



NOVEMBER 2017 | VOL 73 | ISSUE 06

# Com **UNICO**

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## *UNICO Celebrates the Eastern Regional*

*pg. 36*



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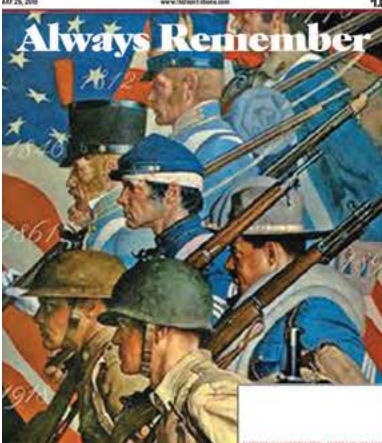
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## Italy Celebrates National Day

Italy celebrated its 85th National Day on Sunday, June 2nd. The day was marked by a series of events across the country, including parades, fireworks, and cultural performances. The Italian flag was prominently displayed in many locations. The day also saw a series of protests and demonstrations, reflecting the country's political and social issues.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

November 15, 2017.....	CT/MA Meet the President (Contact: Francine Nido)
November 30, 2017.....	2018 UNICO Convention Kickoff Fundraiser for Lee Norelli
November 30, 2017.....	Second Half Dues are due at the National Office
December 1, 2017.....	National Office Party
January 22, 2018.....	Grant applications due to the National Office
March 23- 24, 2018.....	Mid-Year Board Meeting at Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach South Carolina (Registration & Hotel Information to follow at a later date)
July 25 - 29, 2018.....	UNICO Convention 2018, Delray Beach Marriott, Delray Beach, FL
July 24 - 28, 2019.....	UNICO Convention 2019, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville, TN

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

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**NATIONAL  
PRESIDENT**  
*A message  
from*  
**TOM VAUGHAN**

It's certainly been an eventful first few months serving as President of UNICO. I appreciate everyone that does their job to make us the outstanding organization we are and I am grateful for your support.

The National office has recovered from an abrupt transition and is running as smoothly as it has in years. Executive Director Sal Benvenuti is always available and has spent a lot of time in the office smoothing out the operations. Remember, this is a part-time position and I am so pleased that Sal has stepped up to serve. Pat Pelonero and Sue Anzelmo have continued to demonstrate consummate dedication to UNICO.

We have already been busy with some changes to modernize and upgrade the office. After years of procrastination, we have purchased the equipment and software to make videoc onferencing a reality for UNICO. I can't wait to use this technology. It is so much better to participate in a meeting by video rather than just being a voice emanating from the middle of a table! Since I live in Connecticut I've had to call into several meetings where I just didn't feel like I was part of the activities. This should help our meeting productivity immensely.

Thanks to Second Vice-President Steve Pelonero, the office, and others, the UNICO calendar was available to chapters by the time of the Eastern Regional. I believe this is the earliest it has ever been available. We changed the format, including taking the writing off of the pictures so that the beautiful photos of Italy submitted by members really pop now. I think it is the best calendar we have ever published and something to be very proud of. Steve did a wonderful job. It was also nice having him with me at the Seaside Heights and Manhattan Columbus Day parades.

Scholarship Chair Joan Tidona, along with UNICO Foundation President John

DiNapoli and Pat Pelonero are debuting a tremendous new scholarship software package that will save the office a great deal of processing time, make it easier for students to submit applications, and simpler for the committee to judge applications. We have also started a program where a new member will receive a personal letter from the National President a few months after they join as a way to help with our retention issues.

I assigned Secretary Francine Nido to chair the Public Relations Ad-Hoc Committee and Francine has been posting thoughtful and attractive Facebook posts to the UNICO National Facebook page. Because of Francine's efforts, we have almost three thousand followers! We would like that number to grow. It's easy to join Facebook and like our page.

I have been busy defending our heritage against the attacks on Columbus Day and everything it represents. I've released press statements, attended meetings, and participated in Columbus Day activities. A thank you goes out to IPNP Dom Nicastro for his efforts with the Preserve Columbus Day Coalition. And I appreciate PNP John Alati representing me at the New York City Columbus statue meetings. John was one of only two people to make a statement that aired on television.

On to the events! Michele and I had a fabulous time at the Festa Italia in Scranton. The Scranton members were so welcoming to us including Chapter President Jack Trapani and PNP Chris DiMattio. Executive Vice-President Lee Norelli and I got to sing background vocals on stage with Chris and U.S. Senator Bob Casey. That was a lot of fun! So was the NJ District XI Jimmy V Bocce Tournament. District Governor Gene Maddalena led the effort this year at what is truly one of the premier events in all of UNICO. Great homemade food, friendly games, and raising money for cancer research, a home run all around. Another can't miss event is the Queensboro Cigar Night fundraiser. It's held right on the Eastern River with gorgeous views of Manhattan. Thanks to PDG Joe Corsini, DG Ellen Leone and the other members for a first class evening. I was a guest of CT II District Governor Joe Pavano and CT II PDG Brian Guarco at the Avon chapter golf tournament. Michele

and I also attended the UNION chapter dinner that honored a police officer and the fire chief. Thank you to Union President Joe Almeida, Secretary Fran Doyle, and the other Union members for a delightful evening. Michele and I attended my chapter's 40th Anniversary Heritage dinner in Wethersfield that was sold out. There was a comedian, a singer, expensive Italian cars, food, and wine; it was quite a night. Thanks to Bob Peters and Pelino Silvestri for chairing the event.

Columbus Day weekend is a time where you can really see and feel UNICANS' pride in their heritage. As President, I got to see it up close as First Lady Michele and I attended several events. We are lucky to have Ralph Contini as our Columbus Day Chairman. Ralph made sure as many events were attended by UNICO members as possible. Michele and I attended the Hackensack chapter Columbus Park wreath laying ceremony and the Clark chapter Italian Fest. We rode the UNICO float at the Seaside Heights parade, brought the gifts up to Cardinal Dolan at the St. Patrick's Columbus Day mass, and got soaked marching in the New York City Columbus Day parade. I also have to thank First Vice-President Frank DeFrank for representing me at the Nutley parade and joining me in Manhattan.

So, a lot has been accomplished with more to come. I will keep you posted. Keep up the good work!

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Deadline for January issue is Dec. 15th**
- **990 IRS Filing**
- **Dues Payments**
- **Chapter Reports**
- **District Reports**
- **Register for Mid Year**
- **Register for Convention**





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

My wife Debbie and I have just returned from our first visit to Italy. It was a gift we received from my daughter and daughter in law. We spent time at the Vatican, in Rome, Florence, and Venice, the islands of Murano and Burano, and Pompeii. Debbie planned the entire trip and did a fantastic job.

As soon as we landed in Rome, we took a train to Venice and stayed there for a couple of days enjoying the city and traveling to the islands of Murano and Burano. We witnessed glass blowing and lace making. Our next stop was Florence

where we were awed by the Duomo, beautiful artwork and sculptures and of course Michaelangelo's David.

We headed back to Rome on Wednesday knowing Pope Francis welcomes the crowds in Saint Peter's Square. We could not have imagined the emotion we felt when we saw Pope Francis, just a few feet away, riding through the crowd in Saint Peter's square. The Basilica, Sistine Chapel, and Vatican Museums were all impressive with all of their splendor and to see the original Pieta, by Michaelangelo is breathtaking. We walked all over Rome exploring the many churches and historic buildings including the Colosseum.

We traveled to Pompeii to see the lost city and hiked up Mount Vesuvius. From Mount Vesuvius we looked out over the bay of Naples where my Grandfather sailed from in 1905 to this great land of America. I had to hold back tears as I reflected on my grandfather's jour-

ney. He lost his Mother when he was thirteen. His Father wanted him to have a formal education and was willing to sell the little he had in order for his son to be educated. But knowing his father had to raise his siblings he did not want to take away what was due to his brothers and sisters so he decided to follow his irresistible will to come to know the "new land". Like many Italian immigrants, he was just fifteen years old and traveled alone not to abandon his family but to help them. After almost a year in America and having understood what this country was about he brought his entire family here to America.

We look forward to returning to Italy in the future but until then we will continue to work hard to promote our Italian Heritage and acknowledge the sacrifices of our ancestors and families that made us the proud Italian Americans that we are today.



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

In just a few short months since coming back from the UNICO National Convention in Scottsdale, AZ, I as your 2nd National VP have been reaching out to all of the Chapter Presidents. I

have been introducing myself on a more personal level with phone calls to all of the chapter presidents along with my traditional emails. If you have not been called yet, you have not been forgotten about as there are 106 chapters and I understand the time zone changes and work schedules (even mine), but we are all a family and I would like to speak to, and hear from all of you. There is also no better way to let UNICO be aware of your chapter doings then by sending in your required monthly chapter reports. I truly enjoy reading them and have responded to all of them as well: keep them coming

in. Since coming back from Scottsdale Arizona, I have had the pleasure of celebrating our heritage by participating in the September John Basilone Parade in NJ, the October Seaside NJ Columbus Parade, and the ever-famous NYC Columbus Day Parade. I have also had the honor of speaking at one of your UNICO Districts Annual Columbus Day Dinner. If at any time you want to call or reach out, please do so. We are all family and as families do, let us all stay in touch.

Ciao for now,  
-Steve Pelonero



**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**  
*A message  
from*  
**SALVATORE  
BENVENUTI**

My first three months as Executive Director have been both challenging and busy. Coming back from convention the National office is always very busy with

trying to catch up with all the activity that transpired at the convention. In addition to the day to day activity, we also had to deal with many IT issues including installation of video conferencing and new firewall for our computer system.

We also had some personnel changes, our administrative Connie Ortisi resigned during October. We are now in the process of reviewing the positions for the office and advertising the openings. In the meantime, I ask that our membership be considerate of our

staffing issues in dealing with the office. The staff is working diligently in order to service our membership during this reduction in staffing.

Just a brief note about chapter tax compliance. For chapters with a year end of June 30th, your Federal 990 tax return is due by November 15th. If your chapter's gross receipts are less than \$50,000, the National Office can file your 990-N for you. Please contact me at the National office and I will be glad to assist you with any filing questions.



## MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION

*A message  
from*

ANTHONY BENGIVENGA

As 2017 draws to an end, we can all look back on this past year with great pride and a sense of accomplishment for all the good works that our organization has done. Although the strength of our existing members is undeniable, membership growth will still continue to be one of our major challenges going into 2018. Let us take advantage of all the available tools and continue our projects for new growth. National President Tom Vaughan stated so well in a recent newsletter that we have a great opportunity to increase our presence in social media and that we should also aim to gain National members in places that don't have the op-

portunity to have a chapter. Chapters are encouraged to establish a Facebook page where they can publicize their events and all they do for the community.

One of the best ways to grow your chapter is by hosting an Italian Heritage event in your community. These events have been highly successful in recruiting new members. When planning such an event, please have your event committee chairperson contact me for suggestions and materials such as brochures and other handouts. Utilize the UNICO National website ([www.unico.org](http://www.unico.org)), where you will find an highly instructional suggestions and power point presentation in the "members section" of the website. By properly publicizing your event, you will discover many new potential members.

Social networking has been a strength of Italian-Americans long before Facebook, LinkedIn or even email. We, Italian-Americans, are the masters

of interaction and communication. Let us utilize our talents to expand our membership by properly publicizing our Italian heritage and our charity works. Every chapter officer should carry a UNICO business card with all the proper contact information. "Follow-up" is an important step in encouraging involvement in our great organization.

As I have recommended so many times in the past, each chapter and district should appoint one person as your local membership chairperson. That person is encouraged to communicate with me so that, together, we can maintain our current membership as well as find success in new membership growth. My email address is [anthony@bengivenga.com](mailto:anthony@bengivenga.com), and my phone number is 732-310-6031.

In closing as we approach the end of 2017, I wish everyone the happiest of holidays. Buone feste! Un abbraccio a tutti! A big hug to all of you.



## CHAPLAIN *A message from*

FR. ROBERT WOLFEE

It would be an understatement to say that the world was surprised when the British journalist, Malcolm Muggeridge, was received into the Catholic Church in 1982. The son of agnostic parents, Muggeridge had inherited from his father the conviction that man was capable of building paradise on earth. Although he briefly considered Christianity during his studies at Cambridge, his interest in socialism was far deeper. He once wrote, "I am a socialist because I believe that the right conditions help man to be good, and only collectivism creates such good conditions." In 1927, Muggeridge married Kitty Dobbs, who was also a socialist and a religious agnostic. They were proud to establish a marriage free of religious constraints.

In the early 1930s, Muggeridge's career brought him to the Soviet Union, where he witnessed first-hand the true barbarism of communism. Little by little, his disillusionment led him to reject the conviction that the answers to man's longings and man's problems lay in socialism. He began to read the great works of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, to occasionally attend Mass and to again consider the idea of entering the Catholic Church. However, almost 40 years would pass before he would find the courage to take that step. While many different experiences converged to make that happen, the deciding factor was his meeting with St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), about whom he wrote the book, *Something Beautiful for God*.

St. Teresa was clearly a woman whose life had been transformed by Jesus Christ, and it was impossible for Muggeridge not to be attracted by the witness of faith, hope, and love which he saw in her. In all of her simplicity, she radiated Jesus to such a degree that Muggeridge was compelled to embrace the Christian faith, becoming a devout Catholic, and

one of the Church's staunchest defenders. In their last years, Malcolm and Kitty Muggeridge cultivated a deep love for the Blessed Sacrament, spent their days praying and attending Mass, and preparing themselves to come face-to-face with their Savior.

It was because St. Teresa had allowed herself to be transformed by her encounters with Jesus that Malcolm Muggeridge was able to write of her: "Mother Teresa's total devotion to Christ, her conviction that everyone must be treated, helped, and loved as if he were Christ himself; her simple life lived according to the Gospel and her joy in receiving the sacraments – none of this can be ignored. There is no book I have read, no speech I have heard ... there is no human relationship, or transcendental experience that has brought me closer to Christ, or made me more aware of what the Incarnation means, and what is demanded of us." Hopefully, our lives are changed and transformed by knowing Jesus. If so, what happened to Malcolm Muggeridge can also happen to many others by the Holy Spirit working through us.





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

**CORAGGIO!**

Considering the topic for this issue, I polled the members of our committee who encouraged comments on the retention of Columbus Day. This topic may be overstated but important enough to repeat and repeat....

As our heritage and traditions are being challenged we must stand firm and not be deterred from our quest.

Columbus Day is an exclusive day of celebrating our heritage and in his defense, Richard Caifano, a

committee member, states "slavery was practiced long before Columbus arrived on this continent" and that "although imperfect a man, his accomplishments deserve recognition". "Imperfect?" Can we consider Washington or Jefferson "Perfect"? That doesn't apply to any man. There are imperfections in us all!

Jean Cannavo writes of the great achievements of Italians and their descendants who ventured across the world, which tell stories of highly intelligent and creative people, Columbus included. We cannot underestimate the beauty and benefit of art, science, literature and creative thinking which greatly improved not only their lives, but the lives of those who would follow, and which still stand as a testament to their ingenuity.

It is our duty to defend our heritage and the tradition of celebrating

Columbus Day and the month of October as "Italian Heritage" month. Let us join forces to speak out, write and "sing" of our ancestors' achievements to show our pride in all we have inherited.

There are those who wish to destroy our "spirit" by expounding the "negative". We must be courageous, steadfast and diligent in proclaiming the "positive"! We can no longer remain complacent!

We can celebrate with others... What Italian doesn't like to celebrate???...but we cannot let them destroy our traditions. Only WE can preserve them!

Although October has already passed let's prepare for 2018. The NEA started planning their attack years in advance. Shall we stand by and accept it, or do we fight back???

ANDIAMO AVANTI CON  
CORAGGIO!



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

I hope everyone is enjoying the fall season and is preparing for the Thanksgiving holiday. Not far behind will be Christmas and New Year's Day. Our time between issues seem to be quicker than ever and it is my goal to keep the issues timely and current. I truly try to accommodate all the Chapters, Districts and special events held by them and UNICO National. There is a lot of information and other materials that also have to be included in each issue along with advertisements that help to defray the cost of production and printing.

If there is one thing that all members need to follow, it would be the guidelines that were approved by Board of Directors that appear in every issue of ComUNICO. The one item that seems to cause problems are the

submitting of the pictures you wish to share. Those pictures need to be sent as an image file ie; jpeg or other similar image files. The pictures should not be embedded in an e-mail. The one thing I find that happens when members utilize a phone to take the pictures and then they send it as an e-mail it places the picture automatically to an e-mail. Those pictures need to be sent to the person submitting the photos and that person should then copy and save them as an image file and send them to ComUNICO as an attachment. Captions should also accompany those pictures and those should be saved in word. If you need assistance we will try and walk you through this if you give the National Office a call. All submissions that make the deadline should appear in the ComUNICO there are some exceptions especially when the photos are not of good quality or the content is not directly related to UNICO.

I was happy to see all the members that attended the Eastern Regional Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island. If you were there you heard about a brand new program for National Scholarships that will be rolled out around

December 1, 2017. This is exciting news. The UNICO National Office will no longer take in paper applications. Students will now be given a link and they will apply online. Chapters and Districts will still be able to support their local students. More information will be coming your way shortly to explain the Chapters and Districts roll in the application process.

Wishing all our members a great Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year see you in January.





**EASTERN  
REGIONAL DIST.  
GOV. CHAIR**  
*A message from*  
**ALLAN FOCARINO**

It's October, Italian Heritage Month! The Eastern Region has been busy with many events celebrating our heritage and Columbus Day. As your Eastern Regional District Governors Chair, I have had the opportunity to join in some of the Columbus Day Celebrations.

On Monday, October 9th, Columbus Day was observed with the annual New York City celebrations. I am proud to have had the opportunity to attend Mass held by Cardinal Dolan in St. Patrick's Cathedral. After the mass, march-

ing members of UNICO assembled on 47th Street to join in the Annual Columbus Day Parade.

With our umbrellas overhead, we marched up the famous Fifth Avenue full of Italian pride!

Italian-Americans across the country have been busy responding to the increased assault on our holiday.

We marched proud and resilient, handing out Italian Flags along the route. In spite of the rain, a large diverse crowd of citizens joined in our enthusiasm, waving the American and Italian Flags along the entire parade route. It made me happy to see everyone was an Italian that day.

Italian-Americans must remain proud of their heritage, stand strong and united.

Since my first message, I was honored to swear in the Executive Boards of NJ District IV and the Garfield Chapter, attend a National Executive Board

meeting, play in bocce tournaments, and help in the preparations for the October 24th Meet the President Dinner in Garfield, New Jersey.

In addition, IPNP Dominick Nicastro, Chairman of the Preserve Columbus Day Committee, asked that I serve, along with Joseph Corsini, as one of his Vice-Chairmen on this committee for this important endeavor. I suggest we all get active in keeping Columbus' legacy alive for future generations.

There's an interesting website, [www.TruthAboutColumbus.com](http://www.TruthAboutColumbus.com), which provides insight on Christopher Columbus.

I am looking forward to joining many of you at the Eastern Regional this month at the Marriott Providence Downtown in Providence, Rhode Island. We can discuss the happenings in your district and share ideas on improving our UNICO outreach and preserving Columbus Day.



**SCHOLARSHIP  
DIRECTOR**  
*A message from*  
**JOAN N. TIDONA**

*I tempi cambiano e cambiamo con loro.*  
-Italian Proverb

Times change and we change with them. I'm sure we can all agree that "living things" must change in order to remain viable. Of course our objective is to initiate responsible change. As the Scholarship Program continues to expand, a true affirmation of our purpose, it also brings increased responsibility to our Chapters. In the interest of alleviating what may be considered an unfair burden on our members, research was conducted to determine a reasonable solution. After careful analysis of alternatives, with input from Scholarship Committee members, it was decided to streamline our procedure by updating application submission to an online process.

Candidates, directed to the UNICO Na-

tional website, will be able to click on a link to access and complete applications. Chapters will still have the opportunity to serve as sponsor and/or present a letter of recommendation, if they wish. The Chapter representative would provide their candidates with an email address to be sent on to SmarterSelect, the online agency. SmarterSelect will contact the representative to advise them of the request and enable a response. Confidentiality will be respected.

Information, detailing the updated procedure, will be emailed by early December to UNICO Executives, District Governors, Chapter Presidents, and Scholarship Chairs. All are asked to work with our members to ensure that potential candidates are aware of UNICO scholarship opportunities and our newly implemented application process. Anyone requiring assistance is encouraged to contact a member of the Scholarship Committee or the National Office. Hard copies cannot be accepted.

Now for other positive changes... We are introducing new offerings. The Inserra Scholarships will grant two awards, valued at \$2,500 each, to students currently

attending an accredited campus based college/university in the United States pursuing a degree. We extend sincere appreciation to Mr. Lawrence Inserra, a member of the Ramsey Chapter, for choosing to sponsor this important program through UNICO. The Eleanor and Anthony De Francis Scholarships for Natural Sciences are available to matriculated students currently attending, full time, the California Institute of Technology, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, or the School of Astronomical Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson majoring in the Natural Sciences. These scholarships are valued in the range of \$5,000 to \$9,000. Through the efforts of Queensboro Chapter member Joseph Bonventre, this program is available through UNICO National. Mille grazie Joe. We are grateful for your commitment. Also, the Maria and Paolo Alessio Southern Italy Scholarship will be increased to \$2,500. We thank Dr. John Alessio and the members of the Alessio family for sponsoring this highly valued program.

Yes, times change. And as we change with them, we continue to move forward. This is called progress.





**PUBLIC  
RELATIONS**  
*A message  
from*

**FRANCINE J. NIDO**

The Committee, consisting of Frank Blasi, PA; Elyse Buonomo, NJ; Frank Caperino, CA; Lou DiRico, NY; Grace Gynn, NJ; Lisa Pizzella, NJ, and I are dedicated to continuing the work started by Past Chair Marilyn Nasello and are looking to expand UNICO's digital footprint. Social media networks are fun and interesting ways to connect and communicate. People are living their lives online now more than ever. We need to capitalize on this on both a local and national level to share information about UNICO to the community at large.

Our first target was growing National's presence on Facebook. By construct-

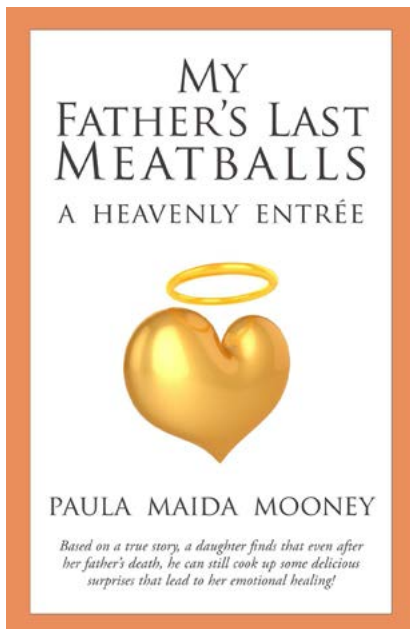
ing a game plan for the UNICO National Facebook page, we were able to increase page views by 76% and engage over 1,700 people in one month. These followers are engaged and interested and are sharing our information with their personal networks. A basic guideline was established - including daily posts, updates on President Vaughan's travels and promoting only National sponsored activities. This keeps the page fresh and relevant to all who visit. Positive feedback has been received for our efforts. One issue we have encountered is the names of some individual Facebook Pages. We are asking all Chapters and Districts to rename their pages to eliminate the "UNICO National" in front (ie. Change UNICO National Waterbury Chapter to Waterbury UNICO). This will help us avoid confusion when someone is searching for UNICO National.

If your Chapter doesn't have a Facebook page, we encourage you to start one. Trust us – your audience (of all

ages) IS on Facebook. You should be too. It's a free and easy way to get information out to the public. Facebook moves quickly. Updating daily keeps you visible to your followers. Facebook allows you to promote fundraisers to a larger population. The nonprofit sector has an established presence on Facebook. People are looking to support causes and important issues. You need to be present and active, however, to give them the opportunity. They don't call it a social network for nothing. With every post, sharable content allows you to reach more people. Every person who sees your post has the ability to share it with dozens, if not hundreds of others.

If you need help setting up a page or have questions, please feel free to contact me at UNICODoll@gmail.com. I'll be happy to walk you through the steps. In the meantime, if you haven't liked our UNICO National Facebook page, please do so and encourage your friends & family as well.

## A Trip to Italy Results in a Miracle...



Think Italian, think humor, think a batch of relatives who grow up and grow old together, and then the unimaginable happens—a daughter loses both parents three months apart from the same disease. Only after taking a heritage trip to Italy does she find emotional healing. An unforgettable true story of family, love, loss and miracles.

### **Rave reviews:**

*"The book ends with an amazing happenstance that rivals anything that Hollywood could dream up. You have to read it to believe it."*

*"You don't have to be Italian or come from Brooklyn to enjoy reading about love and family!"*

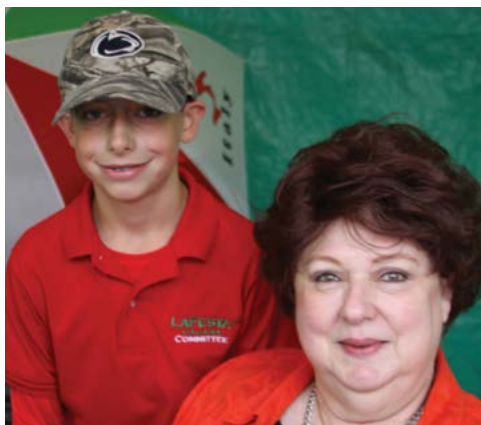
*"The journey with Paula is worth taking!" The Italian Tribune*

**My Father's Last Meatballs  
Available at Amazon.com**

# SCRANTON PA, LA FESTA ITALIANA



**The Annual La Festa Italiana Held On Labor Day Weekend  
On Courthouse Square In Downtown Scranton PA**





**FARMINGTON, CT**

Our 2017-2018 season began with our September meeting held at Cure Restaurant. Frank Dolce presented a President's Award to Anna Pizzoferrato.



Left to right: Frank Dolce, Anna Pizzoferrato, President Bob Fiondella.

**HACKENSACK, NJ**

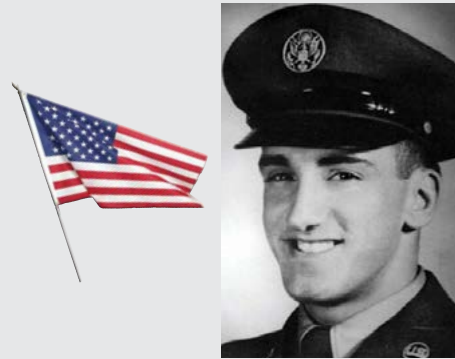
Joanne and Guy Di Napoli at the Eastern Regional meeting.

**FARMINGTON, CT**

Once again, Farmington UNICO scooped free Italian Ice at the Unionville Day Festival.



Left to right: Ralph Arcari, Doug Alexander, Lea Marcello.

*In Memoriam***ROBERT F. LEO**

Bobby Leo, 81, Carbondale, Pa., passed away August 16, 2017. Bob was born in Carbondale. He graduated from Ben Franklin High School where he was voted "most athletic male" and played varsity football, basketball and baseball. He was in the Air Force from 1954-1958 as an airman first class as part of the Strategic Air Command.

He and his wife of 52 years, Anna Mae, who preceded him in death, traveled the world with trips to many countries in Europe, Australia and South America, and across the

U.S., including a trip to the 2007 UNICO Phoenix Conference to nominate a Carbondale member, Glenn Pettinato, as National 3rd Vice President.

Bobby worked as an electronics technician and a supervisor at the Tobyhanna Army Depot. A member of the Carbondale Chapter of UNICO serving as president 1979-1981, he was also a member of many local clubs and organizations. He coached Little League baseball for 14 years, winning 12 league championships. He also served as a basketball referee in the Carbondale YMCA League.

Bobby would say, "If worrying will help, worry. But only worry about the things you can control." He never worried. He loved life, was extremely positive and always saw the best in people. He made friends wherever he went.

He is survived by daughter, Teresa Leo and husband, Kyle Keenan; son, Robert P. Leo and wife, Janet; and granddaughters, Zoie and Bella. Also surviving are his sister, Romaine Sweeney; sister, Barbara Petrulak and husband, Robert; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and cherished friends.

**CLARK, NJ**

Clark UNICO held the 11th Annual Italian Feast over the Columbus Day weekend. For the first time a UNICO National President attended.



L-R – Henry Varriano, George Abruzzo, Mrs. President, President, Joe Arancio – Pres, Henry Trani – Treasurer, VP Ralph Bernardo, Past District Governor Bill Hearon..

**ROCKAWAY TWP, NJ**

Our Rockaway Township Chapter participated in our District's Bocce Tournament to raise money for Cancer Research. Our Team made it through the first 2 rounds and then lost by 1 point to Denville. The food was great and everyone had a lot of fun.



our team members Samantha DeMarco and Marc Mustachio



**FARMINGTON, CT**

Farmington UNICO Chaplain, Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Motta and Frank Dolce.



President Frank Dolce presents the President's award to Leah Marcello.



The Board of Directors 2017-2018. Left to right: Geno Avenoso, Frank Dolce, Tom Magro, President Bob Fiondella, Paul Pedemonti, Doug Alexander, Patrick Staffaroni.

**WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ**

Pete Alianello-Chapter President; Dominick Nicastro-Past National President



Left to right are Tami Guglielmo- Sargeant-at-Arms, Tom Jannicelli-Secretary, Gene Santoli-Treasurer, Pete Alianello-Chapter President, Dominick Nicastro-Past National President, John Buffa-Chapter Vice President.

**SECAUCUS, NJ**

Welcome! Newly installed members of Secaucus Chapter of UNICO.



( l to r ) bottom row: Frances Bialkowski, Sheila Witrock top row- Victoria Bennett with Chapter President Melissa Vogel. Installation was held at the October 11, 2017 meeting.

**KEARNY, NJ****150th Anniversary Block Party**

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, members of the Kearny Chapter participated in Kearny's Sesquicentennial Block Party. Chapter members set up two tables where scrapbooks and UNICO National brochures and magazines were displayed. Super 50-50 tickets were also sold at tables. The chapter also sold baked goods and bottled water. Fireworks brought the day to a close.



Chapter President Joe Sgalia (l), Judy Hyde, Dot Sgalia and grandson Nicky Ball enjoyed a beautiful day at the Block Party.



JoAnn Mitchell, Laura Sgalia-Muniz, Celeste Pandolfi and Dennis Latushko helped "man" the chapter's tables.

**ROCKAWAY TWP, NJ**

Rockaway Township has been very busy since the last issue of Comunico. Members of our Chapter attended the National "Meet the President" Dinner honoring new UNICO National President, Tom Vaughan, on Tuesday October 24th at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ.

On Saturday, October 28th, our Chapter had a social event where we visited Ellis Island, to see documents of our ancestors coming to this country, the Statue of Liberty and then enjoyed an delicious Italian Dinner.



**WESTFIELD, NJ**

Dr William Connell, editor of the newly published Routledge History of Italian Americans, speaks on that subject to the Westfield Chapter members at their Sept 13 dinner meeting at the Westwood in Garwood, NJ. This scholarly publication is sponsored by UNICO National and will be used in Italian Studies programs at the University level.



Left to right: Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Sandy Giordano; Dr William Connell; Chapter President Bob Tarte; District X Governor Geri Samuel.

**WAYNE, NJ**

Our annual golf outing is right around the corner, and this year will be a special event. We are teaming up with the CTC Academy, a wonderful organization that provides educational and therapeutic services for students with a diverse array of developmental disabilities. The golf outing occurred on October 23rd at White Beeches Golf and Country Club in Haworth, NJ, and was a full day of golf, prizes, and dinner. We thank our generous golfers and sponsors for this event, and greatly appreciate their efforts.

Once again we are teaming with UNICO National to Re-discover Italian Heritage. We have found this event to be a great way of reaching people in our community, and generating interest in our chapter. Many of our new members in the last few years have joined as a result of our Heritage Day events. Thank you to UNICO National for your assistance in making this a great success for our chapter.

More information about our chapter can be found on our website, and please direct any questions to [info@wayneunico.org](mailto:info@wayneunico.org).

**WETHERSFIELD, CT**

New members David Lanciano & Jon Ciottone with National President Tom Vaughan and Chapter President Charlie Varca.



National President Tom Vaughan with Past Chapter President Joseph Spinosa.

**BRIDGEPORT, CT**

Despite some early inclement weather The Columbus Day Parade was a smashing success! Thank you to the Council of Italian American Societies for organizing the event and special "THANKS" to Arduini Construction and Dan Bartoli for sponsoring our float.



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## TORRACO FOOD GRANT PRESENTATION

*Save the Date!*

**96th Annual Convention**  
**July 25 - July 29, 2018**  
**DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA**

On September 20, 2017 the Orange/West Orange Chapter of UNICO National presented a \$1,000 grant to the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Church in West Orange, New Jersey. The grant was made possible by the Ralph J. Torraco Food Bank & Shelter Fund of UNICO National. Accepting the check on behalf of the Food Pantry was Director Allison Baumgartner and presenting the check was O/WO UNICO President Ken Broderick and UNICO National Foundation President John DiNapoli.

The Orange/West Orange UNICO Chapter serves the community by providing scholarships and supporting charities on a local and national basis. The organization also actively promotes the recognition of Italian heritage and culture and the contributions Italian Americans have made to our country. For additional information or if you are interested in membership, please contact Frank V. Gonnella (fvgonnella@gmail.com) or Mary Berger (mjberger.8850@gmail.com).



UNICO Foundation Trustee Francine Nido presented a \$1,000 grant to Lee Schlesinger, the Executive Director of Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury. The grant was made possible by the UNICO National Ralph J. Torraco Food Bank & Shelter Fund. Safe Haven provides emergency shelter and free comprehensive support services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Safe Haven is committed to ending violence and sexual assault by changing the social conditions and beliefs that perpetuate violence against women and children. Services are provided to any survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.



Check to St Peter the Apostle Church in Parsippany, N.J. From left to right: John DiNapoli, UNICO Foundation Pres., Mickey D'Addato Sr., Sylvia Berzinski, and Msgr Herbert K. Tillyer, Pastor.

The Little Falls United Methodist Church was the recipient of a \$1000 award from the Ralph Torraco Food Bank and Pantry Grant sponsored by UNICO National. The grant was submitted on behalf of the church by the Passaic Valley UNICO chapter. This award will be used to purchase food for the parish's Food Pantry. The Food Pantry operates on a voluntary basis with contributions from parishioners and others, and provides food for those in need from the towns of Woodland Park, Totowa, Little Falls and Wayne.



Present for the award are: (left to right) LFUMC Pastor Woo Min Lee, Henry Youngster (PV UNICO member), Robert Heinrich (Chairperson LFUMC Food Bank), Cheryle Mitchell (LFUMC Food Bank), and Sal Benvenuti (UNICO National Executive Director).

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

The DEADLINE for the  
 Jan. 2018 Edition of ComUNICO  
 is Friday, Dec. 15th, 2017

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.



## GARFIELD, NJ

Columbus Day Parade NYC Oct 9 2017. Garfield UNICO Proudly coming together once again with other incredible Italian American Organizations and other UNICO Chapters/Districts Celebrating Our Heritage and Our Hero together!



## GREATER ATLANTIC CITY, NJ

The Greater Atlantic City Region Chapter UNICO held its Annual Persons of the Year and Scholarship Banquet on Friday, July 14 at Resorts Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City. Over 100 attendees honored eight high school scholars along with local artist and musician Mike Pedicino for Lifetime Achievement and retired President of Atlantic Cape Community College Dr. Peter Mora for Person of the Year. The chapter has awarded over \$700,000 in scholarships since it since its inception 37 years ago. Over that time, the chapter has also honored many outstanding individuals as Persons of the Year including entertainer Nelson Sardelli, Congressman Frank LoBiondo, Senator Donald DiFrancesco, and Bishop Nicholas DiMarzo. The chapter raises its funds through a variety of activities including Golf and Bocce Tournaments, Pasta Dinners, Charity Walks, and Wine Tastings.



Chapter Officers Nick Russo, Tom Letizia and Carmine Bonanni flank student scholarship awardees John Mairone, Jared Manganelli, Zoey Zameito, Eric Pushman, Emily Olive, Carly Lawson, Alexis Lawson and Julianna Bongiovanni.



Lifetime Achievement Awardee Mike Pedicino receives award from Chapter President Pete Giordano and Foundation President Rick Mairone.



Banquet attendees Annette and Jim Giaquinto, JoAnn and Carmine Bonanni and Father Jon Thomas from St. Monica's Parish in Atlantic City enjoy each other and the evening's ambiance.

## PITTSFIELD, MA

### Pittsfield Chapter Presents Brian Piccolo Award

The Pittsfield chapter presented this year's Brian Piccolo award to Jake McNeice. This award is presented annually to the most outstanding high school football player in the City of Pittsfield and is named after Brian Piccolo who was a Pittsfield native as well as a standout player for the Chicago Bears. Paul Procopio, who is chairman of the chapter selection committee, considered athletic ability on the football field as well as academics, leadership and community service as well as input from high school coaches in the search for the best candidate for this award. Jake, who was a senior at Taconic High School, will be attending Springfield College in the Fall.



Pittsfield Chapter Brian Piccolo Award Ceremony (l-r) Paul Procopio (Selection Committee Chairman), Brenna McNeice (sister), Mark McNeice (father), Jake McNeice (recipient), Heather McNeice (mother) and Mike Quadrozzi (chapter president).



## CHICAGO W SUBURBAN, IL

PNP Veselka presenting to Jack Cerone a certificate of appreciation signed by PNP Nicastro recognizing Mr. Cerone's service to the Executive Committee of Unico National. Consideration for publication is appreciated.



## GARFIELD, NJ

September 17 2017 District VII & Garfield UNICO at NJ District XI Bocce Tournament in Montville Raising funds for Jimmy V Cancer Foundation A wonderful day for an amazing foundation.



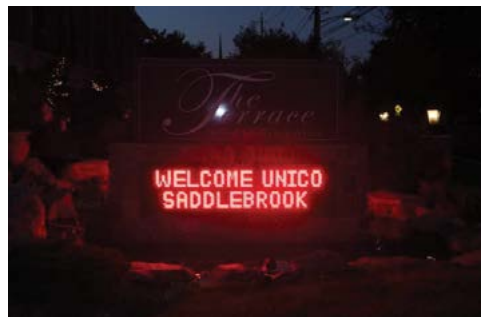
## WESTFIELD, NJ

At the Union Chapter's meeting on Sept 14 at Cijoffi's restaurant, new member John O'Shea (center) was sworn in by Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga (right), as Chapter President, Joe Almeida (right) bears witness.



## GARFIELD, NJ

The Garfield Chapter was in attendance for Saddle Brook Chapter's Wine Tasting event on September 27. It was a great evening.



From Left to right: ERDGC Allan Focarino, John Gervasio, Garfield Chapter President Sal Militello and first lady Val, IPNP Dominick Nicastro, Executive VP Garfield Chapter Joe Baronne.



ERDGC Allan Focarino with NJ VII District Gov Jerry Taylor.





# CONVENTION 2017



Debbie and Lee Norelli with National President and First Lady.



Michele Vaughan holding Bible as husband Tom receives oath of office from National President Dominick Nicastro



Connecticut friends with Tom Vaughan.



First Lady's Family.



National President's Family.



Connecticut and Massachusetts Friends.



National President and First Lady entering Gala.



Nancy Cappello Americanism Awardee receiving award from Glenn Pettinato and National President Tom Vaughan.



Wethersfield Friends.



Tony and Alyse LoBianco enjoying the UNICO members.



National President Tom, the new sheriff in town.



Americanism Awardee Joyce Walker receiving her award from Glenn Pettinato.

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17. I certify that 90% of all my distributed copies (both print and electronic) are paid for by a commercial source.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Patrick Felonero**

19. Date: **11-7-17**

## GARFIELD, NJ

Garfield UNICO Installation Dinner September 21, 2017. The Garfield Chapter held its formal installation of our 36th President Salvatore Militello at a celebration held last night at The Venetian in Garfield. Chapter officers and board members were installed by ERDGC Allan B. Focarino and President Militello was installed by IPNP Dominick Nicastro. It was a great evening. Congratulations to Sal and his family!





## HACKENSACK, NJ



At the Garfield 50th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony for Columbus statue. Guy Di Napoli runs into old friend Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. 9th district, N.J.



From Left to right: Dr. Al Masullo, Fr. Brian Laffler, Doug Garafalo, and Guy Di Napoli March in N. Y. Parade.



Old friends Nicola Trovarelli and Guy Di Napoli.



President Lucy Stamilla, presenting plaque to Kathleen Salvo, recipient of the Christopher Columbus Distinguished Service Award.



From Left to right: National President Thomas Vaughan, PNP Rick D' Arminio, recipient Nicola Trovarelli, president Lucy Stamilla, and Ralph Contini.



Guy Di Napoli, Hackensack Chapter with Dr. Frank N. De Frank, First Vice President Unico National. Nutley Belleville Parade.

## HILLSIDE, NJ

The Hillside chapter of UNICO continued its annual remembrance of the Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus. The chapter was responsible for the development of the Columbus monument. Hillside UNICO was joined with the Hillside Knights of Columbus in its annual tribute.



(left to right) William Pelletiere, James Welch, Patricia Welch, Lee Bonanno, Michael Borys (member of Hillside Knights), Andy Wknokwski (Grand Knight), and Angelo Bonnano (chapter president).

## HAZLETON, PA



Dr. Frank DeFrank presents a congratulatory letter to Dan DeMelfi from UNICO National.



Left to right: Esme DeMelfi, Dan DeMelfi honoree, Linda DeFrank, Dr. Frank DeFrank UNICO 2nd VP, Patsy Ignar Secretary Treasure, Angelo Porreca, President Hazleton Chapter.



Mike DeCosmo presents clock/ plaque to Dan.

*Save the Date!*

**96th Annual Convention**

**July 25 - July 29, 2018**

**DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA**



## MONTVILLE, NJ



Millie Dhirmalani, Diane Markley, Je DeFrancesco, Chapter President Karen Arakelian.



Tote board for reaching goal of \$30,000 to establish a permanent scholarship endowment at The County College of Morris.



Event chair Nick Conturso announces prize winners.



## NJ DISTRICT VII





## HILLSIDE, NJ

Hillside UNICO members hosted their 23rd annual charity golf outing. The proceeds are utilized in support of UNICO's local charities and causes.



From left to right are: Patrick Roselle, George Roselle, Joseph Puglise, James Welch, Patricia Welch, Lee Bonanno, Donald DeAugustine, Angelo Bonanno (chapter president), Nancy DeAugustine, Lisa Bonanno, Angela Lawler, and Linda Roselle.



Hillside UNICO's beverage servers made many rounds at the golf outing. Pictured are Gabriella Angela Lynch and her aunt, Lisa Bonanno.



## CHICAGO W SUBURBAN, IL

The John Panvino family pictured on the Chicago West Suburban Chapter float in Chicago's Columbus Day Parade.



## PITTSFIELD, MA

### Pittsfield Chapter 2017 Golf Tournament

On August 19, the Pittsfield chapter held its twenty eighth 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 Scott Pignatelli lines up his putt on the green of the fourth hole.

## HILLSIDE, NJ



Angelo Bonanno, President of Hillside, Angela Lawler, Lee Bonanno, Pat Welsh, Jim Welsh, Anthony Outlar, Halim McNeil, Hillside Coach.

## SADDLE BROOK, NJ

On Saturday, October 7, 2017, The Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National, celebrated the discovery of America by the Great Navigator, Christopher Columbus. By laying a wreath in his honor at our UNICO Park. His discovery would change the world forever. For this fact alone, he deserves to be remembered each year.





## WETHERSFIELD, CT

The Wethersfield, CT chapter Bocce Tournament. Tuscan Terrors win!!!



## CARBONDALE, PA

The Cultural Affairs Committee of the Carbondale Chapter visited the Culinary Institute of America including a tour and lunch at the Catherine De Medici Restaurant at the institute, and a visit to the home of President Franklin Roosevelt. Mary Ann Kearney, chair of the Cultural Affairs committee, said "The restaurant is a teaching classroom. The students are the chefs, servers, and house staff. UNICO members got to see first hand about this rigorous program during guided tours by the students".



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## BROOKHAVEN, NY

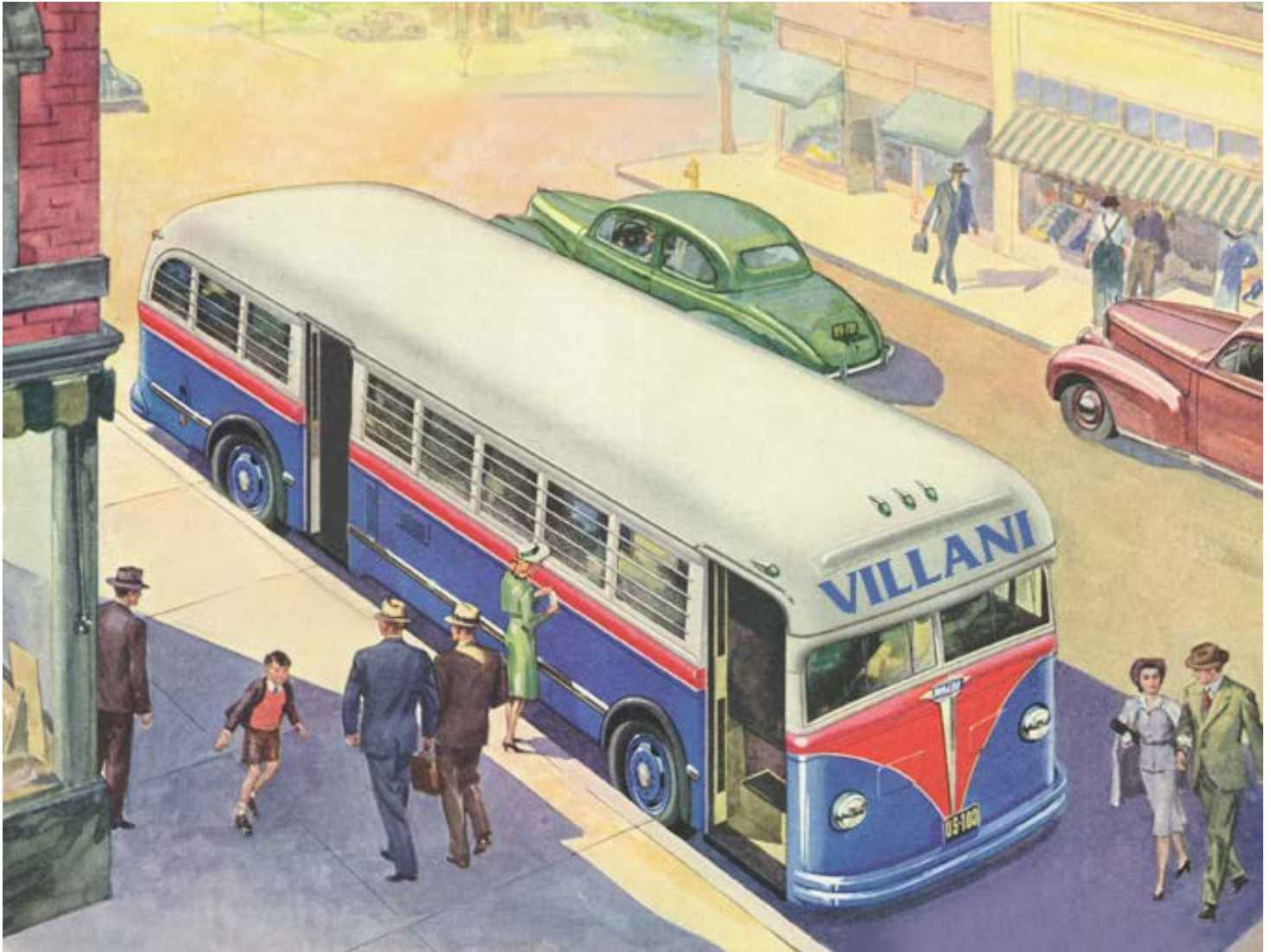
The October meeting of the Brookhaven Chapter featured the induction ceremony of Rosario Sorrentino, sworn in by President Rich Romano, and "pinned" by his mother, chapter member Theresa Sorrentino.



"Theresa Sorrentino attaches the UNICO pin to son, Rosario with President Rich Romano looking on."



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# GARFIELD UNICO COLUMBUS STATUE REDEDICATION

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On October 21, 2017 the members of Garfield UNICO celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its 1967 dedication of a twelve foot tall Christopher Columbus Statue in Garfield's Columbus Park.



NJ Senator Gerald Cardinale, 39LD, Garfield President Salvatore Militello, and Benedict A. Focarino.



Joe Barone, Sal Ingui, Joe Kovacs, Sal Militello, Elyse Buonomo, Vincent Caravello, Allan Focarino, Nino Randazzo, Dominick Nicastro.



Garfield Mayor Richard Rigoglioso (center) presents a Proclamation to President Sal Militello (left) and Chairman Allan Focarino (center right) with Councilwoman Erin Delaney and Former Mayor & Councilman Frank Calandriello.



Antonino Randazzo, Joe Barone, Guy DiNapoli, Sal Militello, Denise Ingui, Immediate Past President Dominick Nicastro.



Garfield's first statue honoring the explorer who first saw the Western Hemisphere and recorded it for posterity was unveiled at ceremonies Sunday at Columbus Park, Outwater Lane and Midland Avenue. Taking part in the ceremony, from left, are Mayor Vincent Rigolosi, Unico President Joseph Chirba and Anthony Imbruglia.

Published in the Garfield Guardian on October 20, 1967.



Allan Focarino, Salvatore Militello, and US Congressman William Pascrell - 9D.



President Sal Militello (left) and Chairman Allan Focarino (right) receive a NJ Legislative Commendation from NJ Senator Nellie Pou 3-35LD and NJ Senator Gerald Cardinale with Congressman William Pascrell.



The many Garfield Members, family, friends, and supporters that joined the rededication and an inset photo of the permanent marker installed to memorialize the ceremony.



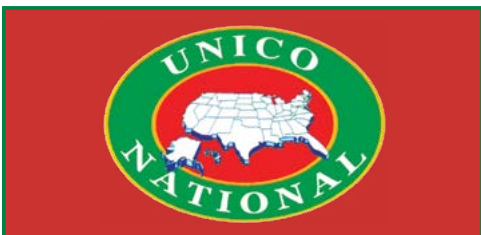
# COLUMBUS DAY 2017

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

On October 4, 2017, Bergen County's first Italian-American County Executive James J. Tedesco hosted Bergen County's Eight Annual Italian-American Heritage Month Celebration and Italian Flag Raising Ceremony. The event included remarks from County Executive Tedesco and UNICO National's Columbus Day Chair Ralph Contini, a cultural performance from Mauro Salamone, a keynote speech from Hon. 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 Lawrence R. Inserra, Jr. of Inserra Shop-Rite Supermarkets and Dr. Anne Prisco of Felician University. A uniformed Italian Carabinieri was dispatched from Rome to accompany Consul General Genuardi, who then served as an honor guard. County Executive Tedesco gave resounding remarks in appreciation of his Italian Heritage.

Ralph Contini offered passionate remarks emphasizing "Columbus Day, is a Great American Holiday". Contini expressed the need to be vigilant and respond to the direct attacks and put out a "Call to Action" for all Italian Americans to Preserve, Protect and Defend Columbus Day and Columbus' legacy.

This annual Italian 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 16th anniversary year of Italian-Heritage month in New Jersey which has been a reality since 2002.



UNICO at Italian Flag Raising Ceremony. L to R – Rutherford, Hackensack and Kearny Chapter members join Hon. Francesco Genuardi, Consul General of Italy and Carmine Pizzano Italian Carabinieri.



Italian Flag Raising Ceremony UNICO National's Columbus Day Chair Ralph A. Contini delivers remarks and "Call to Action".



Bergen County's First Italian-American County Executive James J. Tedesco honors Italian Americans. L to R – Cav. Angelo Bio, Cav. Jack DiPiazza, Hon. Francesco Genuardi, Consul General of Italy; Honoree Lawrence R. Inserra, Jr.; Bergen County's first Italian-American County Executive James J. Tedesco, UNICO National Columbus Day Chair, Cav. Ralph A. Contini. Additional Honorees not pictured: Joanne Bruno, Anthony J. Scardino, Donna M. Spoto.



President Thomas Vaughan, Ralph Contini Columbus Day Chair and Dr. Joseph Scelsa, President Italian American Museum at the Annual Columbus Day Mass.



President Thomas Vaughan, First Lady Michelle Vaughan, Ralph Contini Columbus Day Chair and Maria-Rose Contini at the Annual Columbus Day Mass.



The National President's Columbus Day Contingent escort group gets ready to march up Fifth Avenue rain or shine!



The parade must go on! UNICO received an outstanding placement in the line of march! The UNICO contingent marches up Fifth Avenue.



# COLUMBUS DAY 2017



PNP John Alati, President Thomas Vaughan, Joe Vicari, Ocean County Freeholder, New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission Chairman Robert DiBiase and Ralph Contini Columbus Day Chair.

President Thomas Vaughan and First Lady Michelle Vaughan on the UNICO Float approaching the reviewing stand. UNICO National received outstanding TV coverage.

Hackensack Chapter members Fr. Brian Laffler, Dr. Alfred Masullo, Gaeton DiNapoli and Doug Garofolo along with Columbus Day Chair Ralph Contini.



*Celebrate Columbus Day!*





# COLUMBUS DAY 2017



President Thomas Vaughan, First Lady Michelle Vaughan and Ralph Contini Columbus Day Chair at the UNICO National Float prior to moving out on Fifth Avenue.



President Thomas Vaughan is in front of the UNICO National Float proudly displaying this year's theme "Columbus Day, a Great American Holiday" joined by UNICO Vice Presidents, Frank DeFrank and Steve Pelonero; PNP's Dominick Nicastro, Renato Biribin, Chris DiMattio and Glenn Pettinato, Ralph Contini Columbus Day Chair, UNICO Officers Anthony Bengivenga, Joseph Nasello and ERDG Allan Focarino.





## CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO held the Annual UNICO Bowl – Clark Crusaders vs the Hillside Comets. The friendly game has been held and played for many years. Hillside took the trophy home last year but the Crusaders came out in full force winning the game and the trophy this year. Clark UNICO President Joe Arancio took the field for the coin toss and presentation of the trophy at the end of the game. Hillside UNICO President Angelo Bonanno handed over the trophy to the Clark team after the game. Also in attendance on the field was past President Ralph Bernardo and UNICO members George Abruzzo and Henry Varriano.



Clark President Joe Arancio, VP Ralph Bernardo and member George Abruzzo.



Hillside President Angelo Bonanno and Clark President Joe Arancio.



Hillside and Clark Chapter together – Please put in Hillside section.



Clark UNICO Pres Joe Arancio, VP Ralph Bernardo and Board member George Abruzzo present the trophy to the Clark Crusaders.

## WAYNE, NJ

The Wayne chapter once again participated in the NJ District XI Bocce Tournament. This year we had two teams join, and everyone had a great time. We want to thank the organizers for hosting another great event, and we look forward to competing once again next year.



## CARBONDALE, PA

### Celebrating a Famous Italian!

Chapter Members celebrate Columbus Day with the annual wreath placing ceremony at the Christopher Columbus statue in Carbondale's Memorial Park.



## RUTHERFORD, NJ

Italian American Heritage Month Celebration, Bergen County, New Jersey



L to R Barbara Laborim, Joan Tidona, Frank Tidona, Lou Pandolfi, Celeste Pandolfi.

## KEYSTONE, PA



Keystone Chapter Members receiving marching orders from Ralph Contini are Michele McDade, Chapter President Cathy Gerard, Cathy Binachi, Mark McDade, Ann Summa, Sandy and Bob Collins, Tom Carlucci and Ralph.

## RUTHERFORD, NJ



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



## CARBONDALE, PA

Carbondale Chapter welcomes new member Theresa Bomba, Carbondale native, is proudly inducted into chapter by President Yvonne Gatto.



L-R: Bomba, Gatto.

## WESTFIELD, NJ

Westfield (NJ) Chapter sponsored a bus trip fundraiser to the Broadway musical The Bronx Tale on Saturday Oct 14. Villani Bus Company provided the bus transportation.



Chapter members, officers and guests happy on the return from the show in NY.

## CARBONDALE, PA

Chapter members volunteer for Steamtown Marathon. Carbondale members volunteered along the marathon route to provide drinks and cheers for runner Tom Sciabica and his student Gregory, who was in a wheel chair. Members Marie Greto, Mary Ann Kearney and Lisa Conarton provide encouragement along the route.



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The DEADLINE for the Jan. 2018 Edition of ComUNICO is Friday, Dec. 15th, 2017

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

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

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# MEET THE PRESIDENT



National President Tom and First Lady Michele.



John Morano, Passaic Valley Chapter, playing the National Anthem.



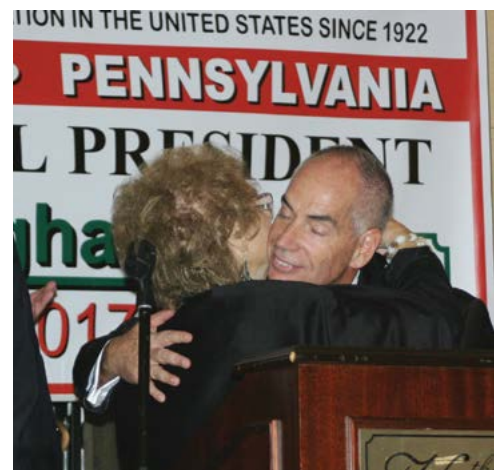
Co-Chair Joe Nasello, Tom, Michele and Max Vaughan, Co-Chair Joe Agresti.



Co-Chair Joe Nasello welcomes the crowd.



2nd VP Dr. Frank DeFrank presents a clock from the Roseto, PA Chapter.



National President Tom Vaughan hugs Past National First Lady May D'Arminio.





# MEET THE PRESIDENT





**WAYNE, NJ**

The members of Wayne UNICO held our first annual Car Show. Several of our members organized the effort, and it was a very successful event. We raised money on behalf of Operation Comfort Warriors through the Wayne American Legion chapter. We had a great bunch of cars and guests, and provided food and entertainment to the car show entrants and guests. Some pictures of the event are included, and more pictures can be found on our website ([www.wayneunico.org](http://www.wayneunico.org)).

**SCRANTON, PA**

UNICO Scranton Chapter Annual Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Memorial 5K Run/1 Mile Walk Race Committee and Scholarship Winners. Congratulations to Erin Kane and Kaila O'Neill on being the 1st Year Recipients of the 2016-2017 "Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Memorial Scholarship".



Front Row (left to right): Natalie Colarossi, Sue Marullo, holding photo of Cpt. James R. Minicozzi is Jennifer Roche & Leslie Minicozzi Galacci; Chairperson. Back Row: John Trapani; UNICO Scranton Chapter President & Co-Chairperson, Mary Marrara & Gail Cicerini, Erin Kane, Kaila O'Neill.

**WESTFIELD, NJ**

On Sunday Oct 8, 2017, The Westfield (NJ) Chapter joined with the Westfield Italian American Club in sponsoring the 2nd annual Columbus Day Ceremony in Westfield.



Left to right: The Mayor of Westfield, Andy Skibitsky; PNP Renato Biribin; Westfield High School Head Football Coach James Sarno; Chapter President Robert Tarte; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Italian American Club President Rocky Buonomo; Officer John Riccerca of the Italian American Club.



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National office or  
Lou and Celeste Pandolfi at [lpandolfi@verizon.net](mailto:lpandolfi@verizon.net) or  
201-368-2409.



## TORRINGTON, CT

### Columbus Day / Italian Mayor of the Day 2017

The Torrington Chapter of UNICO National, second oldest Chapter in the National held it's Columbus Day / Italian Mayor of the Day, Thursday, October 12th beginning at 8:30am at Columbus Square with the lying of the wreath and guest speakers. It was followed by a ceremony starting at 9 am at Coe Park - Civic Center, South Main Street, Torrington that included the raising of the Italian Flag and the National Anthem sung by Anna Marie Corrola. Presentation of a proclamation declaring October Italian Heritage Month from the State of CT by Michelle Cook, State Rep. and Mayor Elinor Carbone. Presentation of a Citation to the Italian Mayor of the Day, Joseph Raymond Barbieri, by the State of CT. A signing of Proclamations by the Italian Mayor of the Day. We were very fortunate to have with us as our very special guest speaker Author Richard Muti, followed by entertainment and refreshments in the auditorium. Entertainment was by the Nutmeg Ballet Dancers, and Italian Accordion music by Chris Cogliano. Over 100 people attended to celebrate this very special day with Joseph Raymond Barbieri a very special gentleman who has served his community with service above self.



Aces Torrington Chapter with State Rep Michele Cook Columbus Day.



Brian Mattiello Torrington Chapter President.



State of CT Rep Michelle Cook, Italian Mayor of the Day, Joseph Barbieri, and Mayor Elinor Carbone - Torrington CT.

## KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone Chapter's Cesira Berardelli, Mary Mack and Michele McDade co-chaired the Sunday Bake Sale at Saint Joseph's Center's Annual Festival and raised \$1,596.95. Chapter members and their families and friends created fresh baked goods of all kinds.



Those members working the third shift included Mary Sileo, Cathy Bianchi, Chapter President Cathy Gerard, Dee Faatz, Helene Mancuso, Louise Ligi, Tom Carlucci, Sharon Gombita, Val Riggi, Toni DiVizio, Cesira Berardelli, Mary Mack, Mary DePalma and Ed Fattz.

## RUTHERFORD, NJ



Rutherford Chapter Little League T Ball Team.

## PT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

Junior Chapter (ACES) of Point Pleasant UNICO help with Chapter Clothing Drive to aid disaster victims. Cases of water and monetary donations were also sent to Hurricane and Earthquake areas this past month.



## CLARK, NJ

New President of the Clark Chapter held the first general meeting welcoming 3 new members.



L-R – Joe Arancio (President), Susan Alochi, Rosemarie Parisi, Joanne Chern and Vice President Ralph Bernardo.

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS SEPT.–OCT.

**BELLEVILLE**  
Gail Sodano  
Thomas Sodano

**CARBONDALE**  
Joyce Ocasio

**CEDAR GROVE**  
Raymond Lejuez Jr.

**CHICAGO W SUBURBAN**  
Tony Ferraro  
Dan Lavergne Jr.  
Paul Joseph Nuara  
Frank Vincent Tedesso

**CLARK**  
Rose Knowles  
Josephine Miceli Whitman  
Nicholas Charles Whitman

**DELMARVA**  
Charles J. Nappa

**DELMARVA**  
Vincent Bertone  
Patricia Galvin  
Douglas M. Hurt  
Vincent J. Varrassi

**DENVILLE**  
John J. Mucciolo  
Joseph Pedalino  
Michael Carmiche Iii

**EASTON**  
Anthony Corpora

**FARMINGTON**  
John M. Civitillo  
Louis S. Grimaldi

**GARFIELD**  
Lorenzo Damiano

**HACKENSACK**  
Sara Carlson  
Michael Bucco  
Agatha A. Toomey

**HAZLETON**  
ReneeChirico

**HIGHLAND BEACH**  
Milton Carter Armes Jr.  
Clara Fazzino  
Rena Frasciello  
George Frasciello  
Giulia Gismondi-Merklein  
Vincent Riggio  
Ann Marie Riggio  
Josephine M. Schlags  
Alexandra Barletta  
Talia Bernardo  
Jenna Calderaio  
Ella Ciotta  
Derek Pearson  
**HILLSBOROUGH**  
Joseph Bellantuono  
Walter T. Beyer  
Janet Di Gangi  
Richard Di Gangi  
John Donnadio  
Christine Femia

**KANSAS CITY**  
Vincent M. Cascone  
Frank Garcia

Colleen Lewis  
Vincent Mussorici  
Jared Robb

**KEYSTONE**  
Mary Lou Montana  
Linda Wishard

**LIVINGSTON**  
Anthony Battista  
Carolyn Battista  
Angela Caruso

**LONGMEADOW**  
Frank Barbaro  
Judi Addabbo  
Ann Lucente  
Dorothy Malerba  
Michael Malerba  
Francis C. Vignati, Jr.  
Lily M. Rainville

**MARLBORO**  
Sebastian Loscerbo  
Giuseppe Saverino

**MONTVILLE**  
Diana Costagliola  
Lucia Gentile  
Angela Gentile

**NATIONAL**  
Michael Di Domenico  
Joseph Zappone  
Victor Cugliari  
Robert M. Gariano  
Steven A. Maffei  
Joseph P. Terracciano

**PARAMUS**  
Richard Conte  
Marie Conte

**PASSAIC VALLEY**  
Mark Bifalco  
Michael De Musso  
Sarah Elkordy  
Jennifer Sabbak  
Yelena Stuerck  
Christopher Watkins

**PASSAIC/CLIFTON**  
Mark Scancarella

**PITTSFIELD**  
Cesare John Del Vaglio  
Peter Vacchina, Jr.

**PT PLEASANT BEACH**  
Bernadette Antonelli  
Thomas Antonelli  
Evelyn Ingersoll  
Mary Jane Luddy  
Joseph Pulitano

**REHOBOTH AREA**  
Patricia Colicchio-Trucker  
Karen F. Coombe  
Richard Duffy  
Vernon G. Gehris  
Robert W. Worthing  
Bernadette P. Worthing

**SADDLE BROOK**  
Michael Accomando  
Leonardo Arellano  
Frank D. Lepore Iii  
Antonella Pappagallo

**SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD**  
David Luciano  
Theresa Majka-Ratto  
Steve Ratto  
James Reagan Jr.

**SOUTHINGTON**  
Alfonso D'Angelo  
Daniel A. Vendetti

**ST JOES HS MONTVALE**  
Rocco Ambrogio  
Michael Angeletti  
Dylan Auerbach  
Michael Bloom  
Nicholas Castiglione  
Salvatore Chianetta  
Justin Chiovetta  
Brendan Gallagher  
Nicholas Gambassi  
Aidan Garbed  
Francis Guanci  
Jordan Iannone  
Ryan Koliopoulos  
Michael Lavinio  
Jake Leopold  
Joseph Meehan  
Peyton Mikita  
Matthew Palermo  
Mark Pavic  
Angelo Pelosi  
Timothy Richards  
Devon Michael Gerard Rohwohlt  
Joseph Sanders  
Stephen Sanders  
Troy Santise  
Christina Sedora  
Stefano Sgambellone  
Ryan Sodora  
Jeffery Sullivan  
Dean Tobin  
Tyler Tofts  
Matthew Webb  
Ben Winstead  
Luke Wypler  
Bruno Sgambellone  
Kyle Hochrine

**TWIN CITIES**  
Annette A. Mackenroth  
Kathleen Whitney

**VERONA**  
Doreen Arminio  
Joseph Arminio  
Dorothy Ferrara

**WATERBURY**  
Diane Briglia  
Nancy S. Via  
Jessica M. Levay  
Joseph D. Mc Kay  
Donato Pesce

**WEST SPRINGFIELD**  
Roberta De Marco  
Donna Santaniello  
Katelyn Force  
Christopher Santaniello  
Charles Venezia

**WETHERSFIELD**  
Jonathan Ciottoni  
David P. Lanciano



## CLARK, NJ

### Clark Unico Columbus Day Essay Contest

Union County Freeholders Alexander Mirabella, Angel Estrada and Christopher Hudak joined Clark Mayor Sal Bonnacorso, members of Township Council, Clark School administrators and members of the Clark Chapter of UNICO in honoring the winners of Clark UNICO's Columbus Day essay contest winners on Sunday afternoon at the municipal building in Clark.



Winners included Emma Herko of the Valley Road School; Nicholas Cardoso of the Frank K. Hehney School; John Fleckenstein of the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School; Michael Buttleman of the Arthur L. Johnson High School.



Michael Buttleman of the Arthur L. Johnson High School.



Emma Herko of the Valley Road School.



John Fleckenstein of the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School.



Michael Buttleman of the Arthur L. Johnson High School.



## WESTFIELD, NJ

Westfield Chapter inducts three new members at their Sept 13 meeting at The Westwood in Garwood, NJ. Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivena conducted the swearing in ceremony.



L to R: Robert Tarte, Chapter President; new members Westfield Councilman Sam Della Fera; Paula Long; Ed Orlando; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivena.

## DELMARVA, DE



Dina Lazzati Burgstiner (4th from left) was the hostess for the September meeting of the Delmarva Chapter, at her home in Bethany Beach, Delaware. Four new members were inducted and plans for the upcoming year were discussed.

## SCRANTON, PA

UNICO Scranton Chapter welcomed new members at the September Meeting held at Fiorelli's in Peckville.



L to R; Chris DiMattio, Past National President; Mike Rescigno, William Bott, Debbie Bott, Jerry Healey, Membership Director, Jack Trapani, Chapter President.

## SCRANTON, PA

UNICO National Scranton Chapter 2018 Charity Ball Committee to be held at Fiorelli's in Peckville on Saturday, February 24, 2018.





# EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING



Members waiting for the shuttle to dinner.



NJ District IV Members.



Members at workshop.



Lou and Celeste Pandolfi.



Arlene Agresti with National President Tom Vaughan and First Lady Michele.



Montville and Orange/West Orange members.



Linda DeFrank, Nina Held, and Debbie Benvenuti.





# EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING





# EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING





# EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING



National President Tom Vaughan welcomes everyone to the ERM Dinner.



Maria Teresa Morrison.



National President Tom Vaughan presenting Dr. Gabriella Finizio the Joseph Coccia Award.



Mr. and Dr. Finizio with Maria Teresa Morrison.



## RUTHERFORD, NJ

Rutherford UNICO sponsored their annual canteen for special needs guests.



Servers L to R: Barbara Laborim, Lena Iocca, Pat Hirsch, Celeste Pandolfi. A great time was had by all.

## SCRANTON, PA

UNICO Scranton Chapter Volunteers prepared over 4700 pounds of Porketta for their Porketta stand at La Festa Italiana. The festival is held Labor Day weekend in Scranton, Pa.



Front, L to R: Jack Trapani; Chapter President, Mike Resigno, Sal Manago, Ron Quattrone. Rear L to R: Bill Waerhouse, Steve Andrichak, Bob Montalbano, Jim Baress, Dr. Al Giallorenzi.

## WATERBURY, CT

The celebration of the Eucharist—daily television Mass produced by the Office of Radio & Television—was celebrated today in honor of the 95th birthday of Waterbury UNICO.



On-hand to participate was Francine Nido (UNICO National Secretary); Toni Beccia (Chapter Board of Directors); Dr. Joanne D'Angelo (Chapter President); Marie Delage (Chapter Membership Director); Peter Ciullo (Past CT-I District Governor); and Tony Purcaro (Chapter Member). UNICO was founded in Waterbury on October 10, 1922 and is now the largest Italian-American Service Organization in the US.

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**KEYSTONE, PA****Keystone UNICO Donates To Saint Francis Commons**

The Keystone Chapter UNICO National donated \$1,737.30 to Saint Francis Commons from their Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast.



At the presentation are Monsignor Joe Kelly, Executive Director of Saint Francis Kitchen; Ryan Pollock, Saint Francis Commons Program Supervisor; Keystone Chapter UNICO members Frank and Mary Ann Coviello, event Chairpersons, Mark McDade, Valerie Riggi and Cathy Gerard, Chapter President.

**ROCKAWAY TWP, NJ**

Our Rockaway Township Chapter held our Annual Golf Outing to raise money for Autism Research on September 25th, at Picatinny Arsenal Golf Course. Participants had a lot of fun, and there was a buffet dinner and many terrific prizes including a car and much more. We will be donating \$1,750 to Autism Research shortly.



Sal Simonetti, Dave Chromey and Sam Sapio teeing off.

**NJ DISTRICT X**

Executive Vice President Lee Norelli swears in the District X (NJ) officers at their district X meeting at Gallo's restaurant on Sept 19, 2017.



In the photo l to r: Deputy Gov Bob Bengivenga; 2nd alternate deputy Ralph Bernardo; 2nd Alt Deputy Carol Cascio; Exec Vice President Lee Norelli; District X Gov Geri Samuel.

*Join us*  
**For our Annual Christmas Party  
Open House on Friday Dec. 1st,  
2017 at the National Office  
starting at noon until 8pm**

**SADDLE BROOK, NJ**

On Thursday, October 5, 2017, our Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO NATIONAL was awarded a Proclamation, from the Mayor and the Township Council, declaring all the wonderful services UNICO offers to the community and the nation. We want to thank the Township Council for recognizing all our efforts.

**KEARNY, NJ****Kearny Chapter Holds Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony**

On Saturday, October 7th, members of the Kearny Chapter gathered at the statue of Christopher Columbus along with, NJ VII 1DDG Bob Montanino, Mayor Alberto Santos and members of the Town Council to commemorate The Great Navigator's discovery of the New World. VP Lou Pandolfi spoke about Columbus' voyages of discovery and their impact on the Old and New Worlds and the birth of the Modern World. At the conclusion of the talk, a wreath was placed by the statue.

**NJ DISTRICT X**

National and District X officers at the John Basilone monument at the end of the Basilone Parade in Raritan NJ in honor of Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone who perished in Iwo Jima in World War II after re-enlisting.



Left to right: Exec Vice Pres Lee Norelli; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; Deputy Gov Bob Bengivenga; 2nd Vice President Frank DeFrank; NJ District X Gov Geri Samuel; 2nd Vice President Steve Pelonero.



**ORANGE/W ORANGE, NJ****O/WO UNICO Establishing  
AFJROTC Scholarship**

On Wednesday, October 18, 2017 the Orange/West Orange UNICO Chapter of UNICO National had the distinct honor to have the West Orange High School AFJROTC, better known as the Mountaineer Squadron make a presentation, at the monthly meeting at the Essex County Country Club. Major Joseph P. Marchesini and Chief Master Sergeant Ricardo Thurston Sr. presented a briefing of the Mountaineer Squadron to the membership. Also attending were the Cadet Squadron Commander Lieutenant Colonel Abby Rosu, Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Andrew Ramirez, and Cadet Captain Aamore Richards. The AFJROTC program at West Orange HS consists of 166 students know as cadets and is the most highly decorated JROTC program in New Jersey and possibly the country. The Mountaineer Squadron was awarded the highest overall award that a unit can receive which is the "Distinguished Unit with Merit Award" for 2017.

The evening concluded with O/WO UNICO Scholarship Chairman Frank V. Gonnella announcing that beginning in 2018 the Chapter will be establishing an annual \$ 1,500 scholarship being awarded to a graduating senior of the Mountaineer Squadron.

The Orange/West Orange UNICO Chapter serves the community by providing scholarships and supporting charities on a local and national basis. The organization also actively promotes the recognition of Italian heritage and culture and the contributions Italian Americans have made to our country. For additional information or if you are interested in membership, please contact Frank V. Gonnella (fvgonnella@gmail.com) or Mary Berger (mjberger.8850@gmail.com).

**RARITAN VALLEY, NJ**

Raritan Valley Chapter served refreshments to Service Members & Fellow Unicans; including some of our National Officers, before marching in the 39th Annual John Basilone Parade!





## SADDLE BROOK, NJ

On Sunday October 1, 2017, the Saddle Brook Chapter of UNICO National celebrated our Fourth successful Annual UNICO Street Festival. This has become our major yearly Fundraiser. Thanks to our generous sponsors, we are able to continue our charitable efforts in the near future. We also thank all the residents and other local UNICANS who came out to enjoy the festivities.



## STAMFORD, CT

The Stamford Chapter has just finished holding its most successful golf tournament ever with 144 golfers at the Sterling Farms Golf Course and 200 people for the dinner which was held at the Italian Center of Stamford. It was the largest tournament in the city in the last 18 years, with its popularity growing because of the 5 course dinner, completely cooked by Chapter members, that is part of the golf package. The tournament is the prime fundraiser for our Scholarship Program which last year gave out over \$13,000 in awards.

The Chapter now turns its attention to the Columbus Day Italian Street Festival it is helping with and then It's Christmas Fund for the needy in December.



Dr. Al Fusco, Chapter President, Golf Chairmen John Servidio & Tony Conte.



UNICO Members Cabrina Rizzi and dad Tony Rizzi.

## SADDLE BROOK, NJ

Saddle Brook UNICO sponsored our third annual Wine Tasting event on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. A large number of guests attended. It was a great success. We thank everyone for helping us help others.



**The Deadline for the January 2018 issue of ComUNICO is  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>**

Please send all submissions to: [comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)



## CLIFFSIDE PARK, NJ



Bernice Ranieri (seated) is surrounded by members from the Cliffside Park chapter, Mayor and council members, Police Honor Guard and citizens from Cliffside Park on Columbus Day. The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Jim Fucci, DG VI/Chapter President.



Members, Mayor Calabrese and those gathered listened to 1st V.P. Gerry Ranieri as he spoke about the life and times of Christopher Columbus. His speech honored Columbus and his accomplishments of exploration.



Cliffside Park Chapter honors Christopher Columbus with its annual ceremony on Columbus Day at Columbus Park. Pictured from right: Jim Fucci, DG VI/Pres., Mayor Tom Calabrese, chapter members, C.P. Councilman and Police Honor Guard.

## RUTHERFORD, NJ

Rutherford UNICO members presented their Community Service Day check to the Rutherford Food Pantry.



L to R Genevieve Kacmarcik, Social Services, Barbara Laborim, Dave Fogarty, Pantry Board, Maureen Bigley, Pantry Board, Joan Tidona, Frank Tidona

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*Please send all submissions to:*  
**[comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)**

## PT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

Point Pleasant Chapter President Bob Gynn and Father Mike of St Peter's

Church welcome students from Point Pleasant Beach and Point Pleasant Boro high schools to a dinner in their honor recently in recognition of their UNICO Scholarships.



## FARMINGTON, CT



A friendly foursome at the Golf Tournament. Left to right: Paul Faggaini, Tom Filomeno, Peter Andrews, and Bob Farbatko.



Tournament Directors past, present and future. Left to right: Paul Pedemonti, Kevin Nestico, and Sal DiMauro.



The best dressed foursome at the Golf Tournament, Joe's grandsons. Left to right: James, Nick, Chris and Alex Filomeno.

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



## NJ DISTRICT X

District X officials attend the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter Columbus ceremony on Oct 7 on the municipal green.



Left to right: M&R Director Anthony Bengivenga; Westfield President Bob Tarte; District X Gov / Scotch Plains-Fanwood President Geri Samuel; PNP Renato Biribin (representing The Plainfields' Chapter).

## SCRANTON, PA

UNICO Scranton Chapter Volunteers hosted a Bingo and Coffee Social at Gino Merli Veteran's Center.



Front, l to r: Angela Griffiths, Sue Marullo, Eileen Sorrano, MaryAnn Rubin, Tony Summa, Lou DiMattio, Ginny Rescigno, Gail Cicerini, Natalie Colarossi. Rear, l to r: Diana Giovannini, Jack Trapani; Scranton Chapter President, Fran Small, Joseph Fratamico, Steve Andrichak, Jim Baress.

## KEARNY, NJ

### Kearny Chapter Sponsors Flea Market

On Sunday, September 10, 2017, the Kearny Chapter in association with JC Promotions sponsored a Flea Market. Celeste & Lou Pandolfi and Dennis & Ann Marie Latushko distributed UNICO National literature at the chapter's table at the flea market.



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UNICO NATIONAL

## 2018 MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, March 23<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017



Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes  
8400 Costa Verde Drive  
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29572

### UNICO GROUP ROOM RATE

\$149/per night

Start date: March 21, 2018 to March 26, 2018

### Reservations can be made three ways

1. Call **1-800-228-9290**
  - Identify Yourself as Being Part of the UNICO Group
  - Give the Agent your Arrival & Departure Dates
2. Online by using this link (Hold ctrl key and click on links below):  
[Book your group rate for UNICO National Board of Directors Meeting](#)
3. Use the [MyrtleBeachMarriott.com](http://MyrtleBeachMarriott.com) website using the code UNIUNIA

### RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE: *March 4, 2018*

**The \$25.00 Resort fee will be waived for all guests attending the Event.**  
**Reservations need to be cancelled 3 days prior to arrival to avoid being charged**  
**1 night room and tax.**

***DON'T FORGET! - FILL OUT YOUR MID-YEAR MEETING REGISTRATION FORM BY MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> AND SEND IT WITH PAYMENT TO:***

UNICO NATIONAL

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

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





# 2018 UNICO National

**Mid Year Board Meeting March 23-24, 2018**

**Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes  
8400 Costa Verde Drive, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29572**

## Registration Form

**Please register by: Monday, March 12, 2018**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nickname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Name:** (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_  
(If spouse is a member please complete a separate form)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Office:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e., National, District, Chapter, Delegate)

**Weekend Package Per Person \$ 160.00**

**INCLUDES:**     *Full Breakfast Buffet*  
                      *Marconi Award Dinner Saturday*  
                      *Open Bar during Cocktail Hour*  
                      Cash Bar during Dinner

**Number of Persons** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$ 160.00**     **=**     **\$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

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

MasterCard ~ Visa ~ Discover ~ American Express

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

Signature /Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

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Fairfield, New Jersey 07004-2458

Tel: 973-808-0035    Fax: 973-808-0043    or email to: [uniconational@unico.org](mailto:uniconational@unico.org)



## SCRANTON, PA

### Dante Society Donates Sale Proceeds to Scranton UNICO

The Dante Literary Society an 83 year old Italian American organization which recently dissolved and sold off its clubhouse and meeting hall donated \$10,000 to the Scranton Chapter of UNICO to aid that group in its charitable missions.

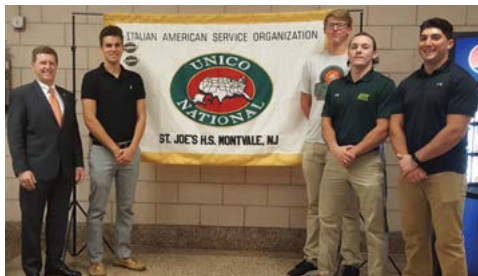


L to R; Bob Gattens, Bill Lodge and Neil Trama from the Dante Society present a check to representatives of the Scranton Chapter of UNICO, Chairman of the Board Jim Baress, Mike Rescigno, Bill Buckley and Jim Brogna.

## ST. JOE HS MONTVALE, NJ



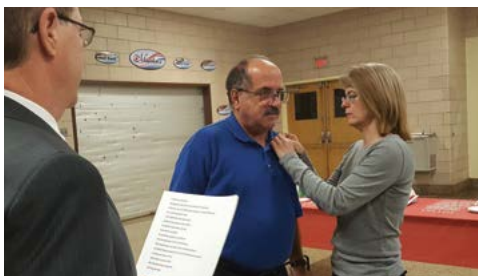
Chapter President Deacon Joe Sisco and ACES Eric Stoeckel, Conor Tsikitas, and Alex Malfa present a check for \$2475 raised by the chapter ACES for hurricane relief to Carla Repollet, Office of Development, Newark Archdiocese.



Robert Kievit (far left), chartering past chapter president with newly installed ACES board members (L to R): Jack Rajkowski-president, Andrew Hliboki-secretary, Michael Marto-treasurer, Eric Stoeckel-first vice president. (Missing Edward Schwartz-second vice president).



Robert Kievit, chartering past chapter president with newly installed board members (L to R): Richard DelPonte-first vice president, Ann Turi Connelly-recording secretary, Donna Brennan-Treasurer, Virginia Flatley-immediate past president. (Missing: Salvatore Castronovo-second vice president) .



Deacon Joseph Sisco was installed as our new chapter president by chartering past chapter president Robert Kievit and given the president's pin by immediate past president and board member, Virginia Flatley.

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[comunico@unico.org](mailto:comunico@unico.org)**

## KEYSTONE, PA

### Designer Purse Bingo

Keystone Chapter sponsored a "DESIGNER PURSE BINGO". There were 20 designer purses, namely Michael Kors, Coach, Kate Spade, Dooney and Bourke and Patricia Nash. There were also four "Special Bingo Prizes" as well as a basket raffle. Pictured with Macy's representatives are the Keystone UNICO "Designer Purse Bingo" committee.



Front from left are Marcia Fuller, Macy's; Sylvia Tagert, Mary DePalma, Mary Ann Coviello and Toni DiVizio. Standing from left are Cathy Bianchi, Val Riggi, co-chair Michele McDade; Ivar Iversen, Macy's; co-chair Lenore Latarewicz, Dot Mariani and Nancy Malone.

## REHOBOTH AREA, DE

Rehoboth Area Board members plan projects and events for the 2017-2018 season.



(seated l-r) Ed Mason, Joe Torres and Tom Treglia (standing l-r) Veronica Dannerhoj, Theresa Treglia and Joan Boraski.



## CARBONDALE, PA

UNICO Pizza Stand at Carbondale Pioneer Nights raises funds for local organizations. All in the family.



Jerry Arnese and granddaughter Gianna, ACES member, work as a team at the pizza stand.

## HIGHLAND BEACH, FL

Highland Beach members donate money to send supplies to Puerto Rico through Aqua Gulf, a shipping company. A palette of supplies will be sent to Puerto Rico to help their recovery.



On left is Cleve Guy -Treasurer -Secretary and Frank Lo Re -District Governor of Florida.

## KEYSTONE, PA

### Keystone Chapter Bocce Tournament

The Keystone Chapter 2017 Bocce Tournament Committee is at the ready to receive the Bocce Teams for their Fourth Annual Tournament.



From left are John Rettura, Elizabeth Rettura Kosarev, Patrick Loughney, Ernie DeStefano and Chairman John Mecca.

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Triple Stitch Co-Owner Nick Deramo  
congratulates fellow Wethersfield  
member and friend Tom Vaughan  
as he becomes National President.



## 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.

## CARBONDALE, PA



The rain did not interfere with the joy of celebrating Columbus Day! Past National President Glenn Pettinato, marches with the Carbondale chapter in the NYC Columbus Day parade.

## ROCKAWAY TWP, NJ

As a result of our motorcycle run, we made a \$1000 donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital. In addition, we matched Chapter member donations for people impacted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas and donated \$1000 to the Houston Food Bank to help feed victims and their families.



President Matt Mustachio on left and Board Officer Sal Simonetti on right presenting check to St. Jude's Office Manager.

## ROCKAWAY TWP, NJ

We held our Chapter Meeting on October 11th at St. Clement's Church in Rockaway. Past National President Dominick Nicastro attended the meeting where our guest speaker was Maria Mazziotti Gillan, world renowned Italian author and poet of 20 books and 4 anthologies. Maria, who spoke on "Growing up Italian in America", has received countless international literary awards. After her talk, she autographed copies of her books which many attendees purchased.



Maria reading some of her Italian heritage poems to the Chapter.



**KEYSTONE, PA**

Members of Keystone Chapter UNICO National participated in the Lackawanna County Italian Flag Raising, in conjunction with recognizing Christopher Columbus as the discoverer of the Americas and recognizing October as being Italian Heritage and Culture Month. Commissioner Pat O'Malley read the proclamation recognizing the contributions of Christopher Columbus and the many Italian Americans throughout our county and our country. The proclamation was signed by Lackawanna County Commissioners Pat O'Malley, Laureen Cummings and Jerry Notarianni. This event was initiated by Keystone UNICO in 2012 with the cooperation of Commissioner Pat O'Malley and has been carried out ever since by the Lackawanna County Commissioners. Our thanks to the Commissioners. In attendance were Cathy Bianchi, Tom Carlucci, Keystone President Cathy Gerard, Theresa LaNunziata, Anthony Mack, Jim Mack, Rocco Mack, Mark and Michele McDade, Mary Rinaldi, Marisa Scalese, Carmen and Carol Scrimalli, Ann Summa, Ray and Tess Tropeano, Marilyn Vitali, and Lackawanna County Commissioner Pat O'Malley.

**RUTHERFORD, NJ**

Come on baby, do the conga. Let the music move your feet. Special guests dance to the music, at the Rutherford UNICO Canteen.

**KEARNY, NJ****Kearny Chapter attends Mass at St. Lucy's Church**

On October 12th, members of the Kearny Chapter and guests attended the solemn Novena 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.



l-r: JoAnn Mitchell, Celeste Pandolfi, Donna Wagner-Nigro, Anna DaSilva, Lou Pandolfi and Jim Pecora (Not pictured Lenny Nigro).

**PLAINFIELD, NJ**

The Plainfields' Chapter of UNICO recently swore in two new youth members, Gina Bengivenga and Nick Pezzolla, both of South Plainfield and both freshmen at Middlesex County College.



l. to r. Plainfields' Chapter President Bob Bengivenga, Gina Bengivenga, Nick Pezzolla, UNICO Past National President Renato Biribin, and Anthony Bengivenga, UNICO's National Membership and Retention Director.

**NJ DISTRICT X****Union County—Unico District X Hold Ninth Annual Columbus Day Flag Raising**

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders celebrated the ninth annual Union County—UNICO District X Columbus Day Flag raising event at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth, NJ.

The program, which was emceed by Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, featured speakers from UNICO and County government along with Catiana Celentano, founder and owner of the Let's Play in Italian Language and Cultural Center in Scotch Plains, and Nick Netta, of Netta Architects in Mountainside.

Freeholder Chairman Bruce Bergen, Freeholders Alexander Mirabella, Bette Jane Kowalski, Vernell Wright, Angel Estrada and County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi were in attendance.



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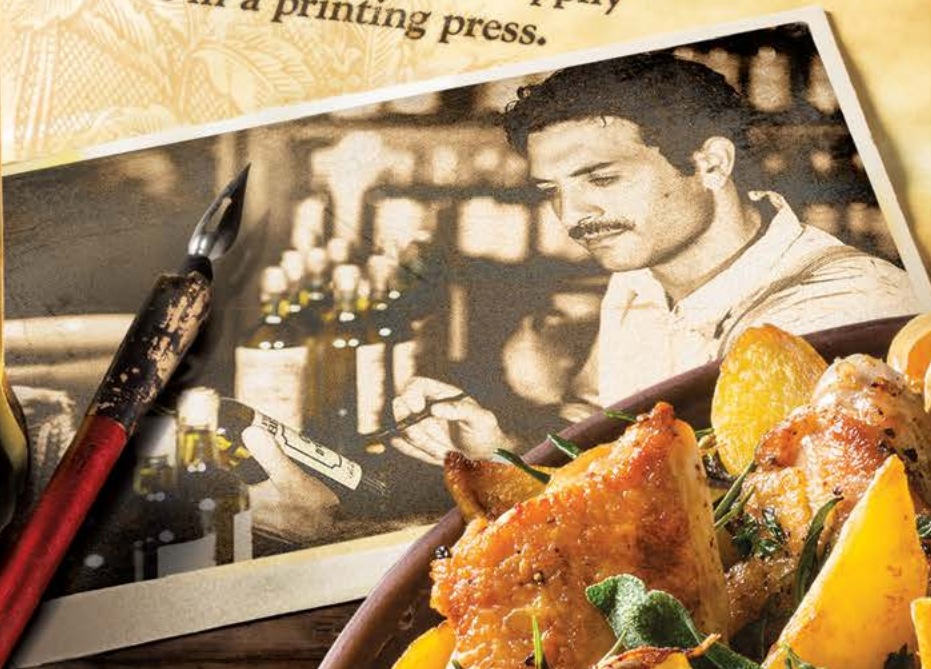


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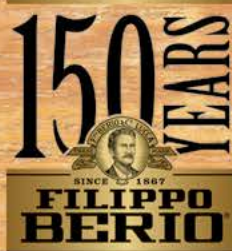


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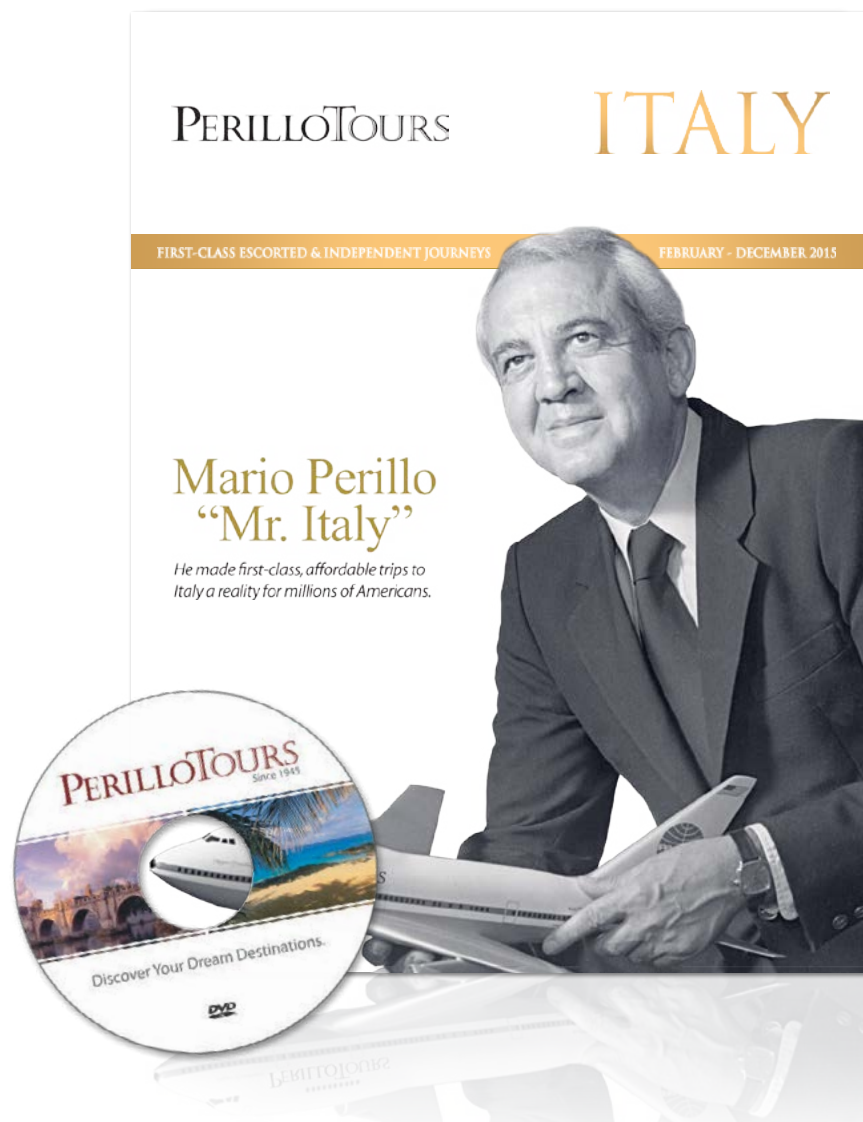


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# WETHERSFIELD UNICO'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY HERRITAGE DINNER CELEBRATION



The "Passport" to dinner.



Tony and Paula Schiavone enjoy the entertainment.



Ali and Michele Capalbo.



First Lady Michele and National President Tom Vaughan.



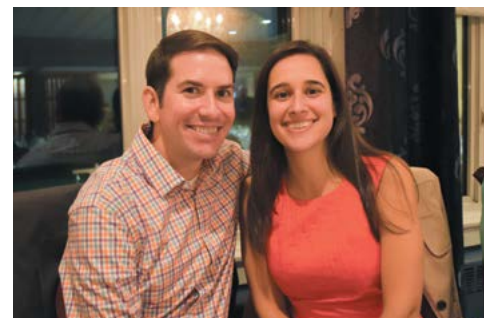
The Committee.



A Ferrari on display.



Enzo Boscarino performing.



Brian and Teresa Seifel.



National President Tom Vaughan welcomes the attendees.



Giavanna and Gil Fortunato.



Tom and Alicia Misenti.



## NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley, NJ Chapter opened its year with its September dinner meeting. Over 60 members and 7 guests were in attendance. The guest speaker was Bill Ervolino, a humor columnist for The Record newspaper in New Jersey. He is the author of several books, including, "Some Kind of Wiseguy: Stories About Parents, Weddings, Modern Living and Growing Up Italian" and Italian American Authors on New Jersey".

Dan Marucci, our Culture and Heritage food expert, explained the night's meal, one that stressed fresh vegetables and herbs, stuffed zucchini flowers and tomato salad in addition to several Italian regional entries. Our October food theme was "Depression Night" with the proverbial "peasant food" dishes.

Chairs of the summer activities such as the family picnic, bus ride to AC, Christmas Eve in August and the annual golf outing all described the events and made financial reports.

Annual Local Awards of \$250 each were presented to chapter members representing The Nutley Family Service Bureau, Scarpelli Civic Assoc., Nutley Public Library, Nutley MS Society, Nutley Special Young Adults, Thriving Survivors, Prostate Cancer Research, The Joe DePiero Memorial Fund at Seton Hall Univ. and a special Holy Family Parish facility project.

October, Italian-American Heritage Month, is a big month for the Chapter. Two of its members, Anthony Iannarone (Lifetime Achievement Awardee) and Dr. Lou Crupi (Italian Heritage Awardee) are among the honorees in the annual Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade on Sunday, Oct. 8. The parade is preceded by a special wreath laying ceremony at the Columbus Statue in front of the Nutley Town Hall. On Oct. 3 the Chapter coordinated the viewing of an Italian movie at the Nutley Public Library. The Nutley Chapter donated the statue to the community in 2000. The Oct. meeting continued the Italian-American theme in addition

to the presentation and approval of the 2017-18 budget.

The focus of the November meeting was honoring our veterans. A special recognition program was held at the meeting acknowledging the service of all Chapter members.



Nutley, NJ Chapter members accept \$250 donations on behalf of local groups at the Sept. 2017 meeting.



Nutley, NJ Chapter President Sal Ferrara (left) gets ready to tee off at the Nutley annual golf outing.



Nutley, NJ Unicans Carmen D'Aloia (left) and Ralph De Piro (2nd from right) at the annual golf outing.

## OAKVILLE-WATERTOWN, CT

The Oakville-Watertown CT Chapter of UNICO National fried dough booth at the Watertown CT Fall Festival held at Veterans Park on Saturday, September 16th. The members who helped set up and serve the attendees of this great annual event that was held at the Cercemaggiore Club in Oakville, CT on Sunday, Sept. 10, 2017. It was a big success! Thanks to all who attended.



Helping serving were Deanna Gubbiotti, Joe Longo (UNICO co-chairman for fried dough booth), Jean Gubbiotti, and Rich Gubbiotti, president of the Oakville-Watertown Chapter of UNICO.



Pictured left to right are: Vinnie Dorso, Joe Longo, Joe Polletta, Spencer Cerruto, and Dick DiMaria.





## HAZLETON, PA

## UNICO Hazleton 2017, 10 Successful Years, "Bell Italia Festival"

We, Hazleton UNICO, were happy to present this year, The Honoring of our Elder Italian American community with Color Guard presenting the Flag at our Opening Ceremony, We donated a Memorial Bench to the Ciampi Family in memory of a long (50 year) member Frank Ciampi. We held a Pasta Eating Contests, as well as the Best Meatball Contest and Italian Fingers tournament. We sponsored a Kiddy Carnival with Free rides to all Kids. An appearance from Rainbow the Clown who entertained the kids and balloon art. Face painting, administered by "The Miss Greater Hazleton" group in the Kiddie Korner, a huge success.

Foods available were: Unico Hazleton Fried Dough, Pizza of many different varieties, Pasta, Polenta, Porchetta, Potato Cakes, Pierogi, Sausage and Peppers, Steak and Cheese, Meatballs, Kielbasa, piggies, soups, Rice Balls, Italian Ices, and of course many fine Italian desserts and pastry.



Meatball winner.



## HILLSIDE, NJ

The annual UNICO Bowl was held between the Hillside Comets and Clark Crusaders on October 6th. The Crusaders prevailed over a series of two wins each and won the coveted UNICO Bowl trophy.



From left to right are: Hillside chapter members, James Welch and Angelo Bonnano (chapter president), and Clark chapter members: George Abruzzo, Joe Arancio (chapter president), and Ralph Bernardo.

*Save the Date!*  
**96th Annual Convention**  
July 25 - July 29, 2018

## NJ DISTRICT X

At the parade honoring Marine Gun- nery Sgt John Basilone in Raritan, NJ on Sept 24 with the District X Contingent and UNICO Float.



(left to right) 2nd Vice President Frank DeFrank (left); Joyce Walker, recipient of the 2017 National Americanism Award; Membership & Retention Director Anthony Bengivenga; 2nd Vice President Steve Pelonero. All marched with the NJ District X contingent.





On behalf of our President & CEO, Lourdes Cortez,  
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## Prayer to the Blessed Virgin



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

**SA, IPP, JCS, VAH, CO, AD,  
SLP, IZ, JFM, FP, SMG, JRD, EG,  
JG, JP, JGR**

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Fairfield, NJ 07004

### KEYSTONE, PA



Keystone Chapter UNICO members at their Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser for the Veterans at Saint Francis Commons.

### REHOBOTH AREA, DE

New members inducted at the September meeting were Vera Ramundo, Olivia Gray and Mary Cappelli.



### LACKAWANNA COUNTY, PA

Attached for your use is a group shot of the Italian organizations that participated in the October 1 flag raising to recognize Columbus Day in Lackawanna County.



Far left is Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley, a Scranton UNICO member.

### KEARNY, NJ

#### Kearny Chapter Plays Bocce



On August 19, 2017, members of the Kearny Chapter (Lou Pandolfi, Ettore Gencarelli, Walter Tomasheski and Celeste Pandolfi) traveled to Old Forge, PA to participate in the Keystone Chapter's bocce tournament.



Members of the Kearny Chapter's Bocce Team – Lou & Celeste Pandolfi, Donna Wagner-Nigro and Ettore Gencarelli – participated in the District XI bocce tournament to raise funds for cancer research. The team finished with 3 & 2 record and missed the quarter finals by two points.

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

The DEADLINE for the  
Jan. 2018 Edition of ComUNICO  
is Friday, Dec. 15th, 2017

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

Through many National Award Committees we present awards in sciences, military services, athletics, and literature.

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)





# UNICO HERITAGE & PHOTO CALENDAR

It's time to send in your photos for our next issue!

## *The 2018 UNICO National Italian & Italian American Heritage & Photo Calendar*

[www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org)



With the 2018 UNICO National Heritage & Photo Calendar recently released at the Eastern Region Meeting in Providence RI, it is now time to start asking our UNICO members to submit their photos for the 2019 and other future issues of their travels in Italy.

Photos must be in landscape view and with good resolution. Please note that the photos will be cropped and formatted to 8 1/2" x 11". Also, please

note that blurry and fuzzy photos cannot be used.

Please submit your photos digitally to [UNICOpictures@gmail.com](mailto:UNICOpictures@gmail.com). They will be acknowledged when received. Also, you must include your name, your chapter, what town the photo was taken in and what the photo is of. This information is very important for the calendar.

Photos from our past Heritage calendars can also be seen by visiting

[www.UNICO.org](http://www.UNICO.org). When there, just click on the "Photo Gallery", then go to "Heritage Calendar Photo Section".

The deadline for submitting your photos will be the last day of the UNICO year, **June 30th, 2018**. Which is also when your chapters' dues are due to UNICO National, so please remind your chapter president to send them in to UNICO National so that you are shown as a registered member.



# MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

Founded in 2000 in Mariana, an ancient fishing village on the tiny island of Elba, this unique perfume company is a reflection of its surroundings – the scent of the sea; the charm of the landscape; the art and culture of the Tuscan Archipelago; and the simple, natural way of life of the town. Cutting edge research and production mix with the magic of the land to bring Acqua dell'Elba's fragrances to life. These delightful scents can be found at only the most exclusive shops, including their flagship store on Elba and Barney's New York. [Acquadellelba.us](http://Acquadellelba.us)





# Team PLAYER

by Elena Ferrarin

Italian shooting guard Marco Belinelli joined the Atlanta Hawks in September, his 8th team in 10 years in the NBA. Ask him what it's been like to change coaches, teammates and homes so many times, and his answer is matter of fact.

"I've never been someone who is scared of change," he says. "I've had opportunities each place I've been to build good relationships with teammates. I just want to win and be happy where I am. At the end of the day, you do what you love, and you try to do it in the best way that you can."

At 6'5" and 210 lbs., Belinelli, now 31, started playing basketball at age 6 because his brother was a big fan of the sport — and he's never looked back.

"I love basketball because I love to shoot the ball, I love the competition," he says. "It's brought me a lot of great things in my life — winning the championship in San Antonio, winning the three-point contest at the All-Star game. I try to get better every year. I just love playing the game."

Belinelli began playing professionally in Italy at age 16, and three years later he won the Lega Basket Serie A title with Fortitudo.

"It was just a different level of basketball," he says of Lega Basket. "While it was different, at the same time my focus was to become an NBA player."

He was selected in the first round of the 2007 NBA draft by the Golden State Warriors, and started with a veritable "bang" a week later by scoring 37 points in his first NBA Summer League game. That performance tied for second in the league's four-year history.

Two years later, he was traded to the Toronto Raptors and in 2010 he was traded to the New Orleans Hornets. He

became a restricted free agent after the 2010-11 season and opted to stay with the Hornets another year.

He signed with the Chicago Bulls in 2012, and the team made the second round of the 2013 NBA playoffs. He then signed with the San Antonio Spurs in



2013, scoring a career-high 32 points in January 2014 in a game the team ended up losing to the New York Knicks.

"It's not easy to lose, and I'm really hard on myself sometimes," he says. "But at the same time, it's just a basketball game. I'm trying to play hard and have fun, and just compete."

San Antonio won the 2014 NBA Finals, and Belinelli became the first Italian player to win an NBA championship. That year he also was the first Italian



Photos courtesy of NBAE/Getty Images

## ▲ MARCO BELINELLI

His aggressive play off the bench has served him well as he joins his eighth franchise in a 10-year NBA career.

player to win the three-point contest at the NBA All-Star Weekend.

"I'm really proud of those accomplishments," he says. "I feel like I won the NBA championship for my country, for my city, for my people, my family, my friends. It was a great moment."

Before joining the Hawks, he spent a year with the Sacramento Kings followed by one with the Charlotte Hornets.

Looking back, he says, he really enjoyed his time in Chicago and San Antonio.

"Those places and the people I met in those places taught me to be a better player and a better person. They were both great experiences," he says.

Known as a good offensive player and shooter who needs to get better on defense, he's constantly working to improve his game, he says. And he believes in always playing aggressively.

"That's the most important thing," he says. "I've usually come off the bench in my NBA career. I love to play team basketball. Whether I'm scoring or not, my approach is just to be aggressive all the time."

As for his goals after basketball, well, he hasn't thought much about them, he admits.

"Have a couple of kids, have a family," he ventures. "Be happy and safe."



# The people's POPE

by Jim Distasio

If you seek the key that unlocks the door to Pope Francis' soul, look no further than his name.

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope on the second day and the fifth ballot of the 2013 papal conclave following the resignation of his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI. It was more than just a stunning development that almost no Vatican prognosticators saw coming, it also sparked a series of firsts for the papacy.

The Argentina-born Bergoglio became the first Jesuit priest to lead the Catholic Church, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere and, perhaps most notable, the first in more than 1,000 years to bypass all the names previously held by his predecessors.

Born in Buenos Aires to Italian parents, Bergoglio embraced the name of another Italian, St. Francis of Assisi, when

he became the Holy Father on March 13, 2013. After his election, Francis stepped out onto the papal balcony dressed in a simple white cassock, black lace-up orthopedic shoes for chronic sciatica and the iron crucifix he wore as Archbishop of Buenos Aires. Nowhere to be seen were the gold crosses, red loafers and ornate vestments that have symbolized the Church's power and affluence for centuries. Instead, Francis, has chosen to align his papacy and his Church with the teachings of St. Francis, a once-wealthy merchant who spurned a life of extravagance in favor of serving the poor and less fortunate as a priest.

In the days following his elevation, Francis spoke openly with reporters about his nervousness during the final vote of conclave, when it became clear he would be elected pope, as well as the efforts of his old friend Brazilian Archbishop Claudio Hummes to put the momentous occasion



## ▲ POPE FRANCIS

Having dedicated himself to following in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, he has invited both his Church and the world to accompany him on that journey.

into perspective.

Amid the applause and celebration by the College of Cardinals, Hummes "hugged me, he kissed me and he said, 'Don't forget about the poor,'" Francis recalled.

As the 265th successor to St. Peter, Francis said he felt the word "poor" lodge into his brain at that very moment.

"It was then that I thought of St. Francis. And then I thought of wars and about peace and that's how the name came to me — a man of peace, a poor man ... and how I would like a church of the poor, for the poor," Francis said.

Nearly five years later, the now 80-year-old pontiff has cut a towering figure in the public consciousness and helped the Catholic Church chart a new course after periods of scandal and institutional strife. Francis took the reins of a church that was losing adherents and influence, especially in parts of Europe and the United States, and has begun a campaign to instill humility and maybe even a touch of modernity into the storied institution. He has spoken passionately — and regularly — about social justice, caring for the poor, becoming better stewards of the environment and the dangers of unchecked capitalism.

Make no mistake, Francis is no revolutionary. To call him that would be to suc-

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cumb to a misunderstanding of his papal mission. While not as dogmatic as his predecessors, he still upholds and encourages the most central tenets of Catholicism, even those some view as stubbornly at odds with a 21st century world. Rather, Francis is more an evolutionary leader who acknowledges mankind's unsteady and unsure march toward the future, and, like so many of his flock, grapples in real-time with how to balance tradition with change, and how faith and spirituality can serve as a guiding light in that journey.

"In Francis there is a more realistic approach to the existence of real people, a less ideological take on moral issues that now are framed in the complexity of concrete situations," Dr. Massimo Faggioli, a papal scholar and theology professor Villanova University, told *The Christian Science Monitor*. "Many priests have always done that, but not many bishops and popes."

Does this make Pope Francis a controversial figure? It depends on who you ask.

Francis has been unafraid to wade into politics and has gone so far as to take on heads of government during his tenure, most publicly U.S. President Donald Trump for his stances on immigration and climate change. The latter issue represents a major plank of the pontiff's advocacy. Before becoming a Jesuit in 1960, he worked as a chemist and has spoken many times of the importance and need for scientific discovery as a means to understand the divine.

With climate change, Francis sees a problem as urgent for humanity as war and famine. To that end, he has reportedly lobbied German Chancellor Angela Merkel to strongly defend the 2015 Paris climate accord in the face of a likely U.S. withdrawal from the agreement. Moreover, he focused a papal encyclical that same year on the importance of governments, corporations and global citizens coming together to address what he calls "a disturbing warming," and has harshly criticized climate change doubters.

"Those who deny this must go to the scientists and ask them. They speak very clearly," Francis told reporters in September 2017. "These aren't opinions pulled out of thin air. They are very clear."

Proponents of a more liberal approach

to church dogma may be encouraged by Francis' talk on climate change, women's rights, his anti-capital punishment stance, and even his softening of the church's positions on divorce and homosexuality.

"A pastor cannot feel that it is enough simply to apply moral laws ... as if they were stones to throw at people's lives," Francis wrote in a 2015 paper on the changing notion of family in today's world. "By thinking that everything is black and white, we sometimes close off the way of grace and growth."



But when it comes to other social issues, Francis remains a tightrope walker of sorts, hewing closely to many of the church's long-held beliefs while trying to strike a more open, accepting viewpoint.

He most notably said of gay men and women, "If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?" but has spoken out against same-sex marriage on several occasions. He is also truly a pro-life pontiff, opposing both the death penalty and abortion in no uncertain terms. Nevertheless, he has left the door open for those seeking absolution from a church that once levied excommunications as the only recourse.

"There is no sin that God's mercy cannot reach and wipe away when it finds a repentant heart seeking to be reconciled with the Father," Francis wrote in a 2016 apostolic letter that permanently extended the rights to forgive abortion to all priests.

With more than 1.2 billion Roman Catholics around the globe, and more than 40 percent of them now residing in Latin America, Francis is tasked with leading a church more diverse than at any point in its history, and his unique background makes him an ideal shepherd for this

unique moment.

As an Italian raised in Argentina, much of Francis' early life was about building bridges of understanding between groups and cultures. His father, an accountant named Mario, escaped Italian fascism and settled in Buenos Aires, where he married Regina, a fellow Italian natively born in the South American country to parents also hailing from northern Italy. As a Jesuit priest and later as Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Francis focused heavily on ministering to the poor, doubling the number of

priests in the city's most at-risk communities, and imposing strict fiscal discipline on an archdiocese that had become spendthrift. He also made great strides toward increased inter-faith dialogue, regularly bringing together leaders representing the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths in an effort to find common ground. He has even expressed furthering the Church's outreach to nonbelievers, not to evangelize but instead as a means to solve today's most pressing problems.

"My wish is that the dialogue between us should help to build bridges connecting all people, in such a way that everyone can see in the other not

an enemy, not a rival, but a brother or sister to be welcomed and embraced," Francis said.

Perhaps Francis' most radical action has been how swiftly and resolutely he's brought Catholicism, along with the papacy, back down to earth, to make it more humble and Christ-like.

Francis eschews the opulent papal residence for a sparse two-room domicile on the Vatican grounds; he visits prisons on Holy Thursday and washes the feet of inmates; and regularly mingles warmly and comfortably among crowds of pilgrims, devotees and tourists. Jesus never lived in a world of iPhones, but if he did, there is no doubt he too would pose for selfies with excited fans like this pope does.

In a surprise 2017 TED talk — yes, like Steve Jobs and Malcolm Gladwell, this pope has given a TED talk — Francis summed up his hope, not just for his stewardship of the Catholic Church, but for influencers everywhere.

"Please, allow me to say it loud and clear: The more powerful you are, the more your actions will have an impact on people, the more responsible you are to act humbly," he said.



# Real-life SUPERHEROES

by Louis R. Carlozo

What can \$1,500 buy your kid? Several Christmases worth of gifts, perhaps? Or a fancy vacation? How about a life-changing summer at camp? And now, for the least obvious choice: A superhero costume and a chance to ham it up in front of Daddy's camera and some cool backdrops for what, maybe two hours?

Before you shake your head or scold the dad for spoiling his kid, consider that, in the economy of love, nothing is wasted.



And the expense invested in that shoot has yielded returns beyond measure: It has opened the door for commercial photographer Josh Rossi of Puerto Rico and his daughter Nellee to provide inspiration, hope and more than a little fun for six kids who face heartbreaking struggles.

Rossi — whose work has appeared everywhere from the Wall Street Journal to ABC's "Good Morning America" — conceived of the 2016 Wonder Woman session as a way to give his 3-year-old daughter a real-life taste of female empowerment. Little did he know that the sessions would light up Facebook and inspire other parents to call for an encore.

That encore came in August, when Rossi outfitted six sick kids as Batman, the Flash and four other members of DC Comics Justice League. The shoot grabbed the attention of People magazine; in the article, Rossi said the project was "the best thing I've ever done." Let's be clear that Rossi wasn't bragging on his work but rather the chance to lift the spirits and hopes of the half-dozen superkids. Tegan Pettit, who played Superman, typifies

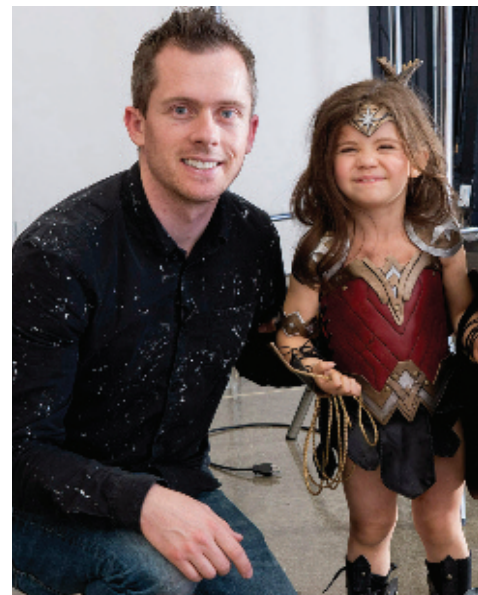


their shared struggles: The nine-year-old Salt Lake City boy is awaiting a heart transplant because he has half a heart.

Rossi took time to tell Lou&A about the Justice League project, how it might serve as a foundation for his future efforts, and how growing up in Florence attuned him to the arresting power of visual art.

**Lou&A: Tell us a bit about your Italian background.**

Josh Rossi: I was born in Florence and my dad is fully Italian; my mom is American. I grew up in Italy for the first six years, have been back and lived there on and off. My grandma and a few uncles still live there.



## ▲ JOSH ROSSI

A photo shoot of his preschooler in a Wonder Woman costume has morphed into a heroic follow-up for disabled kids.

**Lou&A: When you look back on your upbringing, how do you feel it prepared you for pursuing a creative profession?**

Rossi: When I grew up I was always fascinated with art. My parents would always tell me that I came from Florence, "the city where art was born." They would tell me about all of the Italians who did amazing things and instilled a certain confidence in me. So I felt a sense of pride being a Florentine and I think that affected my passion for art. As an adult I still have that pride and get inspiration from old masters such as Michelangelo and Botticelli, who created fantastical worlds with their art.

**Lou&A: Many dads and moms help their kids assemble Halloween costumes that can get elaborate and might cost \$100 or more. But \$1,500? Did people around you think you were crazy?**

Rossi: The Wonder Woman shoot with my daughter Nellee was for Halloween 2016 — and I wanted to go all out on the costume because that's what I normally do with my high-production photo shoots. The purpose wasn't to spoil my daughter or be excessive but to make a statement to the world: that we should teach our daughters to find their worth and strength from within, and not just from external beauty. People responded very well and

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there were only a few who didn't understand the purpose — mainly because they just read the headlines and not the actual People article that explained everything.

**Lou&A: How did your photo shoot go viral, and what was your reaction to that? How then did you put two and two together and decide to start shooting kids who had illnesses and other difficulties?**

Rossi: It went viral after influential people posted it on Facebook. After that, other media companies contacted me that wanted to create stories around it. And I got the idea for the Justice League photo shoot after getting messages from many people who said their daughter or son was a real superhero. It gave my wife Roxana and I the idea to create a new series where we would find those superheroes in society — and that would be kids who struggle.

**Lou&A: At a certain point, this project took on a life that stemmed far beyond your orchestration. What has been the most moving or affecting aspect of the superhero sessions for you?**

Rossi: The most moving part of these

photo shoots has been the reaction of the public. I've received hundreds of emails from people who say they're inspired to either spend more time with their daughter or ask how they can create something similar for sick kids in their own community. My favorite part of all the photo shoots has been the reaction of the kids to the large prints we provided to them. They were so excited and happy to receive them. The highlight of the media exposure for me was to get interviewed by actual doctors on Italy's RAI Italian Television recently about the shoot and the impact it had on the kids.

**Lou&A: Is there a thought to turn this work into something even more inspiring and ambitions?**

Rossi: This is an ongoing project where I'll search for the next cause I can help support by doing creative photo shoots and raising awareness. At the moment, the photo sessions are enough because I don't want to violate the copyright of any company I've associated these shoots with. I see the project growing in the sense that I will continue to

create more inspiring work for different causes.

**Lou&A: In your daughter's case, how did the experience change her — and change your relationship?**

Rossi: I noticed that she loves doing shoots with me now and loves taking pictures just like Daddy does of her. It's really cute, especially because she now has a connection to what I do in my work life. It's another fun way to connect with her.

**Lou&A: Do you ever feel like a superhero given the lives you've changed — and if you could be a superhero, who would it be?**

Rossi: (Laughs.) I don't feel like a superhero at all. I'm just taking photos of these kids — and they are the truly strong ones. I just want to help highlight them. And if I could be a superhero I'd be "Eat Everything You Want and Not Get Fat Man." Maybe that's kind of random ... but I guess it shows my Italian side. (Laughs.)

*To check out Josh Rossi's superhero photo shoots, visit [joshrossi.com](http://joshrossi.com).*





# Musical MILESTONES

by Otto Bruno

Recently, we celebrated milestones of films that boast the talents of Italian-American actors. This month, we dive into the creative pool of Italian-American songwriters, musicians and singers.

Salvatore Guaragna shows up on nearly nobody's musical radar, and even the name Harry Warren doesn't ring as many bells as Irving Berlin or Hoagy Carmichael. But Guaragna, aka Warren, wrote the music to just as many American standards as those other guys. And the list of lyricists who worked with Warren reads like a "Who's Who" of the Songwriter's Hall of Fame, including Al Dubin, Mack Gordon, Johnny Mercer, Leo Robin and Ira Gershwin.

Warren always complained that he wasn't as well recognized as other top composers of the era, but the reason for that is two-fold. First of all, Warren was not a show writer. From the 1920s to 1950s, during the height of Warren's creative powers, songwriters who wrote Broadway shows were the respected artists in their field while Hollywood songwriters were their less regarded country cousins. Secondly, even though he worked within the Hollywood system, he wasn't a Hollywood player. He preferred to stay home evenings rather than make the rounds of the various parties thrown by movie stars and moguls.

Famous as or not as an individual, Warren penned melodies that are among the most memorable in the history of the Great American Songbook. Three of his hits are celebrating their 80th anniversaries in 2017: "Remember Me," "September in the Rain," and "With Plenty of Money and You."

In Max Wilk's 1973 book, "They're Playing Our Song," Warren recalled how producer Hal Wallis came to Warren and Durbin's to hear "With Plenty of Money

and You." When they finished, Wallis said, "It stinks. Write a new song," and walked out of the room. The songwriters were furious, but rather than getting mad, they got even.



"Now we had to figure, how're we going to get the song in the picture?" told Wilk. "We knew Jack Warner and Hal Wallis were feuding. So we went up and said to Warner we wanted him to hear a song that Wallis didn't like. We played it. He said, 'That's swell! What the hell does he know about songs? Great, it goes in the picture!' That's how the song got into 'Gold Diggers of 1937.'"

Wallis ran Warner Brothers studio at the time but Jack Warner, as one of the brothers whose name was on the building, could override any Wallis veto. "With Plenty of Money and You" went on to be a hit for Henry Busse and his Orchestra.



## ▲ HARRY WARREN

Though he never achieved the fame of fellow songwriters like Irving Berlin and Hoagy Carmichael, he penned several classics that are celebrating major anniversaries this year.

As for Warren's other big songs of 1937, Crosby scored with "Remember Me," while Guy Lombardo's recording of "September in the Rain" was the most popular of them all. Through the years, "September in the Rain" has been recorded by everyone from Frank Sinatra and Rod Stewart to Annie Lennox and Doris Day.

By 1942, Warren had moved on to Twentieth Century Fox and, along with lyricist Mack Gordon, was writing songs for the endless parade of musicals the studio was producing with Alice Faye, Don Ameche, Cesar Romero, Betty Grable and their stable of musical comedy performers. "Orchestra Wives" was an unusual film for its time in that it took a somewhat serious look at the difficulties that musicians and their families faced while adjusting to a career that required so much time away from home. The story didn't win any awards but, as Tony Thomas noted in the 1975 book "Harry Warren and the Hollywood Musical," "If nothing else, 'Orchestra Wives' has the distinction of being the birthplace of three pop-song classics, 'I Got A Gal in Kalamazoo,' 'At Last,' and 'Serenade in Blue.'" All three of those

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classics celebrate their 75th anniversaries this year.

Warren's diamond jubilee gem, however, comes from an even more forgettable 1942 film titled "Iceland." Starring John Payne and Sonja Henie, the film is pure fluff, but the song "There Will Never Be Another You" continues to shine as one of the great American standards. Fellow composer Alec Wilder wrote in his seminal book on the art of songwriting, "American Popular Song," that this "may be the loveliest of all Warren songs. There's not a poorly chosen note in the melody. It's sinuous, graceful, gracious, sentimental, totally lacking in clichés."

"There Will Never Be Another You" was recorded by the Andrews Sisters, Woody Herman, Count Basie, Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Doris Day and dozens of other celebrated musicians and vocalists. Ironically, it wasn't nominated for an Academy Award while "I've Got A Gal in Kalamazoo" was. In the end, the oversight was moot as the Oscar for best song was awarded to Irving Berlin's sentimental favorite, "White Christmas."

In the first half of the 20th century, the success of songs was measured by sheet music sales as well as the box office take of the film or Broadway show that featured it. By the middle of the century, record sales and radio airplay emerged as the barometers of a song's popularity. Seventy years ago this summer, Perry Como enjoyed the fourth No. 1 hit of his career with the song, "Chibaba, Chibaba (My Bambino Go To Sleep)." The song stayed atop the Billboard charts for three weeks. What was even more impressive is that the B-side of the record, "When You Were Sweet Sixteen," made it all the way to No. 2.

In 1952, Como notched another gold record with "Don't Let the Stars Get in Your Eyes," which reached No. 1 on the charts in both the U.S. and the U.K., remaining there for five weeks. Como scored his last No. 1 hit of the decade in 1957 with "Round and Round." All told, Como earned four chart-topping hits during the 1950s, with an astounding total of 23 recordings landing in the Billboard

Top Ten during a decade that gave birth to rock 'n' roll.

The golden anniversary tends to outshine all others, and there are myriad important recordings that were made by Italian-American artists in 1967. We start with a personal favorite, Henry Mancini's "Two for the Road," from the film of the same name starring Audrey Hepburn and Albert Finney. Mancini, who wrote the music (lyrics by Leslie Bricusse) and scored the film, was nominated for a Golden Globe for Best Original Score but failed to garner a nomination for the Grammy or Oscar: an unfortunate oversight as I think it was one of the most haunting melodies Mancini ever penned. It's also near and dear to my heart because the song was one of my mother's favorites.

Another film score that attracted a lot of attention in 1967 belonged to the big-budget musical "Doctor Dolittle."



Perry Como

The most recognizable tune to emerge from the talents of Lionel Newman, Alexander Courage and Leslie Bricusse was "Talk to the Animals." The song was an anthem to childhood for many adoring young fans in the late 1960s. One of the most popular adult singers of that, Bobby Darin, devoted an entire album to the songs from the film. Unfortunately, Darin's "Doctor Dolittle" album received little backing from the

Atlantic label and ended up being one of the rare failures in his career. In retrospect, it's a fascinating and fun album that proves that both Mr. Darin and the songs from the film continue to hold up very well.

It was unusual for a singer closely identified with a popular vocal group to



Henry Mancini

cut a solo record back in 1967, but Frankie Valli did just that and ended up with a huge hit with "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You." The song fell just short of the No. 1 position on the Billboard chart. Nevertheless, it was hugely popular during 1967's "Summer of Love," and was revived 12 years later with its prominent use in Michael Cimino's landmark film about the Vietnam War Era, "The Deer Hunter" (1978).

Yet another anthem of the day, "The Beat Goes On," premiered in 1967. Written by Sonny Bono, the song reached No. 6 on the Billboard charts and became the theme to Sonny and Cher's popular 1970s variety show. It captured the spirit of the time and must have held a special place in Bono's heart because the words "And the beat goes on" are inscribed on his tombstone.

Bobby Vee was one of the most successful Italian-American rock stars of the Pre-British Invasion era, but by 1967 he had gone five years without charting a



top-10 song. In pop music, five years is an eternity. So when Vee's 1967 release, "Come Back When You Grow Up," climbed all the way to No. 3, it jump-started the rocker's career and kept him visible until the nostalgia craze took over in the 1970s, assuring Vee and his contemporaries a consistent place in the con-



Bobby Vee

cert tour circuit.

Perhaps the most strangely memorable hit of the 1967 pop music scene was "Something Stupid," sung by Nancy Sinatra and her daddy, Frank. This lament by a lover trying to win his way back into his sweetheart's good graces seemed an odd choice for a father-daughter duet, but there was no arguing with the results as the song skyrocketed to No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and stayed there for four solid weeks.

Sinatra fans might prefer to remember 1967 as the year he recorded two landmark albums that continue to impress half a century later. "Francis Albert Sinatra & Antonio Carlos Jobim" was the first of two albums Sinatra cut that year with the legendary Brazilian composer and singer. The second, "Sinatra-Jobim," wasn't released until 1969. In what was essentially "Frank Sinatra meets the bossa nova," the singer tenderly caresses the lyrics, singing more gently than he had since some of his early Dorsey bal-

lads.

In "Sinatra: The Song Is You," Will Friedwald suggests that, although Sinatra was not the first American singer to embrace the genre (Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Torme, Eydie Gorme and Tony Bennett all experimented with bossa nova in the '60s), he distinguished himself by his considerable output.

"No American pop star would so thoroughly immerse himself in the world of bossa," wrote Friedwald. "He not only recorded two whole albums' worth of the stuff but sacrificed his signature stylistics in order to more smoothly fit into the new vernacular."

Both albums strayed from Sinatra's affinity for swinging big band arrangements and lush, string-infused ballads. In the end, it was a successful creative experiment that Sinatra fans warmly



Frank Sinatra

received.

Sinatra began the year in the studio with the Jobim recordings and finished the year in the studio with another very different musical giant, Duke Ellington. Five years earlier, Sinatra had collaborated with big band legend Count Basie for the first time on a studio album, and the results were magnificent. They were so good, in fact, that Sinatra and Basie teamed up again on a 1964

album, and one more time on the live "Sinatra at the Sands" recording from 1966. This collaboration with Ellington, although not as well-received initially, definitely reflects the greatness of the two musical titans.

The arrangements are full, lush and loud — the absolute antithesis of the Jobim sessions. The Ellington Band differed from the Basie Band as well. Basie's group was a tight, swinging unit marked by a disciplined precision, while Ellington's group was a rich tapestry of unique soloists who could also blow the roof off the joint. However, as Will Friedwald cites in "The Song Is You," "the Duke and his men typically invested energy only in playing Ellington's and [Billy] Strayhorn's own music ... the band just didn't care to put any effort into the work of outside arrangers."

As initially conceived, the album was to be arranged by Strayhorn. Unfortunately, Strayhorn died after a long illness in May of 1967. Billy May, a fabulous big band arranger, was brought in to take over those duties. May and Strayhorn were both natives of Pittsburgh and May even sat in with a Strayhorn group back in the Steel City in the 1930s. Moreover, May's first arranging job was with the Charlie Barnet Band, which was known for its admiration of, and emulation of, the Ellington style. In short, May was perfect for the project.

According to Friedwald, Sinatra and Ellington had a complex relationship. Sinatra had long wanted to record with Ellington. However, he'd also pursued Strayhorn to arrange an album for him for many years. Ellington, who was very proprietary about his musicians, nixed the deal by piling so much work on Strayhorn that he was unable to pursue the Sinatra offer.

In the end, Sinatra's and Ellington's mutual respect was demonstrated when Ellington came over to Sinatra's Reprise label in 1962. Between 1962 and 1967, Ellington recorded more than 100 sides for the label, with some of the most memorable coming from this landmark session with Ol' Blue Eyes. All in all, 1967 was a very good year for the Hoboken saloon singer.





# Babbo NATALE

by Mary Ann Esposito

Babbo Natale is the Italian version of Santa Claus, but his real name is San Nicola Pastara di Licia, or Saint Nicholas. He was born in Turkey in the 3rd century A.D. and became the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. His propensity for gift giving gave rise to the legend of Father Christmas, who children revere worldwide.

The real veneration of San Nicola dates back to 1087, when his bones were stolen from Myra by sailors from Bari, who were then rescued from a horrific sea storm due to the intercession of the saint. Since then, his feast day is celebrated on December 6, which also signals the start of the holiday baking season.

Like American children, Italian children receive treats from San Nicola, and in years gone by they left their shoes by their beds in hopes that the saint would leave torrone, coins and oranges.

Biscotti make the perfect holiday gift, and the best part is that, from one basic dough, an array of different biscotti can be made ahead of time without much effort. To make the gift extra special, give them in clear cellophane bags tied with Christmas ribbons, or arrange them in gift boxes. And don't forget to leave a plate of biscotti out for Babbo Natale!

## BISCOTTI DI NATALE

*Christmas Biscotti*  
Makes about 4 dozen

5 tablespoons unsalted butter,  
cut into bits  
1-1/4 cups sugar  
6 large eggs

3-1/4 cups unbleached all purpose flour  
3-1/4 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1 tablespoon brandy  
4 tablespoons cocoa  
1/2 cup diced dried fruit such as apricots,  
cherries, raisins or figs  
1/2 cup slivered almonds  
1/2 cup chopped white chocolate  
1/2 cup diced orange peel

Cream the butter and sugar in a stand mixer or in a bowl with a handheld mixer until the mixture is smooth and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time on medium speed.

On a sheet of wax paper sift the flour, baking powder and salt together. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture and blend well on medium speed.

Remove half of the dough from the mixer to a bowl. On low speed, blend the vanilla into the remaining dough in the mixer. Scoop the vanilla flavored dough onto a sheet of wax paper. Set aside.

Return the other batch of dough to the mixer and on low speed blend in the brandy and the cocoa until the dough is a uniform chocolate color. Scoop the dough out onto a second sheet of wax paper.

Wrap the dough balls well and refrigerate, allowing them to chill overnight or for at least 3 to 4 hours to make it easier to handle.

Remove the vanilla-flavored dough and divide it in half. To one half, mix in 1/2 cup of diced, dried, mixed fruits; to the other half, add 1/2 cup slivered almonds or hazelnuts.

Divide the chocolate dough in half. To one half, add chopped white choco-



late; to the other half, add diced orange peel.

Roll the dough balls on a lightly floured surface into ropes about 12 to 14 inches long and 1-1/2 inches wide. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Place two logs spaced 3 inches apart on each sheet.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Bake the logs for about 12 to 15 minutes or until they are firm to the touch. Allow the logs to cool for 10 minutes before slicing them crosswise on the diagonal into 1/2-inch thick slices.

Place the biscotti back on the baking sheets and toast them in the oven for about 5 minutes, or until they lightly brown. Remove the biscotti to a rack to cool.

For more from Mary Ann Esposito, visit [www.ciaoitalia.com](http://www.ciaoitalia.com) and [facebook.com/maryannesposito](https://facebook.com/maryannesposito). ©2017, Mary Ann Esposito.



# Yuletide STAPLES

by Dolores Sennebogen

When my mother reminisced about the Christmases of her childhood, I was surprised to learn that no gifts or toys were part of the family celebration. Santa did not visit, except occasionally at the grammar school she attended, where children happily received oranges and walnuts from the jolly visitor. Many generations of children before and since associate those edible treats with Christmas. While today's youth are probably searching their stockings for electronic gifts, oranges and nuts were once exotic and expensive luxuries. The oranges were offered, usually in the toe of the stocking, as a nod to one of the legends associated with Saint Nicholas. It is said that the saint learned of a father who was desperate to find suitors for his three daughters. Because the man didn't have money for their dowries, he feared for their futures. Late one night, St. Nicholas went to their home and tossed

sacks of gold down the chimney for each girl. The legend says that the gold landed in their stockings, which were hanging by the fire to dry. Oranges, symbolizing golden balls, have been given as a reminder ever since. Many of this month's recipes feature oranges or nuts, still favorite Christmastime flavors. The first recipe is a different version of Biscotti di Regina than I have shared previously. It's from my friend Georgiana Faraci, who prefers her biscotti a little softer than some. Buone Feste a tutti!

## BISCOTTI DI REGINA

(Sesame Seed Cookies)

2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 stick butter  
1 stick margarine  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
3 eggs, separated  
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
Sesame seeds

Blend together the flour and baking powder. Set aside. Cream the butter, margarine and sugar. Add the egg yolks one at a time, and then add the vanilla extract. Gradually add the flour mixture. Beat the egg whites until frothy. Form rod-shaped cookies, rolling them by hand. Moisten each cookie with beaten egg white and then roll them in the sesame seeds. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 12 to 15 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

— Georgiana Faraci



Ann Sorrentino (The author's mother)

## BISCOTTI DI RICOTTA AL PROFUMO DI ARANCIA

(Orange-Scented Ricotta Cookies)

4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 pound butter  
2 cups sugar  
2 eggs  
1 pound ricotta, well-drained  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
Grated zest of 1 orange  
Icing (recipe follows)

Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Set aside. Cream the butter. Add the sugar and continue creaming. Add the eggs one at a time until blended. Add the ricotta, vanilla and orange zest. Beat well. Add the flour mixture gradually. Drop rounded teaspoons of dough on parchment-lined baking sheets. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven about 10 minutes until edges are lightly browned. Cool.

### Icing:

2 cups confectioners' sugar  
1/4 cup softened butter  
3 tablespoons milk  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon orange extract (or to taste)  
Additional orange zest

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... continued from page 71 ...

Mix the first five ingredients well and use to frost the cookies. Sprinkle the grated orange zest over the cookies before the icing dries.

Variation: Omit the orange zest topping. After frosting each cookie, drizzle with a thin stream of melted dark chocolate.

— adapted from Christine Dugo

## QUARESIMALI

(Chocolate Spice Cookies)

4 cups flour  
1-1/2 cups sugar  
1/2 cup cocoa  
2 tablespoons instant coffee  
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon cloves  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1-1/2 sticks margarine  
1 cup milk  
2 eggs  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1/2 teaspoon lemon extract  
1/2 teaspoon orange extract  
1 cup broken walnuts or  
chopped toasted almonds  
Icing (recipe follows)

Put the first eight ingredients in a large bowl and stir until all are well blended. Add the margarine and work with your fingers until a crumbly mixture, resembling cornmeal, is achieved.

Make a well in the center and add all the remaining ingredients except icing. Stir with a large wooden spoon to combine and dampen all the ingredients. The dough will be heavy and sticky to work with. Cover it and refrigerate for 2 or 3 hours.

Scoop by the teaspoon full or shape

into balls and place on greased cookie sheets about 1-1/2 inches apart. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for about 10 minutes. Remove them from the cookie sheets to cool on racks. When all are cool, line them very closely on wax paper and ice them.

### Icing and Decoration:

Hot milk or water  
3 cups sifted confectioners' sugar  
1-1/2 teaspoons anise extract  
Chocolate shot (optional)

Slowly mix hot milk or water with the sifted confectioners' sugar until the frosting is spreadable. Stir in the extract and ice the cookies with a pastry brush. If desired, sprinkle them with chocolate shots before the icing dries. When the icing is completely dry, store them in tightly covered containers.

— Ann Sorrentino

## BISCOTTI AL BURRO DI MIRTILLI

(Cranberry Butter Cookies)

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon baking powder  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1 cup butter, softened  
3/4 cup confectioners' sugar  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract  
1 tablespoon grated orange zest,  
or to taste  
2 cups sweetened dried cranberries,  
chopped

Mix the flour, baking powder and salt together and set aside. In the bowl of an electric mixer, cream the butter and confectioners' sugar. Beat in the extracts and zest. Gradually add the dry ingredients until just incorporated. Fold in the chopped cranberries, mixing them evenly



throughout the dough. Divide the dough into two equal portions and roll each one into a 7-inch log. Wrap in wax paper or plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 4 hours. Slice the logs into 1/2-inch thick slices and place on cookie sheets about 1 inch apart. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for about 10 minutes, until firm but not browned. Cool on wire racks and store in a cookie tin.

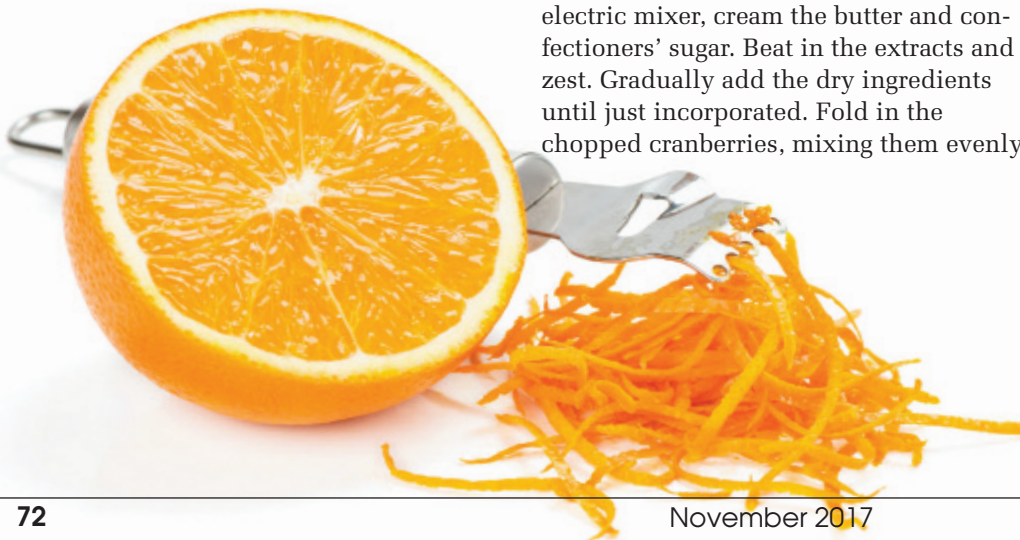
— adapted from allrecipes.com

## BISCOTTI CON NOCI E MARMELLATA

(Walnut Jam Cookies)

1/2 cup butter, softened  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 egg, separated  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup finely chopped walnuts  
Thick jam or marmalade

Cream the butter and sugar, then add the egg yolk, reserving the egg white. Blend in the vanilla extract. Combine the flour with the salt and add to the creamed mixture, mixing





well. If the dough seems soft, refrigerate briefly. Shape the dough into small balls. Whisk the reserved egg white until frothy. Roll each ball in the egg white and then in the walnuts. Place two inches apart on lightly greased cookie sheets or on baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Using your thumb, make an indentation in the center of each cookie. Fill with your favorite jam or marmalade. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 12 to 14 minutes, until golden brown. Let the cookies cool slightly before moving the cookie racks.

— adapted from the  
Rome Sustainable Food Project

## SALAME AL CIOCCOLATO

(Chocolate “Salami”)

1/2 cup slivered almonds  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
Two 5-inch-long plain biscotti,  
coarsely crushed  
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room  
temperature  
12-ounce bag semisweet chocolate  
morsels  
1/4 cup brewed coffee  
1 teaspoon grated orange zest  
1/2 cup confectioners’ sugar

Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Spread the almonds, walnuts and crushed biscotti in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake until the nuts are lightly toasted, 6 to 8 minutes. Cool completely.

Cut the butter into 1/2-inch pieces. Put the butter and chocolate in a heat-proof medium bowl and place the bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Stir until the chocolate has melted and the mixture is smooth, about 6 minutes. Stir in the coffee until smooth. Add the almonds, walnuts, biscotti pieces and orange zest, and stir until combined. Cover the bowl and refrigerate until firm but moldable, about 2 hours.

Divide the chocolate mixture in half. Place half of the mixture in the center of an 18-inch-long piece of plastic wrap. Using a spatula, form the mixture into a log about 7 inches long and 2 inches in diameter. Roll up the log in the plastic and twist the ends to seal. Roll back and

forth on a work surface a few times to make the log evenly round. Repeat with the remaining chocolate mixture. Refrigerate the logs until firm, at least 2 hours.

Spread the confectioners’ sugar on a dinner plate. Remove the plastic wrap from the logs and roll them in the sugar until coated. Using a pastry brush, brush away the excess sugar. Let the logs sit at room temperature for 15 minutes. Use a sharp serrated knife to cut the logs into 1/2-inch-thick slices.

— adapted from  
Giada De Laurentiis

## BISCOTTI DI SPEZIE E MANDORLA

(Almond Spice Biscotti)

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

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

In the bowl of an electric mixer,



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

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

Beat an additional egg with 2 teaspoons of water and brush a little on the surface of each loaf. Bake in a preheated 375-degree oven for 20 to 22 minutes, until lightly golden. Cool for about 15 to 20 minutes, and then slice diagonally into 1/2-inch biscotti. Lower the oven temperature to 300 degrees. Return the biscotti slices to the oven and bake about 5 minutes per side. If you prefer harder biscotti, you may bake them longer. I prefer them softer. Sometimes I omit the second baking, since they will get a little harder after a day or two. Cool on wire racks.

— Dolores Sennebogen

### ▼ COOK’S TIP ▼



When flavoring your baked goods with vanilla extract, be sure to purchase pure vanilla extract. The artificially flavored extract is less expensive but quite inferior. There is a wide selection of other extracts to enhance your cookies, including almond, orange and anise. If a recipe calls for anise oil, it is not wise to substitute. The oil is much stronger in flavor.



# *Deep and diverse* ROOTS

by Nicola Orichuia

The Sicilian city of Modica is a unique example of cultural cross-pollination and adaptation. Scattered across a hillside in the southeastern part of the island, this municipality of over 50,000 has been around since the Neolithic period (3,000 B.C.), but didn't really see a boost in its development until the late Middle Ages.

The first traces of its written history go back to a period of Phoenician domination that ended with Rome's assault on nearby Siracusa in 213-212 B.C. Squabbles between local leaders, which even attracted the attention of Cicero, pushed the town to the verge of starvation after farmers were killed or forced

to flee the area.

After passing through the hands of Arabs and Normans, the city was held by various Spanish rulers for centuries. Modica gradually grew into a vital cultural epicenter, although one of the city's darkest moments took place in the same period. On August 15, 1474, when Christians celebrate the Day of the Assumption, an angry mob stormed the Jewish ghetto, killing at least 350 people. The massacre was the tipping point for many Jewish communities throughout the region, who had been isolated and persecuted, leading to a mass exodus from many towns, including Modica. During the 15th century,

many schools started sprouting around Modica, founded by various orders of monks. These attracted students from across Europe, and Modica grew to become the fourth largest academic center in Sicily.

After a long period of reconstruction following a devastating earthquake in 1693, Modica never fully regained its status, but remained an important destination for learning. Nowadays, the city is renown for its chocolate, which is still produced following an ancient Aztec tradition imported by Modica's Spanish rulers. The city recently requested a protected status for its chocolate from the European Union.







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