citizen of all ethnicities:**

**Bernard and Carolyn Torraco Memorial Nursing Scholarships**

The Foundation will provide grants valued at \$2,500 each, paid on award, to students attending accredited prelicensure or graduate nursing programs in the United States. Preference is given to applicants demonstrating financial need.

**Robert J. Tarte Scholarship for Italian Studies**

The Foundation will provide a scholarship, valued at \$1,000, to a student pursuing Italian Studies.

**Louise Torraco Memorial Scholarship for Science**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students pursuing study of the Physical Sciences or Life Sciences.

**Ralph J. Torraco Scholarship**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students pursuing a degree.

**Ralph J. Torraco Fine Arts Scholarship**

The UNICO Foundation will grant two scholarships, valued at \$2,500 each, to students pursuing degree in the Fine Arts.



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## HAS YOUR CHAPTER FILED THEIR FORM 990?

### IRS Revoking Tax Exempt Status for UNICO Chapters

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

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

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

#### IRS Filing Requirements

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

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

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

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

## *“Service Above Self”*



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**CLARK, NJ**

Clark UNICO held its 10th Annual Feast Columbus Day Weekend. All favorite rides, games, food and entertainment came back for the event. Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not cooperate and rain fell two of the three days. However, many Clarkites came out to support the Chapter. The Feast is the Clark Chapter's biggest fund-raiser and all of the money is distributed throughout the township, scholarships and selected charities. We thank all those that came out and supported the feast.



From left: Emily Lambert, Val Trani, Vera Abruzzo and Jessica Biassi.

**FARMINGTON, CT**



From left: Frank Dolce presents the President's Award to Tom Filomeno.



Bruno Macaro presents a blanket honoring Ray Laverdier to Ray's widow Emily.



Charter members received copies of the original charter to commemorate the 45th Anniversary of Farmington UNICO. From left: Tom Filomeno accepts the gift awarded to his father, Joe Filomeno posthumously and charter members John Caruso and Sal DiMauro.



From left: Bob Fiondella, Frank Dolce, Ralph Arcari and Jim Mugavero at the Unionville Festival where Farmington UNICO welcomed visitors with free Italian ice, answered questions about UNICO, and invited guests to our upcoming Italian Sunday Dinner.

**CEDAR GROVE, NJ**



New Jersey District IV Governor Sal Ingallina and President Pat DeFrancisci participate in the Jimmy "V" Bocci Tournament held by New Jersey District XI.



From left: Frank Dolce, Geno Avenoso and Doug Alexander with check for \$1000 donated to the UNICO Disaster Relief Fund to help victims and survivors of the devastating earthquake in Amatrice.



Paul Pedemonti addresses participants at our "sold out" Joe Filomeno Memorial Golf Tournament held at Wampanoag Country Club.

*Please join us in celebrating*  
**The Christmas Holiday at the National Office**  
**December 1 from 12:00-8:00 p.m.**

**CEDAR GROVE, NJ**



From left: Chapter President Pat DeFrancisci, Past President Rich Orsini and New Jersey District IV Governor Sal Ingallina present the Chapter Achievement Patch to Orsini for the fundraiser he lead to assist the family of Anna Semioli. Semioli was severely injured after being struck by a car. Orsini's efforts raised \$32,000 for the family.



From left: new Chapter members Vin Corso, Donna Bellini, Frank Romeo, Sharon Clarizio, Deb DeFrancisci, Chapter President Pat DeFrancisci and New Jersey District IV Governor Sal Ingallina.



New Jersey District IV Governor Sal Ingallina swears in new members Donna Bellini, Sharon Clarizio and Deb DeFrancisci.



**BRIDGEPORT, CT**

**Bridgeport Celebrates Scholars and "Service Above Self" Recipients**

At the Annual Wine Tasting and Scholarship Celebration the Bridgeport Chapter celebrated Italian American heritage, community service and local scholastic academic achievement. Eight scholarships were awarded to deserving students in the greater-Bridgeport area. The winning high school seniors were: Jake Acquadro, Ridgefield High School; Rose Lisi, Trumbull High School; Sydney Caparaso, Masuk High School; Emma Shea, Jonathan Law High School; Madison Ventresca and Kristopher Whelan, Jacqueline Sgobbo, Newtown High School and Gabriella Zarlenga, Fairfield Warde.

The Chapter honored two "Service Above Self" award recipients. Mr. Ed Mastrone was recognized for his decades of service to our country, the United States Military, our veterans and the Greater-Bridgeport community, promoting and enhancing the image of Italian/Americans.

Also recognized was Robert Scinto for his outstanding professional real estate development achievements and his contributions to the Greater Bridgeport community, providing leadership and generosity that embody the Italian/American spirit.



Ed Mastrone (l) receives his certificate from Chapter President Perry Vincenzi (r).



Robert Scinto.



Scholarship Recipients.

**VERONA, NJ**



Verona UNICO recently sponsored a proposal for a Ralph J. Torracco Food and Shelter Grant from the UNICO National Foundation for the food pantry at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Verona. From left: Foundation Vice President John Alati of Verona and Foundation President John DiNapoli presenting a \$1,000 check to Reverend Jerry Racioppi, Rector of the Church.



**CARBONDALE, PA**



Members operate a pizza stand at the Pioneer Nights city festival. Proceeds from this event are allocated to Catholic Social Services, the Carbondale Shade Tree Commission and the Historical Society. From left: Lena Graziano, Joe Calabro, Madeline Nault, Past National President Glenn Pettinato, Jerry Arnese, Tom Gatto, Mike Dobrowski, Ritchie Ruggiero and Mary Ann Kearney.

**Carbondale Honors Past Presidents**

The Chapter celebrated the service of eight Past Presidents whose leadership spanned 2000-2016: Chip Calabro, Dr. Fred Mancusco, Thomas Gatto, Gerald Arnese, Stephen Martino, Joseph Vitale, Thomas Gretzula and Brian Durkin.



National and Local dignitaries who attended the Past President Dinner. From left: Past National President Dr. Ann Walko, Past National President Glenn Pettinato, UNICO National Second Vice President Dr. Frank DeFrank, First Lady Alina Nicastro, Keystone Chapter President Cathy Bianchi, Carbondale Chapter President Yvonne Gatto, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, Pennsylvania District II Governor Mark McDade, Scranton Chapter President Jim Baress, National Foundation Secretary Dr. Peter Pettinato and National Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga.



The planning and organizing committee for the Past Presidents Dinner include from left: Patti Morrell, Mary Lynn Brannon, Charlotte Connor, Lisa Criscera, President Yvonne Gatto, Ritchie Ruggiero, Mary Monahan, Mary Ann Kearney, Terri Pettinato and Past National President Glenn Pettinato.



National President Dominick Nicastro and Chapter President Yvonne Gatto proudly recognize Past Presidents who are in attendance. From left: Thomas Gretzula, Brian Durkin, Thomas Gatto, Madame Gatto, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, Past National President Glenn Pettinato, Gerald Arnese and Chip Calabro.



Among the Chapter members who attended the Past President Dinner are from left: Dr. Fred Bonacci, Past President Brian Durkin, Ritchie Ruggiero, and Carbondale Mayor Justin Taylor.

**SAN DIEGO, CA**



The San Diego Chapter held a UNICO business lunch at Piacere Mio. The attendees enjoyed a five course meal while socializing with friends. From left: John Orsini and Jennifer DeSpensa discuss state of affairs.



Mario and Gabriella Vitale relax and enjoy conversations.



Phil Asiano, Stefano DiMenna and Joe Pieri listen to a story of the old days.

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**DELMARVA, DE**



The Delmarva Chapter celebrates Columbus Day and prepares for Brian Piccolo Award Ceremony and Banquet. From left: Vince Catania, Jerry Daniello, Nick Ruggieri and Mary Catania.



Delmarva Chapter installs new officers from left: Treasurer Vince Catania, President Nick Ruggieri and Secretary Connie Subelka.

**BROOKHAVEN, NY**



The Brookhaven Chapter's Annual Charity Golf Outing recently held at Willow Creek Country Club had a Hole-in-One winner for the first time in 34 years of running the outing. Rodney Neubauer of Hamden Connecticut played in the tournament with his brother and nephew. Stephen Costa, Chapter Secretary presented the \$5,000 prize to Ron at MinMax Machine, Ltd. where Ron is the Treasurer.

**NEWINGTON, CT**

The Newington Chapter held a politically themed dinner titled "Hail to the Chief" as a 2017 Convention fund-raiser. Almost 100 people attended the event to hear UNICO National Executive Vice President Tom Vaughan's plans for the next year and enjoy a delicious family style meal at the Casa Mia.

Tom was introduced by Connecticut District III Governor Rose Ciarcia and Immediate Past District Governor (and lifelong friend) Morris Borea. Also in attendance were Past National President Joe Agresti, UNICO National Secretary Francine Nido and members from the Wethersfield, Hartford, Manchester, Torrington, Bristol, and other Connecticut Chapters. There was also a contingent from the Pittsfield Chapter led by Massachusetts District II Governor Wayne Ditore. Rosemary and Tom Wall, Chapter President Neal Forte, Karen Uricchio and the other Newington members put on a fabulous event that was enjoyed by all.



Tom and Michele Vaughan with Massachusetts District II Governor Wayne Ditore and members of the Pittsfield Chapter.



From left: Past National President Joe Agresti, Tom Vaughan and UNICO National Secretary Francine Nido.



Tom and Michele Vaughan with the members of the Newington Chapter.



Connecticut District III Governor Rose Ciarcia addresses the gathering.



Tom Vaughan with Past National President Joe Agresti and several current and past Connecticut District Governors.

**REHOBOTH AREA, DE**



Officers of Rehoboth Area Chapter plan a calendar of meetings and events. From left: Ed Mason, Veronica Dannerhoj, Ed Mason, Joan Boraski, Joe Torres and Chapter President George Meringolo.

**GRANBY, CT**



The Granby Chapter had its annual golf tournament at Blue Fox Run in Avon attracting over 100 players and raising more than \$12,000 for scholarships and needy families in the Granby community. Tournament volunteers are seated from left: Mary DeiDolori, Mary Briggs and Ellie Blanchard. Standing: Tony Roncaioli, Dave Coricelli, two student assistants, Trish Savino, Nancy French and Adrienne Perry.



The Granby Chapter participated in the town's annual "Celebrate Granby" event at Salmon Brook Park by selling fried dough. Thousands of area residents attended the event, which combined local business booths, food vendors, games and midway for kids and live bands. From left: Adrienne Perry, Trish Savino, Nancy French, Mary Briggs, Tracey Gangi and Mary Anne Guarco.

**KEARNY, NJ**



Theresa Trucillo, President of the Kearny Ladies of UNICO welcomes guests to "Born to Shop" Night at The Fiesta. Members and guests enjoyed shopping at various crafters and vendors before enjoying a delicious dinner. The evening was a success and raised funds for the many charities and scholarships supported by the Kearny Ladies and the Chapter.

**ANTI-BIAS**



Italian One Voice Coalition recently held a special breakfast with participation of UNICO National and other organizations at The Chandelier. The theme was "Defending our Heritage" and defense of preserving Columbus Day. TV and Film Actor Tony LoBianco was guest speaker. Pictured are the Italian One Voice Coalition Board of Directors which includes UNICO members and officers and actor Tony LoBianco.



The Italian One Voice Coalition and UNICO Officers attend the Italian One Voice Breakfast called to preserve our Italian American Heritage and Columbus Day. From left: Joe Almeida, President Italian Union Chapter; Actor Tony LoBianco, Membership and Retention Director and Past National President Renato Biribin.



Members of the Kearny Chapter attended the solemn Mass for Italian-American Organizations at St. Lucy's Church in Newark. At the conclusion of the Mass, members visited the Chapel and National Shrine of St. Gerard where they welcomed visiting Carabinieri from Italy. From left: Pearl Yaszczemski, Celeste Pandolfi, President Joe Sgalia, JoAnn Mitchell, Jim Pecora and Lou Pandolfi.



Members pose with the Carabinieri.

**95th Annual Convention**  
**July 26- July 29, 2017**  
**JW Marriott Scottsdale**  
**Camelback Inn Resort and Spa**

**ISLIP/SMITHTOWN, NY**



Members prepare Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches for a community service project.



2016 High School Scholarship Winners.



2016 Golf Outing Honoree Mike Cortes and his wife Flores.



2016 Golf Outing with Mike Cortes, Chapter President Stephanie Fodera, Al Mellina, and Matt Fortunato.

**RUTHERFORD, NJ**



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



Members prepare for the ARC Canteen for Special Guests.



ARC Canteen for Special Guests held by Rutherford Chapter. From left: Canteen DJ Andre' DiMino, UNICO National Executive Director; Jenny DiMino, talented canteen dancer and Barbara Laborim.



Rutherford UNICO members welcome guest speaker Dr. Alfredo Masullo.



Dr. Alfredo Masullo, New Jersey District VII Heritage and Culture Chair, visited Rutherford Chapter to discuss the Internment Camp at Fort Missoula. Dr. Masullo's father Gustavo was incarcerated there during WWII. Gustavo named the camp "Bella Vista."



Presentation of the UNICO Foundation grant, awarded to the Rutherford Food Pantry. From left: Genevieve Kacmarcik, Director of Social Services; Patty Hirsch, Angela Resch, Pantry President; Joan Tidona, UNICO National Scholarship Director and Barbara Laborim.

**PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ**



At a recent Chapter meeting Joseph Scarpa, Italian Major Student from Montclair University, received the Passaic Valley UNICO \$1,000 grant to be used for his travels and studies in Italy. From left: Bruce Ponchak, Chapter President; MaryAnn Re from the Coccia Institute; Joseph Scarpa; and Joseph Agresti, Past National President.

**SADDLE BROOK, NJ**

The Saddle Brook Chapter recently sponsored its third annual Street Feast on Market Street. It was a major success thanks to the many sponsor donations. There were many UNICANS from other Chapters there also including, Steve Pelonero, Eastern Regional District Governor; Pat Pelonero, UNICO National Office Manager and Allan Focarrino, New Jersey District VII Governor.



From left: Marilyn Nasello, Hugh and Sue Syme, John Cappello, Ann Taylor, Joe Nasello, Criss Mangano, Jerry Taylor, Bob Gelinus and Ed Donafrio.



DJ Chris Segarra.



From left: Marilyn Nasello, Hugh Syme, Joe Nasello, Sal Mangano and John Cappello.

**GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY**



Greater Binghamton's Charity for October was Mercy House. Members George Haus, Cheryl DeRosa, and Joe Doolittle helped collect items. The membership proved to be very generous and their donations will be put to good use.



A big WELCOME to Alfonso "Al" Terzella as the newest member of Greater Binghamton UNICO family. Al was installed by Chapter President Felix DeSio. From left: John Barbieri, Alfonso "Al" Terzella, and Chapter President Felix DeSio.

**NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X**



New Jersey District X members and officers from Clark, Westfield and Union Chapters attend the Scotch Plains Chapter Italian Festa. From left: Iveo Bevaqua; Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga, Ralph Bernardo, Mike Colucci, Deanna DeMarco, BobTarte and Joe Almeida.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro swears in 2016-2017 New Jersey District X officers at a recent District meeting.



National President Dominick Nicastro with UNICO National Officers and New Jersey District X officers at Basilone Parade in Raritan New Jersey.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, National Officers and New Jersey District X members at the John Basilone Monument with youngest brother of John Basilone, Don Basilone, after the annual Basilone Parade in Raritan New Jersey. From left: Past National President Renato Biribin; New Jersey District X Governor Bill Hearon; UNICO National Second Vice President Dr. Frank DeFrank; UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro, Don Basilone, Bob Bengivenga; Ralph Contini and Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga.

**SCRANTON, PA**



The Scranton Chapter recently installed new members at Al Mia Amore in Dickson City. New Members are seated from left: Michelle Stark, Michael Fischetti, Yolanda Bataglia, Barbara Di Renzo, George Fueshko, Dr. Clairice Zaydon and Tony Summa.



The Scranton Chapter installed three new members at the October Membership Meeting at Arcaro and Genell's in Old Forge. New members are seated, from left: Lynda Cook, Angela Holecko; and Michael Passeri, II.



UNICO Scranton Chapter Volunteers prepared over 4700 pounds of Porketta for their Porketta stand at La Festa Italiana. From left: Jim Baress, Chapter President; Steve Andrichak, Bill Waerhouse, Lou DiMattio, Jerry Healy, Sal Manago, Dr. Al Giallorenzi, Mike Rescigno, Ron Quattrone and Bob Montalbano.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro helps Chapter volunteers work the Porketta stand at La Festa Italiana.



UNICO National Leadership joined the Chapter for La Radunata. Seated from left: S. John Cottone, Jim Baress, Scranton Chapter President; and John Terrana, Wilkes Barre Chapter President. Standing from left: Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Frank Blasi, UNICO National Legal Counsel; MaryAnn Savakinus, Lackawanna County Historical Society; Bob Savakinus, Founder & Producer of The Rocky Glen Movie; Dr. Frank DeFrank, UNICO National Second Vice President and Judge Vito Geroulo.



The Scranton Chapter Ladies Auxiliary prepare for the Craft and Gift Fair.

**KEYSTONE, PA**



The Keystone Chapter held its 3rd Annual Bocce Tournament at Arcaro and Genell's in Old Forge and raised \$1700 for the Chapter Scholarship Program and local charities. From left: Ernie Destefano, Mule Barn Bocce winning team members Mike Graham, Tony Godino, Don Stets and Jack Stets and John N. Mecca.

**CLIFFSIDE PARK, NJ**



Chapter President Jim Fucci (r) and Gerry Ranieri (l) install the newest member of the Cliffside Park Chapter Gerardette Iovino (c).



Gerry Ranieri (l) and Chapter President Jim Fucci (c) present UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro with a customized wooden UNICO pen that was handcrafted by Gerry Ranieri.

**HAVE YOU FILED YOUR 990 FORM WITH THE IRS?**

**ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ**

Rockaway Township members have been busy. We had 100 riders for our annual Police escorted motorcycle run through the hills and farmlands of North Jersey. Great ride ending at Rockaway River Barn where we enjoyed a barbeque and music. Proceeds used to support St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

What's a summer without attending a baseball game? Our members went to Yogi Berra Stadium to see the NJ Jackals on Italian night. It was a beautiful night with front row seats behind home plate.

The Chapter participated in the Montville Chapter San Gennaro Festival. We operated two games to raise money for college scholarships for our local high school students. It's a thrill to watch the kids play our water squirt game and golf ball racing game and win prizes.

We participated in this year's New Jersey District XI Bocce Tournament fund-raiser for cancer research. A wonderful event with excellent Italian food and very competitive Bocce players. We made it to the third round but lost to tough competition.

Our golf tournament at Crystal Springs Resort in Hamburg had over 60 participants in addition to many sponsors. Golfers had many contests including the chance to win an Infinity Q 50, a four day golf vacation to Palm Springs, California, a weekend golf outing to Myrtle Beach, and \$5000 cash in a putting contest. Prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place team. Our most honest team, highest score won an award. Proceeds will be used to help fund Autism Speaks.

We had a special guest at our last meeting, Richard Muti. Richard is author of Cent' Anni: The Sinatra Legend at 100. Our members loved his presentation of the Frank Sinatra story followed by a Q & A session. His presentation is a highly recommended for other Chapters.



Heather Darling and Ed Rochford at the start of the 60 mile ride.



Lydia DiMarcantonio getting a hug from the Jackal Mascot.



Judy Mustachio and Kathy LaValle at the San Gennaro Festival.



From left: Matt Mustachio, Dave Chromey, Sam Sapio and Chapter President Sal Simonetti get ready to win an Infinity Q 50.



Chapter President Sal Simonetti and his wife Chris at the District XI Bocce results.

**PARAMUS, NJ**



The Sluka Family were guests at the lula's to kick off the upcoming year's meetings. Connor is a student at the Reed Academy which is one of Paramus' fund-raiser recipients.



Lori Ramaglia is sworn in as Paramus's President by Past National President Rick D'Arminio and UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro.



Paramus welcomes our newest members Stacy Morena and Michael Suriano pictured with National President Dominick Nicastro and Chapter President Lori Romaglia.

**GARFIELD, NJ**



Lou Pacifico was sworn in as a member of the Garfield Chapter. He was sworn in and pinned by National President Dominick Nicastro, New Jersey District VII Governor Allan Focarino and Chapter President Sam Faltas at The Firehouse Restaurant in Garfield.



From left: Allan Focarino and Chapter President Sam Faltas, Lou Pacifico and UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro.

**PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT II**

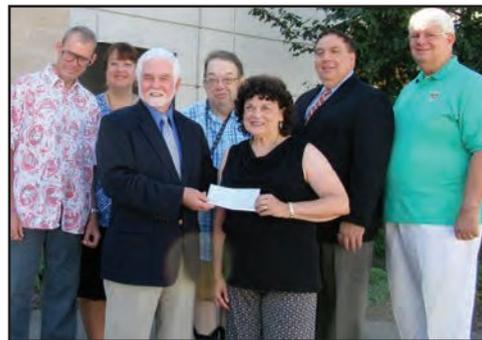


Pictured front center is Carbondale President Yvonne Gatto with fellow Keystone Chapter Members and Pennsylvania District II Governor Mark McDade, all having a GREAT evening at the Carbondale Chapter's Past Presidents' Dinner at Fiorelli's.

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**UNICO Foundation Mental Health Grant**

The Arc of Northeastern PA received a \$5000 Grant from the UNICO Foundation as recommended by the UNICO Mental Health Committee. The Grant will purchase technology for the consumers serviced by the Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania, such as I Pads which will assist the participants with communication, fine motor ability and coordination. All items will be labeled as being donated by UNICO National.



From left: Jerry Madesky, Eileen Rempe, Arc Development Director; Don Broderick, Arc Executive Director; Garrett Brown, Michele McDade, Frank Blasi and Pennsylvania District II Governor Mark McDade.



Chapter President Joe Almeida (l) and Richard Galante Jr. (r) award Bertha Little Mathews (c) the annual Richard Galante, Sr. Humanitarian Award.



At recent Chapter dinner meeting, Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga swore in new member Danna Costa (c) as she is pinned by Chapter President Joe Almeida. Maria Lombardino (r) looks on.

**WESTFIELD, NJ**



The Chapter participated along with the Nutley and Kearny Chapters at the annual procession and special mass for Italian Organizations at St Lucy's Church and National St. Gerard Shrine in Newark. The Carabinieri of Italy also participated. The mass officially opened the annual St Gerard Festival. From left: Past National President Ann Walko, Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga and Sandra Giordano.

**UNION, NJ**



The Union Chapter held their annual "Richard Galante Sr Humanitarian Award Banquet" in honor of Union Director of Community Development, Berth Little Mathews, at Costa's Restaurant. Seated from left: New Jersey District X Governor Bill Hearon, First Lady Alina Nicastro and UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro. Standing Chapter President Joe Almeida, UNICO National Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga and National Chaplain Father Bob Wolfee.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY

## Bridgeport, CT

The weather was rainy, but the spirits of parade goers were not dampened in Bridgeport, Connecticut for the 108th Annual Columbus Day Parade (oldest continuous parade in the state of Connecticut)! The parade marched down Wayne St. to Madison Ave and finished at Central High School. The Marine Corps Band from Quantico, Virginia highlighted the entertainment. Bridgeport UNICANs Perry and Angela Vincenzi, Louis Gallucci and Paul Lisi were joined by Trumbull High School Italian Club members, headed by Gianna Bartoli, daughter of fellow UNICAN, Dan Bartoli. Dan was driving the float and coordinated assembly efforts; thanks to him and Arduini Construction for use of the flat-bed. Also, special thanks to young Anthony Cortina for helping Gianna supervise the candy distribution efforts along the parade route. A good time was had by all.



New Jersey District VI Governor Jim Fucci (r) looks on as Gerry Ranieri (l) speaks about the accomplishments of Christopher Columbus at Columbus Day Ceremony in Columbus Park in Cliffside Park.



Members and Officers of the Cliffside Park Chapter along with Mayor Thomas Calabrese (center) and the Cliffside Park Police Honor Guard at the Chapter's Annual Columbus Day Ceremony held at Columbus Park.



Cliffside Park Chapter members and officers at 2016 Columbus Day Ceremony.

## Greater Binghamton, NY

Greater Binghamton UNICO participated in the 57th Annual Columbus Day Parade in Binghamton, New York. The group was led by Marco Cuda in his vintage Alfa Romero with Don Gioia as his copilot. Members marched in the parade

and gave candy to the numerous children that lined the parade route. After the parade members placed a wreath at the Christopher Columbus Bust in the Courthouse Square. A good time was had by all!! We are proud to say that Columbus Day is alive and well in Binghamton!! See you next year!!



Members gather for a picture before the parade begins.



Marco Cuda and his Alfa Romero lead the Chapter marchers in the parade.



Chapter members lay a wreath at the Binghamton, New York Columbus Statue.



The Bridgeport Float.



Members of the Carbondale Chapter commemorate Columbus Day by placing a wreath at the statue of Christopher Columbus in Memorial Park, Carbondale.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY



The Cedar Grove Chapter held its annual Columbus Day essay contest. The three winners were selected from a pool of 30 candidates and received a certificate from the Chapter and a \$100 check. From left: Amy Tufaro, Chapter President Pat DeFrancisci, contestant winners Julia Vinosky, Gabriella Vinosky and Michael Baron, and Cheri DiPrenda and Steve DeStefano.



The Garfield Chapter Columbus Day Wreath Laying Ceremony, in spite of minor inclement weather, was an enjoyable time.



The Garfield, NJ Columbus Statue.

## Hackensack, NJ

The Hackensack Chapter held its 45th Annual Columbus Day Ceremony. The event was held in Columbus Park. The Chapter presented the Chapter's Distinguished Community Service Award to Lona Padovano and Ralph Padovano (In Memoriam).

The event was attended by UNICO National President Dominick Nicastrò as well as many Chapter members, city officials and dignitaries. The event culminated with a wreath laying at the Statue of Christopher Columbus.



From left: UNICO National President Dominick Nicastrò, the Honorable Greg Padovano, Honoree Lona Padovano and Ralph Padovano (In Memoriam), Hackensack Chapter President Barabara Gebbia Ricca and Ralph Contini.



From left: Past National President Michael Mariniello, Father Brian H. Laffler, Hackensack Councilman David Simms, Hackensack Deputy Mayor Kathy Canestrino, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastrò, Honoree Lona Padovano, Chapter President Barbara Gebbia Ricca, Ralph Contini, Past National President Richard D'Arminio and Mayor of Hackensack John Labrosse.



The Harrison Chapter marches with a replica of Columbus' ship.



Chapter members wave to the crowd.



From left: Richard O'Keefe, John Spinozza and Chapter President John Gazzellone.



Member of the Highland Beach Chapter enjoy their time at the Columbus Citizens Foundation town house. From left: Peter and Monica Campanella, Melissa Guy, Madeline LoRe', Gail Guy, Victor LoRe', Carol Trojan and Cleve Guy.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY

## HAZLETON, PA HONORS RON MARCHETTI

Ron Marchetti was honored as the 2016 Hazleton UNICO Outstanding Italian American at its Columbus Day Dinner held at Capriotti's.



From left: Benny Tranguch, UNICO President Mike DeCosmo, Guest Speaker Fred Barletta, Honoree Ron Marchetti and his wife Chris, Wayne Tomaino, UNICO National Second Vice President Dr. Frank DeFrank, and the Marchetti's daughter and event speaker Lisa Yurek.



From left: Mike DeCosmo Jr., President Hazleton Chapter; Wayne Tomaino and Mike DeCosmo Sr.



UNICO National Second Vice President Dr. Frank DeFrank addresses the audience At Hazleton's Columbus Day event.



Patsy Ignar and Gloria Cerullo Co-event Chairs.



Islip/Smithtown Chapter President Stephanie Fodera and husband Lennie at the Columbus Day Parade.



Islip/Smithtown Chapter President Stephanie Fodera at the Columbus Day Parade.

## Keystone, PA

The Lackawanna County Commissioners held an Italian Flag Raising with Proclamation at the County Courthouse. Among the County's several Italian Organizations present was the Keystone Chapter. Initiated at the request of the Keystone Chapter in 2012, this has become a traditional start of celebrating October as being Italian Heritage and Culture Month.



Keystone members and County Commissioners Pat O'Malley and Jerry Notarianni attend the flag raising. From left: Michele McDade, holding the "October is Italian Heritage and Culture Month in Lackawanna County" Proclamation; Marilyn Vitali, Tom Carlucci, Mr. Notarianni, Mark McDade, Pennsylvania District II Governor; Mr. O'Malley, Ann Summa, Mary Rinaldi and Jim Mack.



Keystone UNICO attended this year's Columbus Day Parade in NYC with a bus of 27. Afterwards we all went down to sample what Little Italy's Mulberry Street had to offer. From left: Michele McDade, Cathy Gerard, Chapter President Cathy Bianchi, Gina Glucksnis, Ernie and Phyllis DeStefano, Bob and Sandy Collins, Ann Summa and Angela Richards.



From left: Ann Summa, Angela Richards, Mary Sileo, Richard Vincenti, Katy Vincenti-Krentz, Tom Carlucci and Michele McDade.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY



Members of the Kearny Chapter gathered at the statue of Christopher Columbus along with, New Jersey District VII Governor Allan Focarino, Mayor Alberto Santos and members of the Town Council to commemorate The Great Navigator's discovery of the New World. Lou Pandolfi spoke about some lesser known facts about Columbus and his voyage of discovery and the first celebrations of Columbus Day. At the conclusion of the talk, a wreath was placed by the statue.

## New Jersey District X

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders celebrated the eighth annual Union County/ District X Columbus Day Flag raising event at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth. The program, which was emceed by Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, featured a number of speakers from UNICO, County government, and Filomena Coccaro, the owner of Ciao Amici Italian Language Cultural Center, who was the keynote speaker.



Past National President Renato Biribin speaks at the Union County/UNICO District X Columbus Day Flag raising event, as Union County Freeholder Al Mirabella watches on.



New Jersey District X and Union County sponsored the annual Columbus Day Italian Flag Raising ceremony at County Seat in Elizabeth. Representing UNICO National, Anthony Bengivenga gives a speech on why it is important to celebrate Columbus and the many Italian Explorers who followed him and also our Italian Heritage.



Flag Raising attendees.



From left: Bill Hearon, Joyce Walker and Bob Tarte ride on the UNICO float at the New York City parade.



Vera and George Abruzzo from Clark march in the Columbus Day parade in New York City.

National President Dominick Nicastro and First Lady Alina joined UNICANS from Waterbury, Oakville/Watertown, Southington, Wethersfield and Hartford at the Pontelandolfo Community Club's Annual Columbus Day Dinner in Waterbury honoring National Secretary Francine Nido with an Italian Heritage Award. President Nicastro also presented his first proclamation to Francine in recognition for the work she does with UNICO and the Italian American community.



UNICO National Secretary Francine Nido accepts her proclamation from UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro.



UNICO Members in attendance at the Columbus Day Dinner honoring Francine Nido.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY

## Waterbury, CT

The Waterbury Chapter recently held their 50th Annual Columbus Day and Italian Mayor for the Day. Honored this year was John Sarlo, an active member of the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee, Senior Citizen Advocate and former Alderman.

Over 60 people gathered for a special Columbus Day Mass and then processed to the Piazza at City Hall for a Flag Raising Ceremony and Reception.

Connecticut has designated October to be Italian American Heritage and Culture Month. A banner stating this proclamation flies over the doors of City Hall for the entire month.



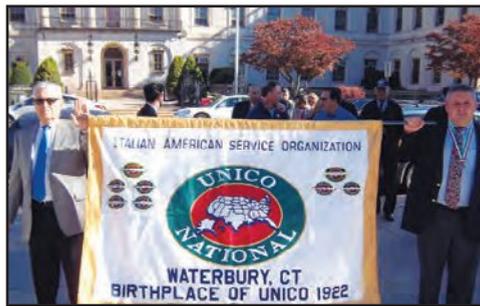
Columbus Day Chair Dr. Joanne D'Angelo, National Secretary Francine Nido, Mayor for the Day John Sarlo, Chapter President Louis Gelada Jr. and Waterbury Mayor Neil O'Leary pose in front of the Christopher Columbus Statue.



The wreath at base of the Columbus Statue which stands in front of Waterbury City Hall. UNICO chaired the effort to erect the statue in 1984.



Members of the Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee, including National Basilone Award Winner Sam Beamon Sr., flank honoree John Sarlo.



Ron Vitarelli and Don Mancuso carry the Waterbury banner to lead the procession.

## Pittsfield, MA

The Pittsfield Chapter celebrated Columbus Day by holding its fourteenth annual "Taste of Italy" dinner at the ITAM Lodge. The ITAM Lodge is situated on the southern shore of scenic Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield. The event was chaired by Larry Salvatore who was supported by many Chapter volunteers who worked all day in the kitchen to make this event a success as it usually is. The event was attended by 180 people who were treated to a gourmet Italian dinner.

The "Taste of Italy" offerings were preceded by the diners being served antipasto and salad and bread with dipping oil at a serving station manned by the Chapter. The buffet meal included Risotto, pan seared pork cutlet, Chicken Marsala, polenta, gnocchi, cheese manicotti, eggplant lasagna and pasta primavera, broccoli rabe and Italian green beans. Desserts and coffee with anisette were served after the meal. Proceeds from this event go into the scholarship and general charities accounts.



Larry Salvatore (l) and his chief kitchen assistant, Tom Angelini (r) take a break from the meal preparations for a quick photo.



Some of the Chapter volunteers hard at work in the kitchen preparing food for the upcoming feast.



The Chapter's ACES get ready to man the serving stations.



Scranton Chapter members participate in the Columbus Day Parade in New York City.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY

## Plainfields', NJ

The Plainfields' Chapter celebrated the Columbus Day Holiday with its annual program of speakers, student participation and community groups at the South Plainfield Senior Center. The program included performances from the South Plainfield High School Chorus and various South Plainfield community organizations, including the women's group. Dignitaries on hand included Congressman Frank Pallone, State Senator Pat Deignan, Mayor Matt Anesh, Council President Rob Bengivenga and Council members Derryck White and Joseph Wolak.



Congressman Frank Pallone addresses the audience.



From left: Andrew Cimaluca, Flo Mazzer, Allan Foccarino, Ed Donifrio, Dominick and Alina Nicastro, Jerry Taylor, Joe and Marilyn Nasello, Hugh and Sue Syme and John Cappello.



UNICANS Anthony Bengivenga (l) and Bob Bengivenga (r) raised the flag in front of Borough Hall.



A big crowd of high school students and community members filled the audience.



The Philadelphia Chapter prepares to march in the Columbus Day Parade.

## Saddle Brook, NJ

In honor of Columbus Day, the Saddle Brook Chapter performed its annual Wreath laying Ceremony. Our members assembled with Chapter President Jerry Taylor at our UNICO Park on Market Street. Joining us were UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro and his wife Alina, New Jersey District VII Governor Allan Foccarino, Saddle Brook Municipal Council members and members Flo Mazzer and Andrew Cimaluca.

We will always honor the Great Navigator. No matter what others say, his voyage was one of the most important events in History.



Chapter Marchers.



Members of the community including Board of Education members and the Women's Group of South Plainfield (l) joined the Bengivenga family (r) in raising the flag.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro addresses the audience.



From left: Lou Pinto, Ben Ferrara, Frank Fioravonti, John Ferrara and seated TV Weatherman John Baleros.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY

## Stamford, CT

Lead by the Stamford Fire Department and the Knights of Columbus Color Corps, the parade started with the participation of bands, Italian American clubs, Shriner's mini cars, antique cars and more. The Grand Marshals were Dr. Connie Scarella Stevenson and former State Representative Michael Molgano.

MISS UNICO was represented by a fourth generation of Stamford Chapter UNICO members. Danielle Rizzi is the daughter, granddaughter, and a great-granddaughter of a very active UNICANS.



Knights of Columbus of Lafayette Assembly with Christopher Columbus.



Miss UNICO Danielle Rizzi.



The Columbus Statue donated to the City of Stamford in October 1960 by the Stamford Chapter.

## Bergen County Italian American Heritage Month Celebration and Italian Flag Raising Ceremony

Bergen County's first Italian American County Executive James J. Tedesco hosted Bergen County's now Seventh Annual Italian-American Heritage Month Celebration and Italian Flag Raising Ceremony. The event included remarks from Mr. Tedesco and UNICO National's Columbus Day Chair and Italian Flag Raising Co-Organizer Ralph Contini, a cultural operatic performance from Anne Tormela, a keynote speech from The Honorable Francesco Genuardi, Consul General of the Consulate of the Republic of Italy in New York, and recognition of several esteemed Bergen County Outstanding Italian Americans for their contributions to their community, including Dominick J. Nicastro and Richard D'Arminio. A uniformed Italian Carabinieri was dispatched from Rome to accompany Consul General Genuardi, who then served as an honor guard. A UNICO tie was presented to Mr. Tedesco by Past National President Rick D'Arminio and Ralph Contini to recognize Mr. Tedesco's accomplishment. This annual flag raising ceremony is the first major Italian American event in October in New Jersey and it serves as the kick-off of October as "Italian American Heritage Month" in New Jersey. This year marks the 15th anniversary of Italian Heritage month in New Jersey.



From left: The Honorable Francesco Genuardi, Consul General of Italy; Donato Ancona, Italian Carabinieri; Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco and Ralph A. Contini.



From left: UNICO National President Dominick J. Nicastro, Ralph A. Contini; UNICO National Past National President Richard D'Arminio and New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission Chairman Robert DiBiase.



Honoree Gina Lia accepts her award.



Sparta Chapter members gather in front of the Columbus Monument in Dykstra Park prior to the Columbus Day Ceremony.



From left: Eastern Regional District Governor Steve Pelonero, Bob Lombardo, Chapter President Ken Carafello and Gary D'Uva.

# UNICO CHAPTERS CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY



New Jersey District VII Governor Allan B. Focarino participated in the Hackensack Chapter's 45th Annual Christopher Columbus Day Celebration. National Columbus Chairman Ralph Contain officiated over the annual presentation.



Kearny President Joseph Sgaglia invited New Jersey District VII Governor Allan B. Focarino to join the Kearny Chapter for their annual Columbus Day Celebration. District Secretary Lou Pandolfi provided the attendees with facts on Columbus and his travels to the New World.



National Columbus Chairman Ralph Contini spoke at the Garfield Chapter's Columbus Ceremony, which was officiated by New Jersey District VII Governor Allan B. Focarino, who serves as the co-chairman with Antonino Randazzo on the Chapter's Columbus Monument Committee.



## Celebrate Columbus Day!



## SEASIDE, NJ COLUMBUS DAY PARADE



The UNICO Float.



The rain couldn't keep members from greeting Christopher Columbus.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro prepares to ride the float.



From left: Allan Focarino, Ralph Contini, Dominick Nicastro, John Alati and Lee Norelli.



UNICO Members attempt to stay dry and enjoy the parade.



From left: Ralph Contini, Allan Focarino and Dominick Nicastro relax after the parade.

# NEW YORK CITY COLUMBUS DAY PARADE



The Cedar Grove Chapter.



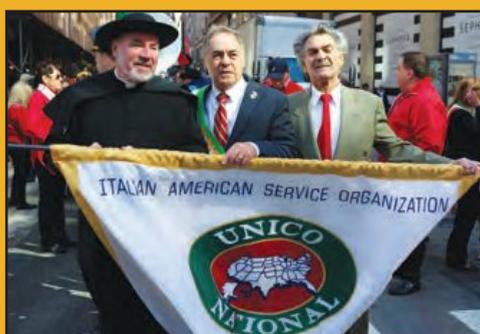
The Clark Chapter.



The Garfield Chapter.



The Greater Philadelphia Chapter.



The Hackensack Chapter.



New Jersey District VII.



New York District II.



The Plainfields Chapter.



The Queensboro Chapter.



The Raritan Valley Chapter.



The Scranton Chapter.



The Westfield Chapter.

# NEW YORK CITY COLUMBUS DAY PARADE



Parade participants.



The UNICO Float makes its way up 5th Avenue.



From left: Tom Vaughan, Dominick Nicastro, Lee Norelli and Frank DeFrank.



From left: Ralph Contini, Dominick Nicastro, Frank DeFrank and Chris DiMattio.



National President and First Lady Dominick and Alina Nicastro with marchers before the parade.



From left: Chris DiMattio, Ralph Contini and Frank Gervasi.



Sue Carol and Jimmie Scannelli.



From left: Alina Nicastro, Ralph and Marie Rose Contini and Dominick Nicastro.



Bob and Marie Solimo.



His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan stops to visit with UNICO members.



From left: Linda DeFrank, Alina Nicastro and Marie Rose and Ralph Contini.



UNICO National Office prepare to march.

# NY, NJ, PA MEET THE PRESIDENT



First Lady Alina and President Dominick Nicastro.



From left: Tom Vaughan, Dominick Nicastro, Lee Norelli and Frank DeFrank.



From left: Maria Nicastro Conn, First Lady Alina, President Dominick and Louis Nicastro.



From left: Manuela D'Arminio, Dominick Nicastro, Rick D'Arminio, Frank DeFrank and Pat Pelonero.



Christian Raymond presents President Nicastro the keys to the city and a proclamation from Garfield.



Alan Taylor and Joe Nasello present First Lady Alina with flowers and a gift.



The Cedar Grove Chapter.



New York District II.



The Garfield Chapter.



Lou Pacifico (r) joins the Nicastro family.



The Orange/West Orange Chapter.



The Sparta Chapter.

# NY, NJ, PA MEET THE PRESIDENT



The Belleville Chapter.



The Saddle Brook Chapter.



The Passaic Valley Chapter.



The Scranton Chapter.



The Wayne Chapter.



The Denville Chapter.



The Bloomfield Chapter.



The National Office Staff.



The Hackensack Chapter.



The Plainfields' Chapter.



New Jersey District X.



The Crowd!

## **JW MARRIOTT CAMELBACK INN SCOTTSDALE GET READY TO BE AMAZED!**

The site of our upcoming National Convention is nothing short of amazing. It has been named by many as Marriott's most outstanding property as well as one of JW "Bill" Marriott Jr.'s top choices. It is of course the fabulous JW Marriott Camelback Inn Scottsdale. Plan your stay at the Resort to discover a unique blend of comfort and tranquility. The Resort is situated on 125 acres in the gorgeous foothills of Camelback Mountain. The resort's immaculately manicured grounds offer the perfect backdrop for your relaxation and rejuvenation.

Unwind in style in Scottsdale in the hotel's spacious, 427 elegantly appointed private casita rooms, each overflowing with luxurious amenities such as a wet bar, mini fridge and a microwave oven (naturally upgrades are available) or take advantage of the resort's array of premium resources. Proudly featured are a full-service 32,000 square foot spa, a free fitness center, two championship golf courses on site, plus a 9 hole chip and putt course.

There is exceptional on-site dining including world class BLT Steak, Rita's Kitchen, R Bar, Acacia, Hoppin' Jacks at the pool and of course Starbucks. Add to all of this is 24 hour room service delivery.

Three outdoor pools (open 24 hours a day) which include Jack Rabbit Pool; also there is an Adult Pool and an Infinitely Pool.

If you are not amazed by now the UNICO Convention rate for all of this and too much more to mention is only \$99.00 per night. In order to get a much better idea of the property visit their website at [www.camelbackinn.com](http://www.camelbackinn.com)

If you like what I've explained and what you've seen at the Hotel's website you can secure your reservations at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/UNICO2017>, they are holding rooms at the same rate for "three days prior and three days following the dates of the ROOM BLOCK.

In addition, our hotel situates you near Scottsdale's top attractions. We're close to beautiful Downtown Scottsdale which incorporates the lively "Entertainment and Nightlife District", the "Waterfront District", Scottsdale Fashion Square, Old Town Scottsdale, the "Arts District", the "Museum District" to name a few.

There are hundreds of restaurants of every taste you can imagine and no less than six Casinos open 24 hours a day, as close as 15 minutes but none further than 45 minutes away.

With all that this venue has to offer I'm sure you'll want to start early in booking your rooms and checking on airline prices from your area. An example was a site visit just prior to our Convention in Chesapeake the airfare at that time was only \$258.00 round trip from Newark Liberty so book your rooms early and stay on top of the airline prices.

If you need further information feel free to contact me at [Agresti@UNICO.org](mailto:Agresti@UNICO.org).

Yours in UNICO,  
Joseph Agresti, PNP  
Convention 2017 Chairman

SCOTTSDALE

## CONVENTION 2017

Urban  
Southwest

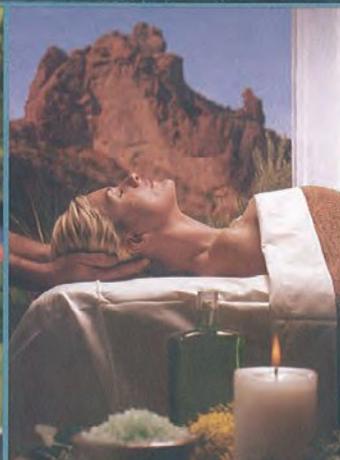
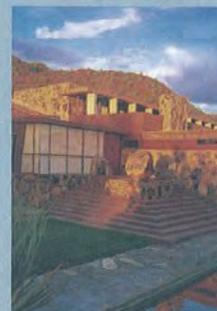
Set in the heart of the lush Sonoran Desert, Scottsdale boasts award-winning resorts and spas, world-class shopping and dining, championship golf, and a vibrant arts and cultural scene. Whether you want to get away from it all or be in the middle of it all, Scottsdale is sure to please!

If you're looking for rest and relaxation, Scottsdale's warm, sunny days are perfect for lounging by the pool, browsing the downtown shops and galleries, or enjoying a behind-the-scenes tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West. For the ultimate in pampering, Scottsdale's spas delight guests with treatments inspired by ancient Native American healing techniques and indigenous Sonoran Desert ingredients. Carry the mood into the evening with a romantic dinner al fresco followed by some soulful jazz at a cozy wine bar or saddle up at a local saloon and experience Scottsdale's Western roots.

When the lure of adventure calls, Scottsdale answers with enough activities to keep you busy morning, noon and night! Start your day with a sunrise hike or mountain biking trek through the Sonoran Desert. Golfers can test their mettle with 18 holes on one of our desert-target style courses. For shoppers, the city's more than 2,500 boutiques, shops and malls offer shop-til-you-drop excitement on a grand scale. And, Scottsdale nights sizzle with award-winning chefs, after-dark ArtWalks, night-vision Hummer tours and high-energy dance clubs.

## SCOTTSDALE DIVERSIONS

- Sonoran Desert Adventures - hiking, Jeep tours, river rafting, horseback riding
- Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West (left)
- Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art
- Scottsdale ArtWalk
- Heard Museum
- Desert Botanical Garden
- Shopping and dining at the new Scottsdale Waterfront



**WESTFIELD, NJ**



The Westfield Chapter and the Westfield Italian American Club co-sponsored a Columbus Essay contest. Three Westfield High School students were given awards. Past National President Rick D'Arminio was the guest speaker.



The Westfield Chapter installed new member Rico Riccione at a recent meeting. From left: Anthony Bengivenga, Membership and Retention Director; Richard Esposito, Rico Riccione; Chapter President Bob Tarte and Mike Colucci.



The Chapter participated in the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Valente Library at Seton Hall University. From left: Membership and Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga, Dean John Buschman of Seton Hall University, Past National President Dr. Ann Walko, Bob Tarte and Joanne LaRosa.



The Chapter recently installed new members Stephanie Fleming and James Monticello. From left: Stephanie Fleming, Sandra Giordano; James Monticello, Richard Esposito, Chapter President Bob Tarte, and Anthony Bengivenga, Membership and Retention Director.

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



The new Aces Board installed by UNICO National Executive Director Andre' DiMino. Executive Director. From left: M. Marto, A. D'Apolito, J. Rajkowski, N. Fugnitti and M. Mitchell.



St. Joe's H. S. Montvale Chapter ACES and Adult Bocce Teams attend the New Jersey District XI Annual Bocce Fund-raiser Jimmy "V" Cancer Research.



ACES Matthew Mitchell and Thomas Brennan serve Italian Ices at St. Joe's Back to School Night as a service to St. Joe's parents on behalf of the Chapter.



New ACES and families meet our members and learn about UNICO and our Chapter at the Ziti dinner/community event.



*The Voice of* **UNICO NATIONAL**  
**ComUNICO**

The DEADLINE for the January 2017 Edition of ComUNICO is Friday, December 16, 2016

Send Chapter news to UNICO National Office: [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)

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

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## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY HONORS ITALIAN AMERICANS

Members of the Italian American One Voice Coalition, led by its president Doctor Manny Alfano, joined other prominent Italian Americans recently on the floor of the New Jersey State Assembly. They gathered in the well of the chamber to receive proclamations honoring their service and designating October 'Italian American Heritage Month'. The special ceremony came at the request of Alfano and was helped along by Assemblyman Ralph Caputo.

"Words cannot express how thankful we are to Assemblyman Caputo and the entire New Jersey State Assembly," said Alfano. "Caputo, along with his Assembly members, graciously gave of their time and then voted unanimously to designate October in honor New Jersey's millions of Italian Americans."



From left: Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, Honoree William Schvella, UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro and Assemblyman John Citerelli.



From left: Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, Honoree Father Tom Nicastro, Manny Alfano and Assemblywoman Valerie Venieri Huttle.



From left: Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, William Schbella, Father Tom Nicastro, Dominick Nicastro, Joe Piscopo, Pat Meola, Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Assemblywoman Valerie Venieri Huttle, Ralph Contini, and Ralph Capaccio.



From left: Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Manny Alfano and Dominick Nicastro.



Honoree Joe Piscopo and UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro.



From left: Assemblyman John Burzuchelli, Manny Alfano and Assemblyman Ralph Caputo.

## SETON HALL UNIVERSITY~VALENTE LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY



From left: Frank Paolercio, Bill Connell, Pat Pelonero, Salvatore Valente, Dominick Nicastro, John Buschman and Ralph Contini.



From left: Dominick Nicastro, Salvatore Valente and Ralph Contini.



From left: Pat Pelonero, Dominick Nicastro, Mary Berger, Joe Guasconi and Ralph Contini.



**Our Language-Our Heart!**

Educators have often considered the study of Latin to be the basis of learning.....grammar, history and so on...

Yet in this 21st century full of technology, discovery and advancement it is difficult to absorb the knowledge of the past without combining it with the present and future. The courses of study offered today to our students are devoid of many of the basics as we strive to improve them.

I propose that by studying “Italian” – the new classical language, we can accomplish this task hand in hand with progress.

One of the many arguments for studying Latin is to build vocabulary and structure. Italian, being the Romance Language which has changed the least since first used by the great writers of the 13th century, was spoken by the “people” not the scholars. This vocabulary, via Italian, survives today. The language of the “educated elite” was preserved by the Roman Catholic Church which traditionally used an “ITALIANIZED” pronunciation. Even modern Latin scholars disagree as to its proper pronunciation.

Thus, by studying Italian one can attain these same benefits.

We can no longer afford to be a mono-lingual nation, nor bi-lingual for that matter. In this global economy flu-

ency in several languages starting with Italian as a sound basis, and understanding the culture and heritage of others is a must!

In going forward, we must not forget the past. One learns and improves from the accomplishments, knowledge and mistakes of others.

No other nation can boast a list of great explorers, painters, sculptors, architects, inventors and composers. As immigrants to other lands Italians brought these talents with them. In the United States, by the close of the 20th century Italian Americans had excelled in virtually all fields of endeavor or had made contributions in all areas of American life and culture.

And the legacy goes on.....

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**La Befana says**  
**“Don’t forget your favorite UNICAN at Christmas.”**

Don’t know what to buy your favorite UNICAN for Christmas. 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. Beat the Christmas rush, order your gifts now! To place an order, contact either the National office or Lou and Celeste Pandolfi at [lpandolfi@verizon.net](mailto:lpandolfi@verizon.net) or 201-368-2409.

**WEST SPRINGFIELD, MA**

The West Springfield Chapter celebrated its 50th anniversary at a gala attended by 200 guests at the Storowton Carriage House. The event was the culmination of months of planning by Chapter member Jean Robinson, whose father Tony D’Orazio was one of West Springfield 27 charter members.

The evening began with a social hour of traditional Italian mandolin and guitar music. Musicians went table to table playing Italian songs to the delight of partygoers, many of whom sang along. Chapter President Carmino J. Santaniello welcomed the guests with a hearty “benvenuto.” The majority of the guests consisted of West Springfield members and their friends and families, also attending were local and national dignitaries. West Springfield Mayor Will Reichelt, presented the Chapter with a Proclamation designating October 14, 2016 as West Springfield UNICO day in the town. UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro and his wife Alina joined the festivities. Nicastro congratulated West Springfield UNICO on its milestone and offered remarks encouraging members to challenge the movement to rename Columbus Day to Indigenous Persons Day. Attending were West Springfield City Councilor Jill Fortier and her husband Stewart Withee, UNICO National Executive Vice President Tom Vaughan and his wife Michele, UNICO National Secretary Francine Nido, and several members from the Springfield and Pittsfield Chapters, including Presidents Bob Accorsi and Mike Quadrozzi.

Santaniello toasted West Springfield UNICO’s 50 years of service to the community with the words “cinquanta anni”, Italian for “50 years”.

The theme centered on paying tribute to the men and women of West Springfield UNICO, with particular emphasis to the memory of the 27 charter members. Santaniello described the charter members as “honorable men of Italian heritage who were looking to celebrate their Italian traditions and make a positive difference in their community.” He also called them “hard-working men of character and faith, community role models...the kind of men you wanted to know and have as friends. They were generous, big-hearted and determined to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Henry Ouimette, who joined West Springfield UNICO as a very young man in 1966, is the sole surviving charter member.

Santaniello recognized Henry and introduced his wife as the daughter of deceased member Gino Piccin.

Two current West Springfield UNICO members are children of charter members, including Jean Robinson (daughter of Tony D’Orazio) and David Pandolfi (son of John Pandolfi). Although David was unable to attend, his wife and West Springfield UNICO member Betty McCabe Pandolfi was among the guests.

Over the years West Springfield members presented the Town of West Springfield a children’s center known as the UNICO Building. Once they raised enough money to get started, members spent their weekends and free time hauling materials, digging, and hammering until they finally achieved what some called an “impossible dream” of donating a children’s center free of debt to the Town. Since then, the UNICO Building has been the home of Camp Robinson, the Town’s summer camp for special needs children. The story doesn’t end there fast-forward to 1994, when the Town needed a swimming pool for its special needs camp. Again, West Springfield UNICO made it happen, as a new generation of members rose to the occasion by raising the necessary funds to build a pool. Many individuals who were children when they began to attend UNICO functions 50 years ago still participate as adults. As West Springfield UNICO hosts each event, they honor the memory and vision of its former members who wanted to make a positive difference in the lives of others. The seed that the 27 charter members planted in 1966 has truly blossomed into something amazing. Two of Santaniello’s children are active members of West Springfield UNICO, and he wondered whether they and his young grandson, Carmino IV, and new granddaughter Nora would one day gather to toast the organization on its 100th anniversary and celebrate another 50 years of West Springfield UNICO’s contributions to the community.



From left: Neil Ferrero, Arnold Boido, Tony Anziano, and Walter Defilipi each receive a UNICO National proclamation for their length of service. Neil, Arnold and Walter joined in 1979, and Tony joined in 1980.



Joe Panetta and Jay Contrino went table to table during the social hour and dinner.



Jean Robinson organized the event. Jean was one of several women who joined in 1998. Her father Tony D’Orazio was one of the 27 charter members.



UNICO National President Dominick Nicastro (r) and Chapter President Carmino Santaniello (l).

# Prayer to the Blessed Virgin



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

**LAA SA AB AD JRD IPP JP SP TFP**

TO OFFER A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED MOTHER send a Check for \$20, made out to UNICO and your initials to:  
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## MERCER COUNTY ITALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

After the yearly festival mass which is traditionally dedicated to the veterans of World War II, a statue depicting a WWII soldier coming to the aid of a fallen brother in arms was unveiled. The statue was sculpted by Mr. Jerald Christofaro in the 1940's, tearfully and lovingly handed over, and painstakingly restored by the Mercer County Italian American Festival Association. This statue honors the brave soldiers who fought for and won the greatest war in American history and gives voice to the memory of more than 400,000 soldiers who never returned thus enabling the rest of us to live around the world in freedom. The following Mercer County Italian American WWII soldiers were honored and present: Anthony Capriotti, Frank Cuili, Ray E. Dooling, Quinton C. Erkoboni, Patrick L. Galati, Walter P. Kramarz, Anthony W. Melchiondo, Frank J. Parese James W. Smith, William E Smith, Frank J. Uvegas and George S. Vitoritt.

Certificates and gifts of appreciation were given by Cav. John Scarpati, President MCIAFA and Kathi Adie, Chairperson of Military and Veterans/Special Events Committees.



## CLARK, NJ



The Clark Chapter participated again this year in the annual town Trunk or Treat. President Ralph Bernardo, Joe Arancio, Fran Parisi and Anna Pace were dominos and Henry and Val Trani beautifully decorated their trunk as a giant gumball machine. Over 700 children were in attendance.



## UNICO NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT TIES THE KNOT



Here's where their UNICO life began, Arlington, Virginia 2011 Convention. Welcome to the family.



The happy couple says "I DO!"



Introducing for the first time Mr. and Mrs. Lee Norelli.



All smiles!

UNICO NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT TIES THE KNOT



A nosey neighbor wants to get into the action!



The Bailey Norelli Family!



The UNICO Family!



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UNICO National is the largest Italian American Service Organization in America. With 109 local Chapters in 18 states and more being formed right now, we have an unparalleled track record of giving that dates back to 1922.

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

Through our many National Award Committees, we present awards in literature, science, amateur and professions athletics and military service.

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

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](http://www.unico.org)



## PREMATURE AGING

Italy is no country for young people. According to a report released in late September, Italians between ages 18 and 32 represent a large chunk of the exodus from the country every year. The annual report put together by the Migrantes Foundation reveals that a third of those leaving Italy are under 34, while another large percentage is made up of individuals between 35 and 49. Bottom line, half of all Italians leaving the country nowadays are under 50. As of Dec. 31, 2015, more than 4.8 million Italians were living abroad, basically one in every 12 Italians. Last year alone, 107,529 people departed, most of them going to the United Kingdom. Other popular destinations include Germany, Switzerland, France, Brazil and Belgium.



## ECONOMIC UPTICK

Italy's economic outlook is finally starting to brighten. According to the statistics group Itsta, the country's industrial production in August 2016 grew by 1.7 percent from July, and by a whopping 4.1 percent compared to August 2015. It is the biggest bounce in Italy's industrial production in five years. Overall, industrial output has grown by 1 percent since the beginning of the year, sustained in part by a good performance in the automotive sector. In August, automobile production jumped by 41.9 percent compared to the previous month, and the sector's output has grown 9.5 percent since January 2016. "Industrial output numbers must be observed over time," Minister of Labor and Social Policies Giuliano Poletti cautioned. "But it's still a positive sign."



## CULINARY DIPLOMACY

A group of 90 culinary experts recently gathered in Rome to celebrate the debut of the Italian Association of Taste Ambassadors. Among the cognoscenti who gathered at the Ministry of Agricultural Affairs on Oct. 12 were Agriculture Minister Maurizio Martina and Slow Food founder Carlo Petrini. "Milan's 2015 Expo highlighted an important mission for us," said the association's president, Cristina Bowerman. "We must do our part in spreading the Italian identity in our country and in the world." And that identity is closely tied to food. "This is a team that has the potential to tell the world about our strong food and wine tradition," said Minister Martina. The first item on the agenda was to explore ways that social media can be leveraged to spread the word.



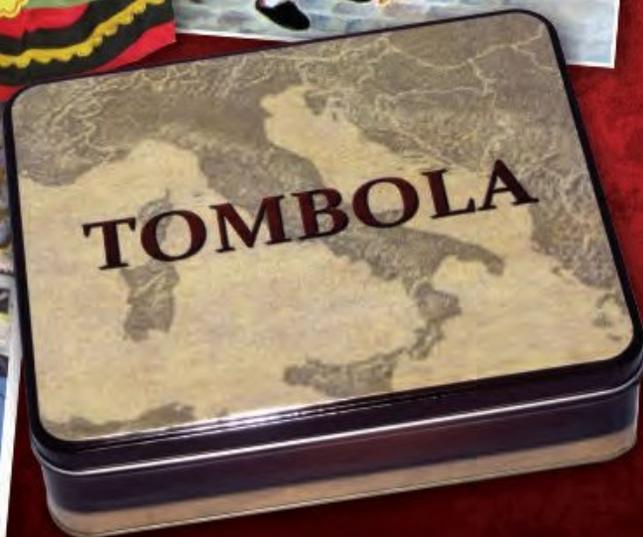
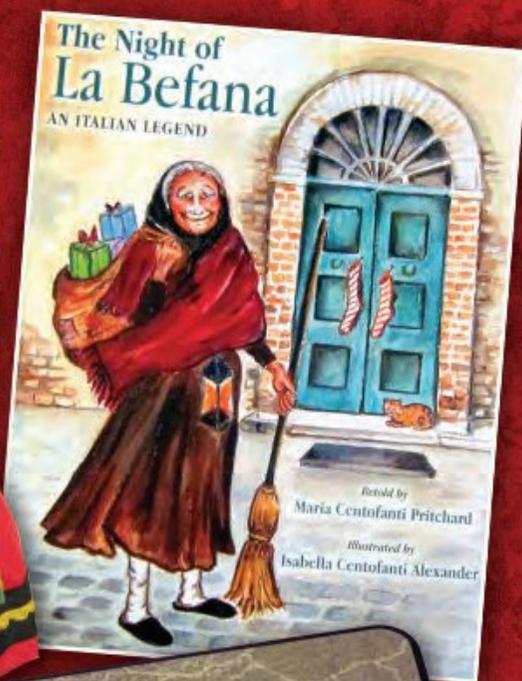
## BRAINY BICYCLIST

With a powerful final sprint, Italy's Elisa Balsamo claimed the junior world title at this year's cycling world championships, held in Doha, Qatar. Despite the blistering heat, the 18-year-old from Cuneo managed to emerge from the pack and finish ahead of USA's Skylar Schneider and Norway's Susanne Andersen. "I have to thank all my teammates," said Balsamo. "This world title is due to all their hard work, not only mine." It is the fifth gold medal for the young champion, who brought her school textbooks with her and maintains straight As. "I can't interrupt my school work," she said after the race. "After Doha we are going to Paris for the European championships. I need to keep up!"

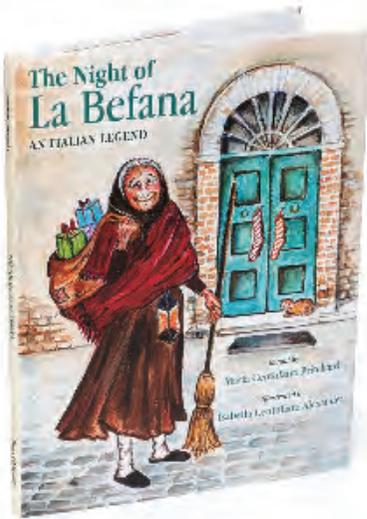
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# The Bear Necessities

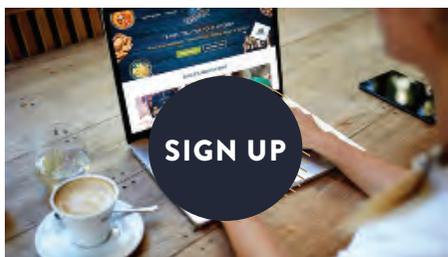
It all started with an adorable talking teddy bear named Giovanni. When Italian Children's Market founder Isabella Centofanti wanted to introduce her own kids to their heritage she created a cuddly companion that could speak Italian. From there, her company has broadened its offerings to appeal to children of all ages. Her online market now carries toys, books, CDs, DVDs, clothing, card games, ornaments and other handpicked items celebrating Italy in all of its glory and that keep us and our kids in touch with our language, land and culture.

[www.ItalianChildrensMarket.com](http://www.ItalianChildrensMarket.com)



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"These aren't just boxes of food to me," Pedrelli assures. "They embody my and I think every Italian's connection to their heritage through its food and traditions. These boxes not only tell the story of each region and its cuisine, but bring us into a local nonna's kitchen through her story and favorite recipes."

Nonna Box is available by the box or via monthly subscription. You can order one box for \$59.95, or subscribe for multiple months starting at \$50 a month.

[www.nonnabox.com](http://www.nonnabox.com)

# Making HISTORY

by Elena Ferrarin

Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton says she abhors any “what ifs” in life.

“We spend most of our lives living in comfort zones. In order to get ahead, to get that edge in your competition, you have to get outside of your comfort zone,” she says. “You can always avoid taking risks and meeting challenges, but sometimes that’s the only way to make your dreams come true.”

Retton, now 48, won the women’s gymnastics all-around gold medal in the 1984 Olympic Games, the first American woman to do so. She since has become a motivational speaker and fitness ambassador, speaking recently at Judson University in the Chicago area.

There is no secret formula to winning an Olympic gold, Retton says, only “a tremendous amount of hard work, determination, dedication and believing in yourself and your abilities.”

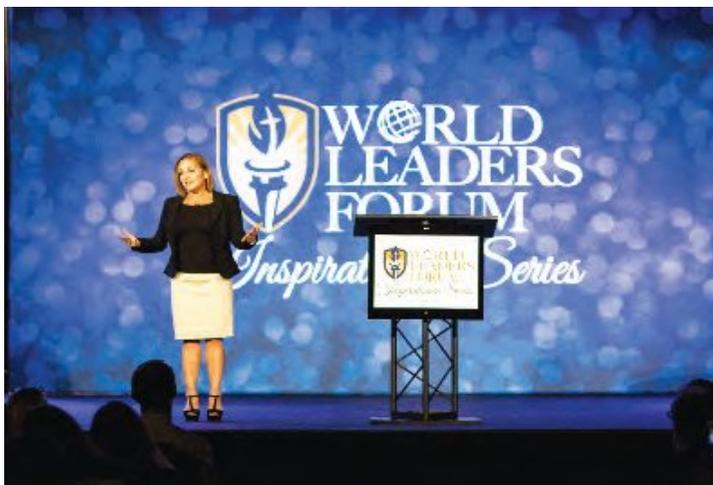
Having a positive attitude also is key, says Retton, who described herself as a tomboy growing up in a “loud and crazy” Italian family in a small town in West Virginia.

Retton says she told her mother at age 7 that she wanted to win a gymnastics gold medal, just like she’d seen Nadia Comaneci do on TV at the 1976 Olympics. “I dreamt about that moment every single night as I lay in my bed.”

It was an improbable achievement for Retton. “I wasn’t supposed to be there, and I certainly wasn’t supposed to do that,” Retton said of earning a perfect

10 in her last vault to edge out Romania’s Ecaterina Szabo for the gold.

For one, she was powerful and muscular, not at all built like the more slender gymnasts of the time. But she nonetheless caught the eye of legendary coach Bela Karolyi, who spotted her raw talent at age 14 and recruited her to join his training program in Houston.



“Bela made us strive toward perfection,” she says. “In my sport, you could always go higher. You could always add another twist. You could always be more perfect.”

She got her chance a year later, when she was called to step in for a U.S. gymnast who got injured just before the 1983 American Cup at Madison Square Garden. Retton won. “For the first time in my short little life, I had seized the moment. That was the first step of this journey.”

She went on to win several other international competitions, but injured her knee and had emergency surgery just five weeks before the 1984 Olympic Games.

Despite doctors telling her it was nearly impossible, she set her mind to rehab and train as hard as possible to get back into shape for the competition.



## ▲ MARY LOU RETTON

Powerful and muscular at a time when slender and graceful were the norm for women gymnasts, she overcame the odds to earn Olympic gold.

She not only made the team, but won gold before an ecstatic home crowd. “The best moment was running into Bela’s arms. He lifts me up and says, ‘You are the Olympic champion.’”

Don’t ever let people put limits on you, Retton says. “If you believe in something deep and something passionate, even if it’s crazy sounding, if you can believe it, you can achieve it.”

Retton, who has four daughters with former Texas Longhorns quarterback Shannon Kelley, also credited her faith in sustaining her over the years. “My faith is at the core of who I am,” she says. “God and family.”

Gymnastics taught her to be a team player, an essential quality for any leader, she says. “It is an individual sport because nobody is helping you but it’s very much a team sport because everybody counts. Every score, every person counts.”

So what advices does she have for coaches? Handle each gymnast based on their individual personalities, just like you would with your kids, she says. “Being the master coach that (Bela Karolyi) was, he treated each gymnast differently. I am a very stubborn person. If you tell me I can’t do something, I’ll show you. He saw that in me immediately, and he knew how to push my buttons.”

# Enduring IDOL

by Otto Bruno

Few Italian-American urban strongholds of the 20th century turned out the number of Italian crooners as the City of Brotherly Love. Mario Lanza, Buddy Greco, Jim Croce, Al Martino and Frankie Avalon are just a few of the Italian American singers who got their start in Philadelphia, Pa.

Bobby Ridarelli was another Philly native who made his mark on the pop music charts of the 1950s and 1960s. Of course, you probably wouldn't know him as Bobby Ridarelli but you should remember him as teen idol Bobby Rydell. From 1959 to 1965, Rydell had 32 songs make the U.S. Billboard charts with 18 of them making the Top 25. He never had a No. 1 hit, but his recording of "Wild One" reached No. 2 on the charts in 1960.

Many young men who grew up in Italian-American families dreamed of being Frank Sinatra. There was only one thing that stopped most of us — talent, or rather the lack thereof. Our vocal shortcomings forced us to limit our crooning to the shower or the relative anonymity of our automobiles. However, Rydell began displaying his musical talents at a very early age. His parents told him that he began humming simple melodies while still in the crib. By the time he was 3, he had fashioned his first drum set out of a variety of his grandmother's pots and pans and by the time he had reached the ripe old age of 7, his dad was taking him around to local bars and social clubs to sing and entertain the patrons with imitations of Frankie Fontaine and other personalities of the day. By the time he was 10, he was playing bigger clubs and his dad even hired a local musician to write arrangements they could carry with them and hand out to whatever new groups or musicians they'd be playing with from town to town.

In his recently released autobiography,

"Bobby Rydell: Teen Idol on the Rocks, A Tale of Second Chances," Rydell writes, "There is no doubt in my mind that my father was the most influential figure in my life as a kid, and throughout the rest of my life."

Rydell remembers his dad as being less of a stage parent and more of a supportive cheerleader. "Dad was easygoing, eternally positive, and always made it fun. He recognized not only the talent I exhibited at a



young age, but also the love I had for performing and making music," Rydell writes. "Simply put, he took it upon himself to encourage me and be my traveling buddy on the road I seemed to be following — wherever it might lead."

His mother on the other hand was a different case entirely. According to Rydell, "She just didn't get it. Mom was completely unsupportive of both of us." His mother's lack of enthusiasm never dampened his father's willingness to broaden his son's education and experience in entertainment, taking young Bobby to shows to see musicians like Gene Krupa and Benny



## ▲ BOBBY RYDELL

A singer literally since infancy, he changed his name from Ridarelli to Rydell at the tender age of 10 and steadily built an entertainment career that has lasted for more than six decades.

Goodman.

In 1952, Rydell's dad took him to an audition for a local Philadelphia talent show called "TV Teen Club." The show was hosted by former big band leader Paul Whiteman, who in the 1920s and 1930s was billed as "The King of Jazz." Rydell was only 10 (not quite a teen) when he appeared on the show but he won the contest, a contract to appear regularly on the show, and assorted prizes including a brand new television set. It was during his time on the show that he officially changed his name from Ridarelli to Rydell. A name that was ensured show biz immortality when the high school in the Broadway musical "Grease" was named Rydell High in honor of the former teen idol.

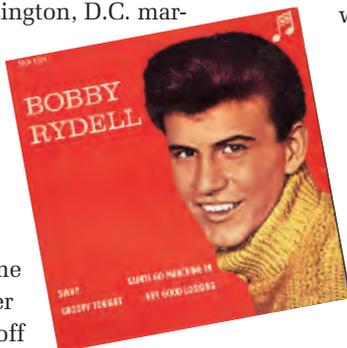
As he entered his teenage years, Rydell sang in a group called The Skylarks. He remembers it as more of an exercise in fun to impress the girls. He later joined a group called The Emanons, which included a guitarist named Pat Azzara who later gained fame as jazz maestro Pat Martino.

By the time he was 15, Rydell had incorporated his drum playing into his act and acquired a manager named Frankie Day. The new manager was able to arrange

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auditions for Rydell at the RCA, Capital and Columbia record labels. No one was interested. Day eventually found a small label named Veko that was located in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. mar-

ket. Rydell recorded three forgettable songs: "Dream Age," "Fatty, Fatty" and "A Winner Can Lose." Little came of it as the owner of the label ran off with the tapes.



Rydell continued to play clubs, sock hops and vacation resorts and then Day found the pot of gold right under their noses in Philadelphia. It was a small label just starting out named Cameo Records. Day lined up an audition for his young client and in January of 1959, Rydell was the label's newest recording artist. According to Rydell, his first three recordings were duds and he thought his recording career might be over before it even started. Just as he was beginning to resign himself to thinking that being a freelance drummer and musician on the road wouldn't be too bad, Bernie Lowe and Kal Mann, the songwriter/founders of Cameo, brought him another song. The name of the tune was "Kissin' Time" and, as Rydell says in his book, it kick-started his career.

Entertainers know when starting out that you need talent and a little luck. There was never a doubt about Rydell's talent. "Kissin' Time," produced by Dave Appell, had all the ingredients of a hit — a catchy tune, a driving beat and a shout out to kids in cities like Cleveland, Kansas City and St. Louis. The real luck, however, was the location of Cameo Records and Rydell. At the time of "Kissin' Time's" release, the most popular and influential marketing tool in teenage music circles was Dick Clark's "American Bandstand," which, like Cameo, was located in Philadelphia. The power that Clark and his show wielded in the popular music of that era was substantial. "Kissin' Time" was released in June of 1959 and within three weeks had climbed to No. 11 on the Billboard charts. On Aug. 4, 1959, Rydell appeared on "American Bandstand" to perform and plug "Kissin' Time."

Rydell quit high school to go on the road and take advantage of his new fame and popularity. "Kissin' Time" was followed up by the song "We Got Love," which reached No. 6 on the Billboard

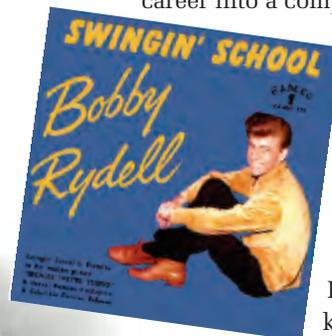


charts. The second hit really caught Dick Clark's attention and Rydell was signed to be a part of the fall 1959 "Caravan of Stars" tour that included Paul Anka, the Coasters, LaVern Baker, Freddie Cannon and Annette Funicello. The seven-week tour covered Canada, the East Coast, the Midwest and a performance at the Hollywood Bowl in California.

The "Caravan of Stars" tour was not a financial windfall (Rydell earned \$500 per week) but he not only earned valuable performing experience but also demonstrated to Dick Clark that his talent was genuine. He and Clark developed a stronger bond, with Rydell going on to appear on "American Bandstand" dozens of times.

Rydell's next hit came from the pen of Cameo founders Bernie Lowe and Kal Mann and producer Dave Appell. Rydell

had heard Appell fiddling with the melody on the guitar one night when they were in New York City for a Rydell appearance on Dick Clark's "Saturday Night Beech-Nut Show." The song was "Wild One" and it would be the biggest hit of Rydell's career. In "Teen Idol on the Rocks" Rydell writes, "'Wild One' catapulted my career into a completely different orbit."



He soon realized this new level of fame meant "not just gigs, but offers for TV shows, magazine covers, over-sea tours ..."

Rydell began to expand his career horizons. His manager, Frankie Day, knew that singing in rock

'n' roll revues was not going to be enough to sustain a lifetime career. Rydell's biggest break and biggest challenge came with a booking at the famed Copacabana nightclub in New York City. Day hired Joe Zito to write all new arrangements and conduct while Lou Spencer and Noel Sherman were hired to write and stage an entire new variety act for Rydell. The Copacabana was a notoriously tough club to play and those who thrived there needed to be multi-faceted entertainers. Sherman wrote comedy material and banter for Rydell while Spencer trained him in stage presence, including some dance routines.

All his hard work paid off. The headlines following his debut at the Copa read, "A Powder Keg of Talent," and "Rydell A Smash In Copa Debut." Following his stint at the Copa, Rydell immediately flew to Las Vegas for his first job in the desert oasis as an opening act for George Burns. Once again, not only were the reviews solid but George Burns took a liking to him as well.



Rydell was now in heady company. Months after his Copa debut, he, his dad, and Frankie Day went to see Joe E. Lewis at the Copa. Following the show, Jules Podell, who ran the club, introduced Rydell to his idol, Frank Sinatra. Rydell still remembers how gracious Sinatra was to him. Years later, Rydell appeared on Sid Mark's radio show in Philadelphia with Frank Sinatra Jr. when Mark asked Frank Jr. about a remark he once made about Bobby being one of the best singers around. "I didn't say that," Frank Jr. said. "My father did. When he heard 'Sway,' he told me, 'Now here's a kid who can really sing.'"

His newfound success playing to more adult audiences also brought new offers from film and television sources. "I had the good fortune to spend my peak years as a recording artist during the golden age of the TV variety show," Rydell writes. "Throughout the early '60s, I appeared on almost all of them — Ed Sullivan, Perry Como, Jack Benny, Jimmy Dean, George Burns, Joey Bishop, Milton Berle, Danny Thomas, Red Skelton — and most of them numerous times."

Through the years, Rydell's name was mentioned for some legendary projects such as Mike Nichol's "The Graduate," and the Broadway musical hit, "They're Playing Our Song." While some opportunities slipped through the cracks, one jackpot that Rydell did score was the role of Hugo Peabody in the film version of the Broadway hit, "Bye Bye Birdie." Both Rydell's and co-star Ann Margret's roles for the film were expanded to include more songs for each performer.

The exposure in films and video also worked to expand his audience beyond the borders of the United States. By 1961 and 1962, Rydell's bookers had him playing venues in Japan, Hong Kong, Europe and Australia. In fact, he was and still is so popular in Australia that he has toured on the continent 22 different times over the last 50 years.

Rydell's popularity as a teen idol lasted longer than most teen idols of the day. He continued to work in live venues and on TV long after the Billboard hits stopped piling up. He attributes his longevity to his early management, his

training and experience on the stage since the age of 7, and the dedication of his fan club, and one avid fan in particular. In his book, Rydell writes, "A half-century down the road, Linda Ferrino (now Linda Hoffman) still runs my fan club. It's why I still have a career."

As fortunate as Rydell has been, no one lasts 60 years as a performer without enduring some bumps in the road. In 1964, Rydell's producer Dave Appell left Cameo Records. The following year, Bernie Lowe

Swing out with Bobby Rydell

in "Young Bachelor" clothes by "Botany" 500

Get with the new way of dressing. It's his as you are. Wise to the fact that your shoulders are trim, your waist lean and you're on the go. At last, here's clothing invented just for you—and nobody else! Try on the "Young Bachelor" Suit, Sport Coat or Slacks. You'll get the picture. It's young, virile, confident. Make tracks for your "Botany" 500 dealer. Lightweight suits in Darofite, Daroglo and Daro-Poplin. \$69.95 to \$75.00. Sport Coats, \$42.95 to \$65.00. Slacks, \$17.95 to \$29.95.

**'BOTANY' 500 TAILORED BY DAROFF**

Reserving exclusive rights of "BOTANY" pattern and content. For information, "Dance With a Breezy Man" and more of Bobby Rydell's hits. Circle 11, C-100-9999. Dr., Philadelphia, is subsidiary of Botany Inc. From eighth highest grossing single artist. Available in Canada, Puerto Rico and Australia.

resigned as president and the company was quickly sold. By 1969, Cameo ceased to exist. Soon Rydell signed with Capitol Records, the former home of Frank Sinatra. That relationship lasted three years. The only Capitol recording to reach the Billboard charts was a version of "Diana" from the album, "Somebody Loves You."

His next stop was Reprise, the company founded by Frank Sinatra, but Rydell's success there was even more underwhelming than at Capitol. As pop music changed, Rydell found it more difficult to find good songs and sell any significant amount of records. To make matters worse, the company that bought the Cameo catalog sat on it for four decades and didn't

release any of the music. As Rydell writes in "Teen Idol on the Rocks," "The only place you could buy a Bobby Rydell record during that time was in a used record bin at a second-hand shop."

Nevertheless, Rydell was never really out of work. He was always in demand for live performances. In 1985, a new manager named Stan Seidenberg introduced him to Dick Fox, an ex-William Morris agent with a history of putting together successful doo-wop shows. Fox had an idea for a revue that would combine three South Philly teen idols to be called "Philadelphia's Royalty of Rock." The three singers he chose were Frankie Avalon, Fabian and Rydell. It proved to be a very successful partnership.

In 1992, Rydell's childhood sweetheart and wife, Camille, was diagnosed with breast cancer. She went into remission and seemingly beat the disease until it returned nine years later having spread throughout her body. She died in 2003. Rydell's closest confidant, his father, had died in 2000 and his mentor Kal Mann in 2001. To deal with the stress and sadness, he began to drink heavily.

Rydell remarried in 2009 but there was little time for celebrating. The years of drinking had caused cirrhosis of the liver, ascites, and encephalopathy. The severity of his condition eventually required him to be put on a list awaiting organ donation. In May of 2012, Rydell's kidneys began to fail. In July, he received a new liver and kidney from a 21-year-old young woman who'd been hit by a car. In the book he calls her his angel, Julia. The next year, Rydell ended up needing heart bypass surgery as well. Amazingly, he is still performing and feels better than he has in many years. It's no mystery why his book is subtitled, "A Tale of Second Chances."

Bobby Rydell is an entertainer who has stayed close to his roots all his professional life. He's always worked out of the East Coast, he always took care of his parents, and he's stayed close with the friends of his youth. He will admit he's made a lot of mistakes but the one thing he's never strayed from is the music. The music keeps him going and his fans continue to respond to his talent, his warmth and his loyalty. His fans are grateful that he knew enough to take advantage of both his first and second chances.



# Fond CHRISTMAS *memories*

by Mary Ann Esposito

In my first book, “Ciao Italia,” dedicated to my mother, I said that she never took a shortcut to anything she cooked.

Her favorite thing to do was to bake. This was especially true at Christmas time; she could bake anything from fabulous fruit pies to delicate cream puffs and light and fluffy donuts. Everyone who knew her declared her the queen of exquisite cakes, master baker of delicate cookies, champion bread maker and more! And she would be the first to tell you that she ate none of the above!

One of the things that I am most grateful for are the Christmas cookie recipes that she passed on in her faded dog-eared black notebooks and in her old wooden recipe box chocked full of splattered hand written treasures. When the holidays roll around and it's time to bake cookies, I go through those old notebooks and recipe box like they were the family jewels to retrieve my favorites. Her date-nut bars bring back memories of my lugging boxes of them home on a plane for my husband because he once told her that they were his favorites. Her dried cherry cookies always remind me of how many of them I snatched out of the gleaming tins that she stored them in for Christmas giving. Her dried apricot bars remind me of a family trip that we took to Montreal and how we spent an overnight at a complete stranger's home because the hotels were full. In the morning, we shared the apricot bars that Mom had made and packed for us with our new French Canadian friends whose bedrooms we had occu-



ried the night before! Her hazelnut cookies remind me of the bushels of Italian cookies she made for my wedding, making sure that there was enough for each guest to take a plateful home. Each recipe is more than just a sweet memory, it is a deep connection of love.

## MOM'S CHOCOLATE WALNUT COOKIES

Makes 3-1/2 dozen

### DOUGH

- 3-1/4 cups flour
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1-1/4 teaspoons freshly ground black pepper
- 1-1/4 teaspoons ground cloves
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup solid vegetable shortening (Crisco)
- 1/2 to 2/3 cup milk
- 2/3 cup chopped walnuts

### FROSTING

- 1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar, sifted
- 3 to 3-1/2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- Colored sprinkles

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Lightly grease two cookie sheets. Sift all the dry ingredients together into a bowl. Work in the shortening with your hands until the mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Add a 1/2 cup of milk and the nuts and mix with your hands until well blended. If the mixture seems too dry, add just enough additional milk so the dough holds together.

Pinch off 1-inch pieces of dough and roll them into balls. Place 1 inch apart on the cookie sheets. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until firm.

While the cookies bake, make the frosting. In a bowl, combine the confectioners' sugar, 3 tablespoons milk, and the rum extract and beat until smooth. Add additional milk if necessary to make a thin frosting.

Let the cookies cool on racks only until warm. Dip the tops into the icing, place on the racks, and sprinkle with colored sprinkles. Let the frosting dry completely before layering the cookies between wax paper. These will keep in an airtight container for up to 1 week or can be frozen for up to 2 months.

Recipe from “Ciao Italia Family Classics”

For more from Mary Ann Esposito, visit [www.ciaoitalia.com](http://www.ciaoitalia.com) and [facebook.com/maryannesposito](https://www.facebook.com/maryannesposito). ©2016, Mary Ann Esposito.

# Sweet TREATS

by Dolores Sennebogen

In Southern Italian homes the centerpiece of the Christmas dessert table is often a display of sweet, crunchy pastry clusters dripping with honey and festooned with nuts, candied fruit and many-colored candy sprinkles. In Naples they are mounded on a pretty plate and called struffoli, but they have much in common with la cicerchiata served in Abruzzi in the shape of a ring. Their closest cousin is Sicily's pignolata, which are shaped into a pile resembling a pinecone. Variations abound, with some Eastern Sicilian cooks covering one side of the display with vanilla icing and the other side with chocolate. The preparation is messy but not that difficult, and may bring back memories for your Italian guests during the holiday season. Here's a Neapolitan version, along with other recipes for a sweet ending to 2016. Buon Natale a tutti.

## STRUFFOLI NAPOLETANI PER NATALE

*(Neapolitan Honey Balls)*

3 cups all-purpose flour  
 1/2 cup sugar  
 1 teaspoon baking powder  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 4 large eggs  
 1/4 cup olive oil  
 1 tablespoon grated orange zest  
 Vin Santo or other dessert wine  
 4 cups canola or corn oil

2 cups honey  
 Diavolicchi (colored candy nonpareils)  
 Cinnamon (optional)  
 Candied orange peel (optional)

In a large bowl, whisk the flour, sugar, bak-



ing powder and salt until blended. Make a well in the center of the mixture. In a 2-cup measure, whisk the eggs, olive oil, orange zest and 1 tablespoon of Vin Santo until well mixed. Pour this mixture into the center of the well in dry ingredients. With your hands or a large wooden spoon gradually work the flour into the egg mixture until a soft, pliable dough forms. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and use floured hands to knead the dough for 3 minutes or until smooth. Wrap the dough in plastic and let stand at room temperature for one hour.

Break off pieces of the dough, roll into ropes roughly 1/2-inch thick and then cut off pieces 1/4-inch long. In other words, make small pieces of dough 1/2-inch thick by 1/4-inch long. Heat the



canola or corn oil in a 5-quart pot or electric deep fryer to 360 degrees. Add the pieces of dough a few at a time and fry them until puffed and golden. Do not crowd the pot. Drain on paper towels.

Place the honey and 1/2 cup of Vin Santo in a large pot or Dutch oven and bring to a boil.

When the mixture bubbles up, boil for 3 minutes and then remove from the heat. Add the balls, all at once, to the honey mixture and gently toss with a slotted spoon for several minutes. All the struffoli should be well coated.

Cool slightly and pour onto a round heat-proof plate. Be careful, the honey may still be hot. Use a metal spoon dipped in water to quickly shape the struffoli into a ring or a round dome. If necessary wet your hands with cold water and coax them into shape. Sprinkle with the colored candies and optional cinnamon and orange peel. Serve after several hours or, better yet, the next day. Struffoli will keep for a week if carefully wrapped in wax paper or foil.

NOTE: Use Moscato or other sweet wine that you like in place of the Vin Santo. Another preference might be to use both lemon and orange rind in the preparation of the dough. You may also add chopped toasted nuts to the finished display.

— adapted from *Women's Day*  
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... continued from page 71 ...

## BISCOTTINI ALLE MANDORLE

*(Almond Cookies)*

2 sticks butter, softened  
1 cup confectioners' sugar  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon pure almond extract  
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

### *For Icing*

2 cups confectioners' sugar  
2-3 drops pure almond extract  
Milk

Cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in the flour. Add the almond and vanilla extracts. Refrigerate for about 30 minutes. Form heaping teaspoons of dough into small balls and place a few inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten each ball with the bottom of a glass that has been buttered and dipped in flour. Re-dip the glass in flour for every cookie. Bake in a preheated 325-degree oven until the edges are golden, 12 to 14 minutes. Cool slightly before carefully removing to racks.

For the icing: In a bowl, mix 2 cups confectioners' sugar, a few drops of pure almond extract and some milk. Add 1 tablespoon of milk to start, and then continue adding it one teaspoon at a time until the consistency is right for spread-

ing. Spread on cookies while still slightly warm, and then cool completely.

— Dolores Sennebogen

## BEFANINI

*(Cookies for Befana)*

1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1 egg  
Zest of one orange (optional)  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
Egg wash  
Diavolicchi (sprinkles)

Cream the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the extracts and egg. If using the optional orange zest add it also. Stir the baking powder into the flour and add this mixture into the wet ingredients a little at a time. The dough will be stiff. If it becomes too stiff for your mixer, turn out the dough onto the countertop or bread board. Finish kneading the dough with your wet hands. Divide the dough into workable batches and roll out on a floured surface to a thickness between 1/4 and 1/8 inch. Use cookie cutters to make shapes. Stars are traditional for Befanini. Beat an egg with a teaspoon of water or milk to make an egg wash and brush the cookies lightly. Sprinkle with



the colored candies. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 6 to 8 minutes. Check after 6 minutes. They should still be a little soft. Allow them to sit on the baking sheets for 5 minutes before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

NOTE: If using the optional orange zest, you can replace the almond extract with anise or rum extract if you like.

— Dolores Sennebogen



## BISCOTTI DI REGINA

*(Sesame Seed Cookies)*

1/4 cup orange juice  
2 teaspoons wine  
2-1/2 sticks margarine  
1-1/4 cups sugar  
2 eggs  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 heaping teaspoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
4-1/4 cups flour, more if needed  
Water  
Sesame seeds

Mix the orange juice and wine and set aside. Beat the shortening, add the sugar and beat well. Add the eggs, salt, baking powder and cinnamon and beat well. Add the wine and orange juice. Add enough flour to form a firm dough and mix well. Chill the dough for 30 minutes. Roll into finger-shaped rods. Brush with water and then roll in the sesame seeds. Bake on greased cookie

sheets in a preheated 350-degree oven for 18 minutes or until lightly golden on the bottom. Turn the cookies over and return to the oven for an additional 2 or 3 minutes.

— Dolores Sennebogen

## BISCOTTI ALL'ANICE E MANDORLE

*(Anise and Almond Slices)*

- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
(room temperature)
- 3 large eggs (room temperature)
- 2 tablespoons brandy
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 2/3 cup blanched slivered almonds
- 1 tablespoon slightly crushed anise seed

Mix the flour, baking powder and salt in a small bowl. Beat the sugar and butter in a separate mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Stir in the brandy and the lemon peel. Add the flour mixture and stir until smooth. Stir in the almonds and the anise seed. Refrigerate the dough for one hour. Grease a large baking sheet lightly. Divide the dough in half and spoon half the dough in a long row lengthwise down one side of the sheet. Use a spatula or your hands to smooth the top and the sides of the dough to form a 12-inch by 2-inch log. Pat the surface smooth with your fingertips. Repeat with the remaining dough to form a second log on the remaining half of the baking sheet. Leave about 3 inches between the 2 logs. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven until the logs are lightly golden, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove the logs and reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees. Cool the logs completely and then remove to a cutting board. Cut the logs diagonally

into 1/2-inch slices. Lay the slices flat in a single layer on 2 ungreased baking sheets and bake an additional 8 minutes. Turn the slices over and bake 8 to 10 minutes more, until lightly brown and dry. Cool completely and store in a tightly covered container.

— Dolores Sennebogen



## ANGELETTI

*(Iced Holiday Cookies)*

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted  
and cooled
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs

### *To glaze*

- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 4 tablespoons water or milk
- Multi-colored candy sprinkles

In a medium bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside. In a large bowl, whisk together the melted butter, granulated sugar, milk, vanilla and eggs until well blended. Stir the flour mixture into the egg mixture until evenly blended. Cover the surface of the dough with

waxed paper and let stand for 5 or 10 minutes. With floured hands, shape the dough by level tablespoons into 1-inch balls. Place the balls 2 inches apart on greased cookie sheets. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 7 or 8 minutes or until puffed and golden on the bottom. Transfer to wire racks to cool.

When the cookies are cool, whisk the confectioners' sugar with the water or milk until blended. Dip each cookie into the glaze, covering the top well. Sprinkle with the multicolored candies before the icing dries. Place the cookies on a wire rack set over waxed paper to catch the drips. Let the glaze set completely before storing the cookies in a tightly covered tin with waxed paper between the layers.

VARIATION: You can add 2 teaspoons of finely grated lemon rind to the dough and substitute lemon juice in the icing.

— Dolores Sennebogen

### ▼ COOK'S TIP ▼



When frying pastries like Struffoli it is best to have a thermometer to make sure the oil reaches a temperature of between 360 and 370 degrees. When the oil is too cool, the dough will come out greasy. If you don't have an oil-safe thermometer, test the oil temperature by dropping a 1-inch-square cube of bread into it. If it takes about one minute to brown on all sides and the cube floats to the top, the oil is hot enough to proceed.

# Safe and SOUND

by Nicola Orichuia

There are many fortress-towns scattered throughout Italy, but few are as impregnable as Vigoleno. Situated atop a mountain halfway between Parma and Piacenza, the 14th-century castle had been held by the Scotti family for six centuries before it was sold in the early 1900s. Fully preserved in its medieval splendor, Vigoleno features a few dozen houses alongside the family castle and a couple of churches. The church of San Giorgio actually predates the fortress by almost two

centuries, and features wonderfully preserved examples of Romanesque architecture. Before becoming a fortress, Vigoleno had been a military outpost since the 10th century.

The castle of Vigoleno is part of the nearby town of Vernasca, which counts just 2,200 souls among its residents after reaching a peak of 6,700 just before World War II. Many of today's inhabitants are involved in the wine industry. The val d'Arda in which the town is nestled is well known in Italy and Eu-

rope for its production of rosé wines. Perhaps even more famous is vin santo di Vigoleno, a dessert wine that is made of the Santa Maria and Melara grapes that are grown around the fortress.

A good time to visit is April 30, when the annual cantamaggio feast takes place in the streets of Vigoleno. A large choir goes from door to door, singing the praises of spring. In exchange, the locals use a rope to lower a basketful of eggs or other culinary goodies like salame or coppa from their windows.





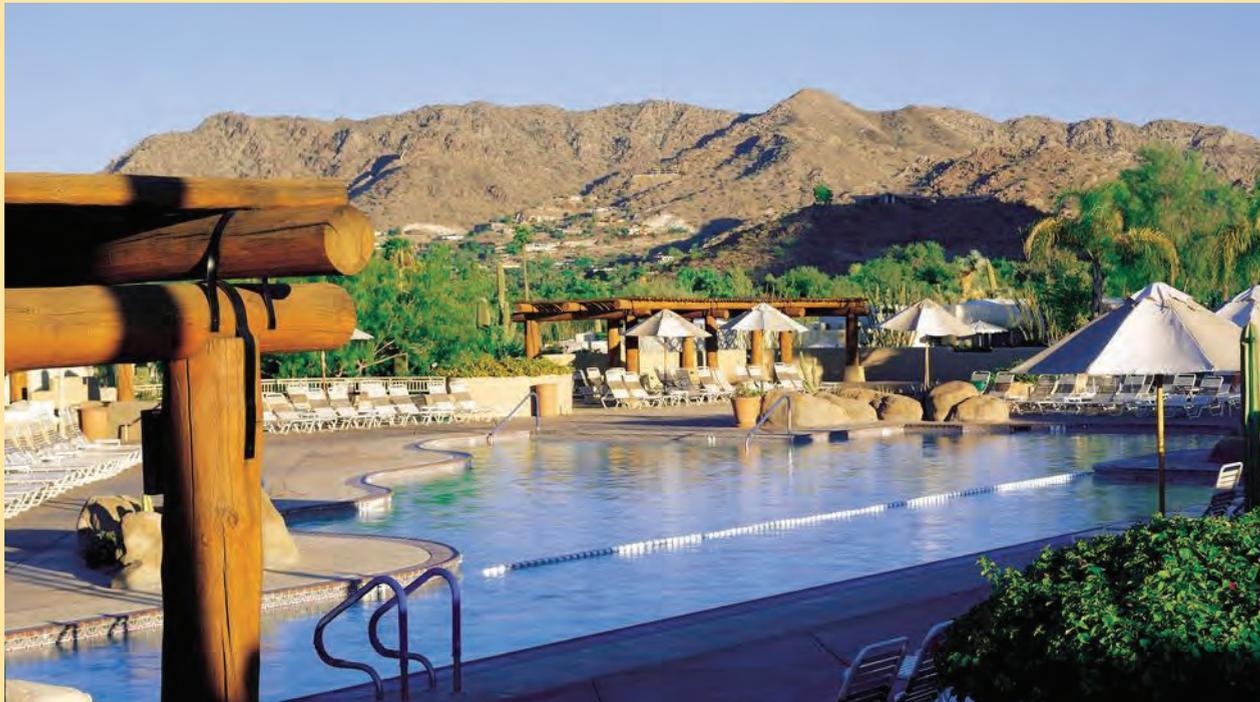
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