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at the Mid-Year Board Meeting*



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Italy Celebrates National Day

Italy, the land of the Renaissance, the birthplace of the modern world, and the cradle of Western civilization, celebrates its National Day on June 2nd. The day is marked by a series of events, including parades, fireworks, and the raising of the Italian flag. The flag, which is a vertical tricolor of green, white, and red, is a symbol of the Italian people's unity and pride. The day is also a time for reflection on the country's rich history and culture. Italy's National Day is a celebration of the nation's identity and a reminder of the values that have shaped the country over the centuries.

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La Festa Della Mamma

See story on Page 15



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July 27-31, 2022: 99th UNICO National Convention
 July 26-30, 2023: 100th UNICO National Convention

For more events, visit www.UNICO.org

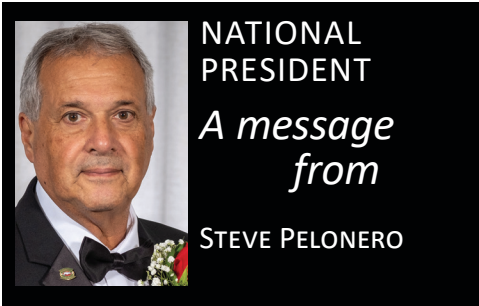
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**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT**

*A message
from*

STEVE PELONERO

Ciao everyone. As UNICO National is still moving forward, we hope that your chapters and districts are doing the same. I cannot thank you enough for the invitations and hospitality. Please stay in touch with the National office with your monthly reports as we do want to hear from you, just as I am sure that you like to hear from your families and to make sure that everything is ok.

We are now approaching the warmer months which means that we will probably be outdoors more in our personal lives, and also with our chapter events such as golf outings, bocce tournaments and more. Also just around the corner will be our Brian Piccolo and Scholarship Dinners which is when we celebrate all of the work we do to give back to our communities. But on that note, please do not forget about the National and Foundation Charities that also make a huge difference in peoples' lives.

We just came back from a fantastic Mid-Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach, SC where we recognized two individuals for what they have done and still do: Dr. Domenico Pratico for his research in trying to find a cure and reason for people with Alzheimers; and a UNICO National President's Award was presented to Joseph Moglia for his Distinguished Leadership. It was great to see everyone again and I cannot thank you enough for your attendance there. At the Board Meeting on Saturday morning, we approved a new Executive Director to replace Sal Benvenuti as he officially retires at the end of the 99th annual convention, in New Orleans, on July 31st. His replacement is Melanie Naro and she will start the training / learning process on April 1st.

Congratulations to Fr. Robert Wolfee, from the Rutherford Chapter, for being selected as our Vastola Awardee. And another congratulations to Granby Chapter member, Brian Guarco, for being selected to receive our Cianci Award. Both will be honored at the Convention in New Orleans

As you should have already known, we have hired a consultant, John Marino, to help us grow within our organization. He is doing a fantastic job and has already taken us to a new level.

I want to thank all the members and chapters who donated to the Mayfield, KY Tornado Relief Fund where we collected and have sent them over \$7,000 to help the families in need of food and clothes and to help them get their lives back together again. On that note, we are also currently looking into helping with what is happening in Ukraine. More information will soon follow.

On a final note, as the 2023 UNICO Calendar Chair, we are now taking pledges for sponsors which helps support our Heritage with the dates and photos that appear in it. Your chapter, district, or even your own personal name can appear in it just by calling the National Office with your pledge.

I cannot thank you all enough again for your dedication to UNICO and wish you all well. Let's stay united, be neighborly, have integrity, be charitable and give others opportunity. God bless us all.



**EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT**

*A message
from*

DR. PETER PETTINATO

In a rare confluence of circumstance, I find myself revered by one meteorological service and reviled by another. The folks in Myrtle Beach seemed to welcome my visit last week; while here at home, they wish I wouldn't attend another UNICO Mid Year Board Meeting. The prior week Myrtle Beach was

dealing with temperatures approaching 90 degrees and the threat of a drought. Shortly after my arrival, the temperature dropped like a rock and the rain fell in buckets. Meanwhile, for the second time, as soon as I left home for the Mid Year Board Meeting, a winter storm dumped half a ton of snow all over north-eastern Pennsylvania. The upside of all of this is that we once again conducted an in-person Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting.

Unlike the last two years, when we just sat in front of our computers at home, we gathered in Myrtle Beach, SC last week for a good old-fashioned Board Meeting. Over the course of a couple of days, our budgets were reviewed and revised; we selected winners of our Armed Services, Cianci, Rizzuto, and Vastola awards; The Foundation Trustees met and awarded monies to worthy charities; we chartered our course for the coming months with an eye on the coming years and, over a delicious meal, we honored a trailblazing leader and celebrated our distinguished Marconi Award winner. It was my distinct pleasure to introduce to UNICO National the world-renowned Alzheimer's disease researcher, Dr. Domenico Pratico.

If all of this sounds like fun, you're right. It certainly was. I hope you were there and enjoyed it as much as I did. If you missed out, there's one more chance to experience first hand all that UNICO has to offer. Make plans to attend our annual convention this year in New Orleans, LA. The Convention Committee is hard at work planning a memorable week in the Big Easy just for you. UNICO National's charity and generosity will be on full display, as well as its well-documented ability to celebrate with the best of them. You'll enjoy an ice breaker tailgate party, the black tie gala, and be part of the kick off of UNICO National's 100th anniversary. You can find the Convention and Hotel registration forms and information in the next few pages of the magazine. I look forward to seeing you there. Ci vediamo.



FIRST VICE
PRESIDENT
*A message
from*

CAV. RALPH A.
CONTINI

As I write this report, we are marking the second anniversary of the onset of Covid. Thankfully, there is reason for hope and optimism as the virus diminishes in its strength and potency. I am especially happy that we were able to conduct the Mid-Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach, in person. The very productive meeting was followed on Saturday evening with a memorable event recognizing two accomplished Italian American leaders: Joe Moglia and Dr. Domenico Pratico.

It continues to be my hope to work with the District Governors to strengthen the District Governor core and revitalize nonfunctioning and dormant districts. To that end, our work is ongoing. As we congratulate Melanie Naro on her appointment by the Board of Directors as Executive Director of UNICO National, we have now identified a new District Governor candidate in PA District I to replace her. Additionally, on March 2nd, we called for and facilitated a reorganization meeting of NJ District IX hosted by the Westwood Chapter at which time, a new District Governor was installed.

We have an ongoing initiative to encourage District Governors to file reports electronically through the UNICO National website. I also want to take this opportunity to remind the Chapters to financially support their respective District Governors.

At the recent Mid-Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach, I hosted a very productive and interactive District Governors Forum. Since the future of any organization is based on its ability to grow and retain what it possesses, this area was one of a number of topics discussed. Also, at the Board Meeting, with the concurrence

of the district governors, we submitted a proposal to streamline and eliminate the two positions of Alternate Deputy District Governor. We requested to have the Board sponsor the amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee proposed two amendments and the Board agreed to present the amendments at the upcoming convention.

Earlier in the year, I assisted with the transition and management of the website home page to the National Office. More recently, the online giving button was changed to UNICO National rather than UNICO Foundation. The website needs overall revamping to be more responsive by allowing members to register, pay, and be responsive on all devices: laptop, phone, and tablet. We believe that content and administration of the website should be centralized in the National Office.

The Cliffside Park Chapter's reorganization has been completed. During this time, eleven new members were installed, and I had the honor of swearing in a new Chapter President.

Please join me in congratulating the Elmwood Park Chapter of NJ District VII and Expansion Director Joe Nasello on their recent chartering. It is always noteworthy when a new chapter is chartered, but this was a special event since this Chapter's membership is mostly young men and women. This young, youthful now "Model Youth Chapter" is exactly what UNICO has needed.

Ciao for now and "Sempre Avanti!"



SECOND VICE
PRESIDENT

*A message
from*

ANTHONY
BENGIVENGA

Spring is finally here and the worst of the Pandemic seems far behind us. It's time to celebrate the 100th year of UNICO with passion. Remember, from one chapter in Waterbury CT in 1922, we

have expanded to over almost 100 chapters today. This year will be a year to celebrate all our accomplishments. I am so proud and honored to serve as your Second Vice President during our Centennial. We can and should be so proud of our continued missions of the promotion of our Italian culture and language, as well as our generous charity work both locally and nationally.

This past winter I was honored to represent UNICO National and the Plainfields' chapter during the Sister-City ceremonies held in the region of Isola Bergamasca in the province of Bergamo, Italy. In December I was invited to bring a volunteer firefighter to the ceremonies. Firefighter Allison Kreiss along with UNICANS Mario Massa and Cristina Leone Massa accompanied me to Bergamo. We met with the mayors of various towns, and we were honored to speak at a prestigious firefighter ceremony on Dec 8. I gave Italy-USA flag friendship pins to all the Italian firefighters at the event. The Italian firefighters promised to reciprocate by coming to NJ in the next year. Sister-City pacts with towns in Italy can bring a lot of positive publicity to your UNICO chapter. If your chapter would like to start a similar sister-city pact with a town in Italy, please let me know and I'll guide you in the process.

Our local chapters throughout the USA are the very backbone of our organization. Please continue to submit your chapter reports via the UNICO National website, since it allows me to keep close track of the work that our family of chapters are doing. The form is available on our website www.unico.org in the "members section" and can be filled out on any laptop and submitted by email. Please don't hesitate to contact me personally or the national office if you need help in finding and submitting this electronic form. If your chapter has any concerns at all or if you have any recommendations, please reach out to me by email or phone. Please know that our National officers are here to listen to our membership and to serve you. Not long ago I reached out by email to every chapter

president and was happy to hear back from many of you. We should always look positive to share information with each other so that we keep our UNICO family strong and vibrant.

Please let me know if you would like me to attend any of your events and I will be so happy to participate depending on my schedule. My email is anthony@bengivenga.com and my tel is (732) 310 6031. Baci e abbracci. A big hug to all.



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

Try Our Quiz!

Do you recognize any of these people? I suspect you will know them all.

Born in Buffalo, NY he grew up in Raritan, NJ. He enlisted in the Army and was stationed in the Philippines. While there, he was a Golden Gloves champion fighting as “Manila John.” When discharged from the Army, he became a Marine. For his exceptional service on Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the Navy Cross and the Purple Heart. In recognition of his uncommon valor, he has been honored with numerous memorials including: a US Navy destroyer, a section of US Interstate 5, a road into Camp Pendleton, a football field, a New Jersey Turnpike bridge, statues in his likeness on both the East and West Coasts, a plaque at the Navy Memorial, DC, a US Postal Service stamp, a museum and a Marine Detachment. He was featured in the comic book War Heroes “Manila John Moves Out.”

Answer: Gunnery Sergeant John Basilone

He was a native of Scranton, PA. In 1932 he began a family medical practice while preparing to specialize. He continued his studies at Manhattan


Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, NY, Hahnemann Medical College, PA and the University of Vienna, Austria. An active volunteer, he served on the Board of Directors of the Association of the Blind, the Scranton Lions Club, the Scranton Elks and the Mental Health Association. A founder of Scranton UNICO, he signed the chapter application in 1955. He was instrumental in establishing the chapter scholarship program. He served as Scranton Chapter President in 1962-63 and as UNICO National President in 1971. Thanks to his generous donation, the National Foundation established our medical scholarship.

Answer: Dr. Benjamin J. Cottone

An educator and coach, he was Assistant Superintendent of Schools in St. Paul. This Minnesota native has been described as a man of outstanding integrity and unshakeable independence of thought. He was a strong proponent of freedom of speech. He had a deep concern for and commitment to the welfare of youth. A member of the Italian American Civic League, he was a driving force in designing a merger with UNICO. Subsequent to the formation of UNICO National, he was elected to serve as president in 1947. He has been called the father of the UNICO National Scholarship Program. He is credited with establishing an important connection between the Italian Americans of Minnesota and others of like heritage nationwide.

Answer: William C. Davini

How did you do? I’m sure it didn’t take long to figure out where this was going. All answers represent those remarkable individuals that the early UNICO National Scholarships were named to honor. Certainly, you will agree that their contributions are extremely worthy of recognition.

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

In St. Mark’s gospel account of Jesus’ resurrection, he tells us that Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to Jesus’ tomb very early on that Sunday morning so they could anoint his body. When Jesus died, they felt that their world had fallen apart. All they had left were precious memories. They not only felt grief because of Jesus’ death but they also thought that the kingdom he had represented was defeated as well.

So, they went to his tomb to anoint his body in preparation for his final burial. They had a duty to perform, or, should we say, a simple act of kindness to render. On the way there, they worried about how they were going to remove the giant stone that guarded the tomb. When they arrived, they were amazed to see that the tomb was wide open. When they entered, their sense of defeat increased because Jesus’ body was gone. Then a young man inside the tomb told them even more amazing news: Jesus had been raised from the dead! However, the young man did not give them time to react to this startling news. Instead, he told them to go and tell the disciples, including Peter, that Jesus was going ahead of them to Galilee.

We can only imagine what raced through the women’s minds as they raced back to the disciples. The message of Easter is Jesus did not suffer defeat and he did not abandon his disciples. He is on the road ahead of us. We are called to go out and meet him. We are called to tell others that Jesus, the light of the world, has conquered the darkness of sin and evil. We are called to help disperse the darkness around us. Every day, our actions in the workplace, in our com-

munities, in our homes and among our neighbors, clearly indicate whether or not we truly are followers of Jesus and are committed to continuing his mission.

With all that is going on in the world today, now is as good a time as any for us to go and tell our suffering world that hope is not lost. Jesus' Resurrection made it possible for all of us to have eternal life, and that is more than enough reason to rejoice!



HERITAGE & CULTURE
A message from
MARY TERESA MORRISON

In the previous issue I wrote about the many men and women who, as Nobel laureates, honored our Italian heritage throughout the 20th Century to the present. It was suggested that I do the same for Baseball. However, Italian Americans have excelled in so many sports, I hesitate to name any lest I omit your favorite. But here are a few names that you might recognize: Vince Lombardi, Rocky Marciano, Eddie Arcaro, Joe Montana, Mario Andretti, Yogi Berra, Joe DiMaggio, Tony Conigliaro (possibly a relative) and many more. There are extensive lists and information available. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to "Google" the Italian American Sports Hall of Fame or your favorite sport and be ready to spend a few hours in delightful reading.

Now, let's get back to Baseball! Although there were precursors, Tony Lazzeri is remembered as the first star of Italian descent in Major League Baseball (1926-1937); he inspired a generation of rather skeptical and uninterested immigrants and served as a role model in helping to overcome stereotypes. Baseball allowed Italian Americans to assimilate into popular culture. (There is a great article on Tony written by PNP Sal Mangano on our UNICO website.)

A 35-page site can be found online

based on a book written by Lawrence Baldessaro ("Beyond DiMaggio Italian Americans in Baseball") with references to the "Italian American Baseball Family" - an award winning documentary, and a 2nd book by the same author ("Baseball Italian Style").

The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY has recognized many Italian Americans who have excelled in all aspects of the sport, on the field, in coaching, management, broadcasters, etc. There are modern day heroes as well as legends.

Do they play baseball in Italy? It is said that it began during WW II when GIs taught and played baseball with local children. In 1948, the 1st championship was held with the prize being called "lo scudetto". The team divisions are similar to those of Italian soccer. The "Italy Team" manager is our own Mike Piazza, who needs no introduction. Please consult "Baseball in Italy" written by Michael San Filippo. It even contains Italian baseball terms!



EXPANSION DIRECTOR
A message from
JOE NASELLO

I just want to keep everyone updated about all the exciting expansion news! I recently chartered the Elmwood Park Chapter. They are a young and vibrant group of individuals full of wonderful ideas and wanting to preserve their Italian heritage. I'm also looking forward to chartering a Greater Orlando chapter the end the March.

I am working on other leads as well in different areas across the states. I recently had the pleasure to participate in the re-organization of the Cliffside Park chapter.

It was great seeing all my UNICO family at the midyear convention in South Carolina. I look forward to the convention in New Orleans in July.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime. My passion and determination allows me to give expansion 100% of my total commitment.

And my sincere appreciation and gratitude for those who stand with me, supporting me and the new chapters through the entire expansion process .



MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION
A message from
NICOLINA CARPINELLI

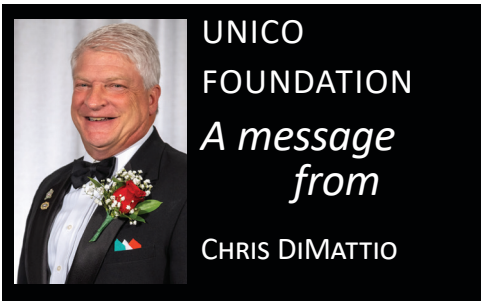
We are now in the season of rebirth and growth. Spring forward, spring cleaning, and letting the fresh air in. With the warmer days we have a renewed energy. We need to put all of this renewed energy to good use and let us try to get UNICO back on track.

Let us think of new ways to attract new members. Ask your members for new ideas and how they would like to spring forward in their chapter activities. Reach out to past members and ask how they are doing? Would they like to rejoin the chapter and if not, ask why?

We need to let go of some of the old ideas and bring new ones in! When members are happy they are productive. That means more enthusiasm for the chapter events. It's important to remember that no idea is a bad idea! Our goal is to be more creative and productive in moving forward.

I would like to thank the North Shore Long Island Chapter for sharing some of their great ideas. Without sharing and staying stuck we will never advance and grow and that is not what we want.

As always, I am available to answer any questions you may have or attend your chapter activities including special events, meetings, open houses, membership drives or heritage nights. Feel free to reach me via email at ncarpinelli06@gmail.com.



**UNICO
FOUNDATION**
*A message
from*
CHRIS DIMATTIO

ITALIAN STUDIES FUNDS in NEED

It is in higher education that UNICO National has established itself as a true leader of the Italian American community. In 1986, UNICO Districts and Chapters were asked to support the creation of the first Endowed Chair in Modern Italian History in the United States, at the University of Connecticut. Since that time, UNICO National has helped endow several other permanent curriculums at universities in New York, New Jersey, Illinois, and California. Various chapters have created permanent programs at other schools.

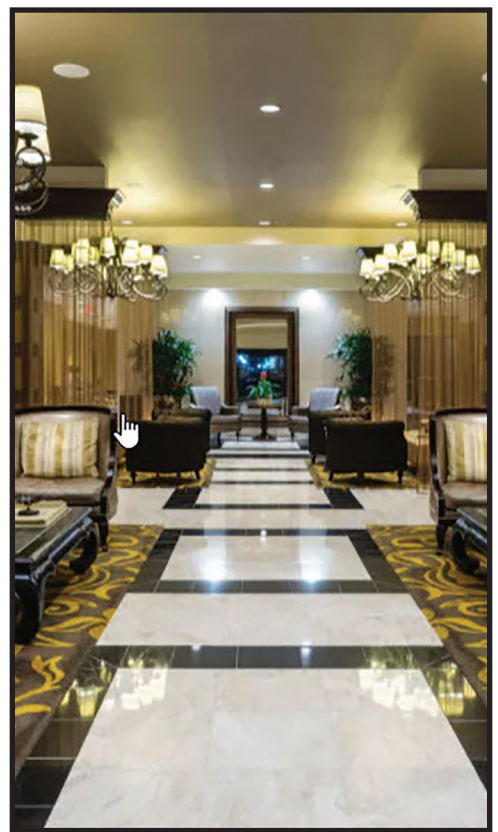
UNICO Districts, Chapters, and Members have been extremely generous these past years with providing financial support to many charities in need, especially during the pandemic. However, one fund that has slipped under the radar of receiving annual gifts is the fund for Italian Studies. As we enter our 100th year since our founding, let's remember one of the important reasons why UNICO National was created: "To ensure that the rest of society would come to know and understand the real contributions of Italian Americans".

So, we're asking again. At this year's Convention in New Orleans during the time when many of our Chapters and Districts are presenting checks to our charities, I sincerely hope that there is an enthusiastic response for our Italian Studies. Once received, funds will be granted to several organizations that will surely enhance the appreciation of our heritage for generations to come. One of these is the Italian and Italian American Studies Program at Florida Atlantic University where our Highland Beach Chapter has been actively involved.

Anyone reading this column should be aware of the negative stereotyping our heritage has faced especially in recent years. So, one would agree that education is the "key" to properly appreciating the Italian American culture. Please remind your chapters and districts to set aside a few dollars to assist with this important part of UNICO especially during this our Centennial year by contributing to the Italian Studiers Fund. As always, please feel free to contact me or any Foundation Trustee with any questions.

Attenzione!

Interspersed throughout this issue will be pictures of the host hotel for the 2022 National Convention: the OMNI Royal Orleans in New Orleans (see below). Hotel and Convention registration forms can be found on pages 10 and 11.



The Deadline for
the
July 2022 issue
is
June 17, 2022

Send all
submissions
to
comunico@unico.org

“Service Above Self”

Board of Directors Approves Melanie Naro as New Executive Director

Melanie Naro was approved as the new Executive Director by the Board of Directors at the Mid-Year meeting in Myrtle Beach. Melanie is a long time member of UNICO (Scranton Chapter) and brings a wealth of experience and qualifications to the job. Melanie will take over as Executive Director after the 2022 Convention but will start working as of April 1st in order to get familiar with the functions and procedures of the position. Melanie comes to the position with both a legal and financial background, and experience with non-profit organizations. She also has experience with compliance requirements for both Federal and State regulations.



***Melanie Naro, with soon to be retired Executive Director
Sal Benvenuti, at the Mid Year.***

“I am incredibly honored to be hired as the Executive Director. I look forward to working with the National Executive Committee, Board of Directors, PNPs, chapters, and office staff. I am very proud to be a member of UNICO and equally proud of my Italian heritage. The fact that I now have a job in an Italian American organization is a dream come true!”



UNICO NATIONAL
99TH ANNUAL CONVENTION 2022
CELEBRATION OF OUR 100TH YEAR

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UNICO NATIONAL 2022

99th Annual Convention

Celebration of our 100th Year

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621 St. Louis Street, New Orleans, LA 70130

JULY 27 to JULY 31, 2022

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(If spouse is a member, please complete a separate form)

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City, State, Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone # _____

Children Attending – name(s) and age(s) _____

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

FEES AND CHARGES

PER PERSON

CHILDREN (12 & under)

• **Convention Package Includes:**

\$350.00

\$50.00

Registration

Wednesday Night Icebreaker with Cocktail Hour

Saturday Inaugural Gala with Cocktail Hour

Please advise if you have any dietary restrictions or food allergies. Yes No

If yes, please specify _____

Number of Adults _____ X \$350 = \$ _____

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• **Registration Only** (For Members not taking the Convention Package) **\$125.00**

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UNICO NATIONAL CONVENTION 2022

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

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Elmwood Park, NJ Charter Night



It was a night to remember for the Nicastro family as Past National President Dominick Nicastro swore in his son, Louis, as the President at the Elmwood Park New Jersey chapter's Charter Night. Not only is Louis the Charter President but daughter Maria will serve as chapter Secretary. Expansion Director Joe Nasello emceed the event that was attended by many national officers, Past National Presidents, and other chapter members as they welcomed this young group to the UNICO family. National President Steve Pelonero said "It was an honor, and a sincere pleasure, to welcome into our UNICO family the Elmwood Park chapter. Our new chapter is a young and energetic group led by Louis Nicastro. I want to thank our Expansion Director Joe Nasello for the time spent putting this charter together, especially with the setbacks caused by the pandemic. I wish the chapter the best, and I am sure that with their desire to show their heritage, and the willingness to help others, that they will be a success." Joe Nasello added "It was great to get this chapter off the ground and see these young people embrace their Italian heritage. They have a lot of plans for events and I'm very excited to see what they accomplish."

Photo Credits: Allan Focarino, PERDG



Elmwood Park, NJ Charter Night



PNPs Lee Norelli and Rick D'Arminio, Expansion Director Joe Nasello, Chapter President Louis Nicastro, PNPs Dominick Nicastro and Joe Agresti, and National President Steve Pelonero.



Executive Vice President Peter Pettinato says hello to PNPs Lee Norelli and Rick D'Arminio.



Membership and Retention Chair Nicki Carpinelli with First Vice President Ralph Contini.



Elmwood Park members pose with their new charter.

“On behalf of the Elmwood Park UNICO Chapter, I want to thank all who attended our charter night. We are honored to carry on the UNICO legacy of service in our community and hope to provide a blueprint on how to build the next generation of Unicans to keep this great organization alive for future generations. Our chapter is looking forward to putting our UNICO motto “Service Above Self” at the forefront of our endeavors. There is much work to be done, but we can do so while also enjoying the rich Italian culture we all share.”

Chapter President Louis Nicastro



Many National Officers, PNPs, and office staff attended the event.



President Steve pinning some of the new members.

Elmwood Park, NJ Charter Night



Eastern Regional District Governor Steve Calantone with wife JulieAnne.



Maria Nicastro Conn with Nicki Carpinelli



Sal and Val Militello



Expansion Director Joe Nasello pins one of the new members.



Allan Focarino, his Dad Ben Focarino, and First Vice President Ralph Contini.

Elmwood Park, NJ Charter Night



The Nicastro family with President Steve Pelonero and Expansion Director Joe Nasello.



PNP Dominick Nicastro

“After being a long time member of Garfield UNICO, and Past National President; it was immensely important for me to believe in, and represent what UNICO stands for. Not only to us as individuals, but also collectively as a group. It was always a dream of mine to have my children involved in UNICO. I am incredibly proud to have my son Louis, as President of the Elmwood Park UNICO chapter. It was a tremendous honor for me to install him as President. I am also very pleased to have my other three children involved in the Elmwood Park UNICO. I’m looking forward to the future--when my sons get married, have children of their own, and ongoing future generations. It is refreshing to see all of these young adults wanting to be part of a community and serve those in need. It is especially comforting to see young adults wanting to hold onto, and further develop their Italian heritage, the traditions and values bestowed upon them through their families. It is a true privilege to pass the torch to my son. I am grateful and blessed. I wish immense success to the Elmwood Park chapter.”



District Governor Marie Sollmi makes a presentation to the chapter members.



The Garfield chapter sponsored Elmwood Park.

Scranton Charity Ball



Scranton UNICAN of the Year Jim Brogna and family.



The 63rd Annual Charity Ball Committee



National officers and Past National Presidents pose with honoree Jim Brogna.



Mary Ann Rubin, Chair of the 63rd annual Scranton UNICO Charity Ball.



Chapter President Ann Genett and family.



The Blasi family

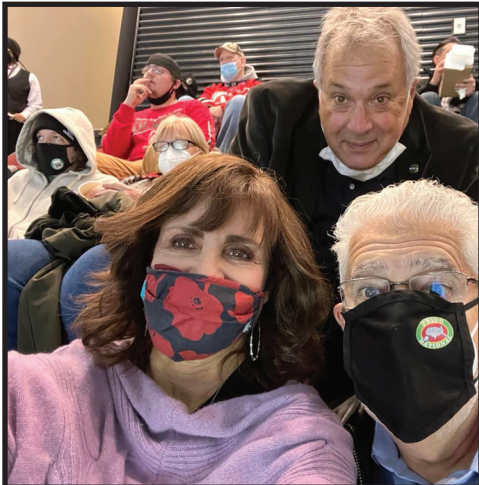


UNICO New Jersey Devils Hockey Night

For the third time, UNICO teamed with the New Jersey Devils to offer members a great night out of hockey at the Prudential Center in Newark. President Steve Pelonero, First Lady Pat, and First Son, Steven, joined almost 40 other Unicans to enjoy a well deserved break from the business of UNICO. Each attendee received a



Devils drawstring bag and \$20 in vouchers for food and beverage with their ticket. After the game the group had a picture taken on the ice. PNP Tom Vaughan is already working with the Devils for next year's game. You don't want to miss out!



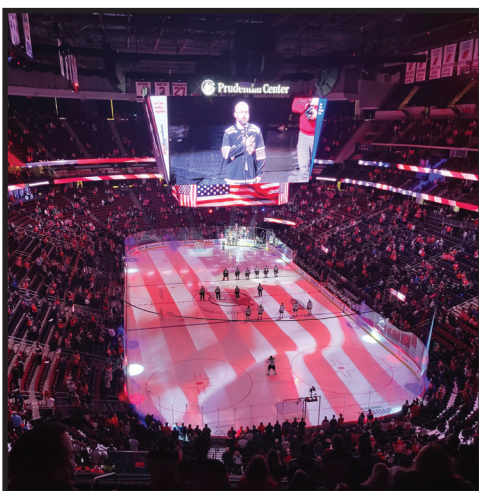
President Steve “photobombing” National Secretary Lou Mattaliano and Sherrylynn Trotta.



PNP Tom Vaughan, who organized the event, with New Jersey Devils Account Executive Logan Tutt. Tom and Logan made sure everyone had a good time.



The First Family made an appearance on the Jumbotron at the game.



Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting

Much UNICO business was conducted, and much fun was had, by UNICO members at this year's Mid Year Board of Director's meeting. The highlight of the weekend were the awarding of the Marconi Award to Dr. Domenico Pratico' and the Presidential Leadership Award to Joe Moglia. You can read about those on the following pages. National President Steve Pelonero led the business of UNICO at the meetings where it was announced that funding for grants directed for Cancer Research and Prevention (\$50,000), Food Shelters (\$11,500) and Mental Health (\$8,150) were awarded. The Board also approved the Personnel Committee's selection of Melanie Naro as our next Executive Director (pg. 9). The weekend wrapped up with a wonderful evening of dining, dancing, and awards presentations on Saturday Night.



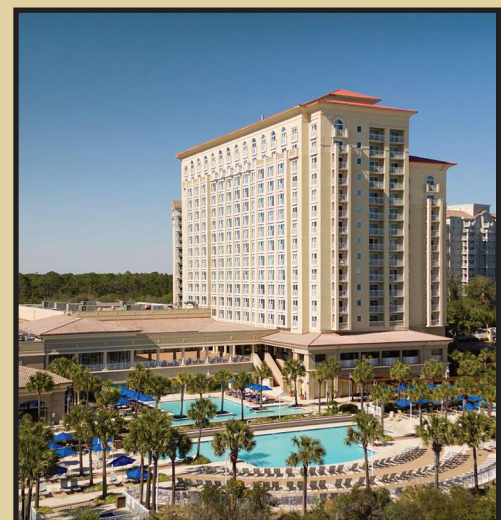
Joe Moglia receiving the Presidential "Distinguished Leadership Award". On the left is Coastal Carolina President Emeritus Dr. David DeCenzo who introduced Joe. On the right National President Steve Pelonero.



National President Steve Pelonero is ready to start the Board meeting.



Dr. Domenico Pratico' posing with his family and National President Steve Pelonero and First Lady Pat. Dr. Pratico's family include his wife Barbara, daughter Anna, and son Alfredo.



Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting



Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting

UNICO National's Celebration of Italian American Excellence and Service to Others at the Mid-Year Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

Saturday night featured UNICO's National Awards Dinner where accomplished Italian American leaders were recognized for their success in their respective fields. It was a memorable event that was well attended by individuals coming from different parts of the nation to celebrate Italian American culture and heritage.

Joe Moglia, former chairman of the board and CEO at TD Ameritrade and head football coach at Coastal Carolina University (CCU) was recognized with the UNICO National Presidential Award for Distinguished Leadership. CCU president emeritus Dr. David DeCenzo presented the award to Mr. Moglia with CCU Athletic Director Matt Hogue also addressing the group.

The Marconi Science Award was presented to Dr. Domenico Praticò of Temple University, a neuropathologist, professor, and doctor who is an international expert on Alzheimer's Disease, dementia, and neurodegenerative aging.

The generous support of the event's sponsors helps UNICO fulfill its important mission. UNICO thanks our generous sponsors who helped to make this possible. UNICO sponsors include Mario Gabelli of Gamco Investors, television journalist Maria Bartiromo, professional sports executive Jerry Colangelo and JDM Partners, the New York Giants, Anthony Scaramucci and Skybridge Capital, Fordham Prep, Capital Wealth Investors, and Synovus Bank. We also thank our exclusive wine sponsor - D'Addario Wines of Puglia, Italy, and PNP Chris DiMattio who sponsored the cocktail hour and helped make this a memorable evening.



Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting



UNICO National is proud to recognize Joe Moglia with the

Presidential “Distinguished Leadership Award”

As the former chairman of the board at TD Ameritrade and the former head football coach of Coastal Carolina University, Joe Moglia has one of the most “unique resumes in modern business,” according to Forbes, and his tremendous success from the locker room to the board room provide invaluable lessons on strategic risk-taking and how to look at challenges with new perspective and leadership.

Joe is the chairman of Fundamental Global Investors and Capital Wealth Advisors, and chair of athletics and executive advisor to the president at Coastal Carolina University. Joe has also been a football coach for 25 years, but it’s not been a traditional 25 years. He began his career as a coach for 16 years, moved to the business world for over 20, and back to coaching in 2009. In his last 11 years of college coaching, he has been a part of eight championship teams, and as a head coach, has a winning percentage of .718. He has received multiple Coach of the Year honors, including the Eddie Robinson National Coach of the Year Award, was the recipient of the Vince Lombardi Award and inducted into the Lombardi Hall of Fame.

He has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Sharp Trophy for Leadership. He has been honored by the National Italian American Foundation, the Columbus Citizens Foundation, the American Institute for Stuttering and the Stuttering Association for the Young. Joe has been inducted into seven halls of fame, is a member of the National Economics Society and is the recipient of three honorary doctorates.



Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting



This prestigious award was created in 1995 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the first long-wave radio transmission by Guglielmo Marconi. After a diligent process utilizing an anonymous and an objective analysis, the Award Committee has selected a very deserving recipient for this year's award – Domenico Praticò, MD, FCPP. I would like to personally thank all UNICO members for continuing and enhancing the commemoration of this important UNICO Award. As a chemist, it is with pride that UNICO National recognizes the great contributions of Italian American physical scientists with this Award.

**Glenn P. Pettinato, PNP
Marconi Science Chair**

MARCONI SCIENCE AWARDEES

1995 Alfonso DiMino, Ph.D.
1996 Raymond Testa, Ph.D.
1997 Joseph Rando, Ph.D.
1998 Louis Guido Ph.D.
1999 Salvatore Sutera, Ph.D.
2000 Kevin D'Angelo, Ph.D.
2001 S. Vincent Grasso, DO.
2002 Peter Conti, MD, Ph.D.
2004 Valentino Stella, Ph.D..
2005 Giovanni Fazio, Ph.D.

2006 Vito DelVecchio, Ph.D.
2007 Frank A. DiBianca, Ph.D.
2008 Anthony Trozzolo, Ph.D.
2009 Riccardo Nissotti, Ph.D.
2010 Joseph A. Mule', Ph.D.
2011 Paul W. Richards, MS
2012 Victor F. Greco, MD
2013 Stephen J. DeFelice, MD
2014 Salvatore DiMauro, MD
2015 Piero Rinaldo, MD 2015

2016 Jon S. Odorico, MD
2017 Andrew DiRocco, Ph.D.
2018 Robert A. Sallavanti, Ph.D.
2019 Federico Capasso, Ph.D.
2020 Frank M. Cardullo, Ph.D.
2022 Domenico Praticò, MD, FCPP

Marconi Award Committee

Glenn Pettinato, PNP, Chair
Roseanne Buckleman
Elyse Buonomo
Louis DiMattio
Grace Gynn
William Mascetti
Joseph Pavano
Joan Tidona
Frank DeFrank MD, PNP

Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting

It is with great pride that UNICO National bestows the prestigious Marconi Award to an outstanding Italian American, Dr. Domenico Praticò



Domenico Praticò was born in 1962 in Brancaleone, a small town in Calabria by the Ionian Sea. He enrolled in the School of Medicine of the “Sapienza University” in Rome where he graduated first in his class and magna cum laude. Immediately after, as required by the law, he served in the Italian Army as a Lieutenant Doctor for 12 months. While serving in the Army, he started his residency in Internal Medicine at the “Policlinico Umberto I” Hospital in Rome. During these years, because of his interest in biomedical research he worked in a laboratory testing new drugs against stroke. In 1992 he left Italy for the University of Dublin, Ireland, where he worked at the Mater Misericordia Hospital. Two years later, he arrived in Philadelphia as post-doctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. During this time he published several important scientific articles and developed a new technique for measuring brain damage using biological samples (i.e., blood). At the end of his fellowship, Penn offered him an Assistant Professorship and Green Card status. In Philadelphia he met Barbara, the love of his life for the last 25 years and counting. They were married in Reggio Calabria and later blessed with two children: Alfredo and Anna.

In 2017, he was appointed as Director of the Alzheimer’s Center and named the Scott Richards North Star Chair for Alzheimer’s research. During this time, Domenico has gained international reputation for his work on Alzheimer’s disease. So far, he has published 285 articles and authored more than 30 chapters in thematic books. His work has been cited by other scientists around the world more than 44,000 times. Most recently, because of his publishing record, he was nominated as “World Expert in Alzheimer’s Disease research” by Expertscape, the global physician directory, putting him among the top 0.1 percent of Alzheimer’s scholars.



Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting



Photo Credits: Mike Spano, PNP

Mid Year Board of Directors Meeting



MANCHESTER, CT



Manchester warmly welcomes three additional members at their February dinner meeting. (L to R) Vice President Dolores Betti, new members: Judith Boyko, Marianne Policastro-Wik and Carol Cavaliere.

GARFIELD, NJ



Garfield President Charles Nucifora inducting new members Carol and Anthony Cornacchia.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL



Highland Beach Chapter has donated \$10,000 to a wonderful cause, "LOVE SERVING AUTISM". They work to reach children with this affliction using tennis. The founder, Lisa La Croix, is a former tennis pro. The photo shows Lisa receiving the first check of \$2,500 of the \$10,000 pledge. L to R: Lisa LaCroix. Chapter President Giulia Merklein, and Alexis Broussard of Love Serving Autism.

CEDAR GROVE, NJ



2nd Vice-President Anthony Bengivenga (center) and Raritan Valley Chapter President Tara DeLeon (far right) were guest speakers at the Easton, PA chapter's monthly meeting in March.

HAZLETON, PA



Hazleton Past Presidents Angelo Porreca and Danny DeMelfi install new member Brian DeFluri at the February meeting.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Raritan Valley chapter Vice President Donna Lish bought 2 dozen pairs of gloves and donated them on behalf of the chapter to the Somerset County Office of Veteran Services along with \$300 in gift cards.



NUTLEY, NJ



The February Nutley meeting featured a presentation by New Jersey State Police retired Staff Sgt. Billy Walsh and the drawing of the winners of the chapter’s annual raffle. National President, Steve Pelonero, and his wife, Pat, were also in attendance. In the above photo President Pelonero swore in new members Lorraine Belcuore, David Ingrassia, John Monaco, Basilio Vitale and Carlo Vitale. The top photo features the chapter’s Executive Committee. Winners of the raffle drawing were Phil Graffeo (1st prize - \$9,000), Jim DeLorenzo (2nd prize - \$3,000), Nella Cicchino (3rd prize - \$2,500), Anthony DePersio (4th prize - \$2,000) and Leini Petish (\$1,000). The remaining \$17,500 from the raffle goes to fund scholarships and chapter initiatives. Thanks to Tom Sposato, Sal Ferraro, and Mark DiMaggio for their hard work in coordinating this fund raiser.



GREATER HARTFORD, CT



Hartford UNICO cooks meatball grinders for clients at the warming center in Hartford. Hunger does not take a snow day!

PITTSFIELD, MA



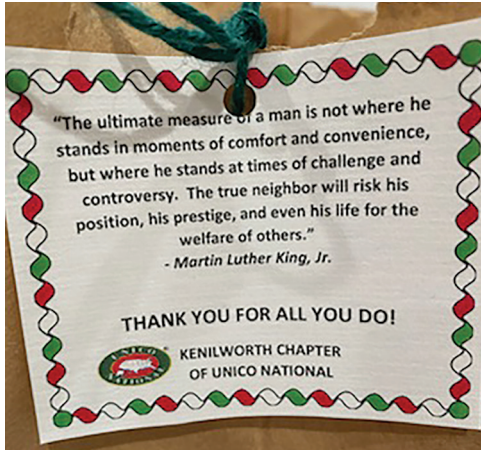
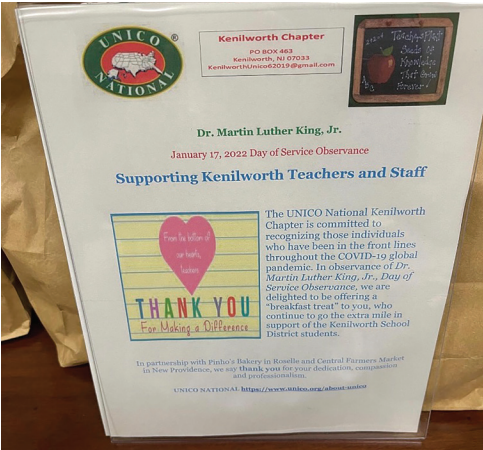
Pittsfield UNICO members volunteering at the Berkshire Vaccine Collaborative. Roberta Bianco, Lori Borelli, Sally Shepard, Linda O’Brien, and Lorraine Moresi.



The Pittsfield chapter recently held their Annual Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame induction. The Inductees for the Class of 2021 are from I-r, Jaclyn Candelet, Don Lucy, Judy Tierney-Nichols, Glenn Gagliardi and Bob Drury.

KENILWORTH, NJ

The Kenilworth chapter collected and donated snack bags to local educators for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service 2022. They did this to honor all Kenilworth School District teachers and staff. Members of the chapter sought to actualize Dr. King’s vision by partnering with neighbors, friends, colleagues, and local businesses to strengthen its connection with the Kenilworth School District. In partnership with Pinho’s Bakery in Roselle and Central Farmers Market in New Providence, they conveyed appreciation for the Kenilworth educators’ dedication, compassion, persistence, and creativity.



GREATER TAMPA, FL



Executive Director Sal Benvenuti participated in the Greater Tampa chapter’s bocce tournament. Holding the banner are Frank Ubaldini, Sal, and chapter President Michael Salierno.

CARBONDALE, PA



Chapter President Mary Lynn Brannon and National Executive Vice President Peter Pettinato present Louis Parise with the 50-year member’s pin.



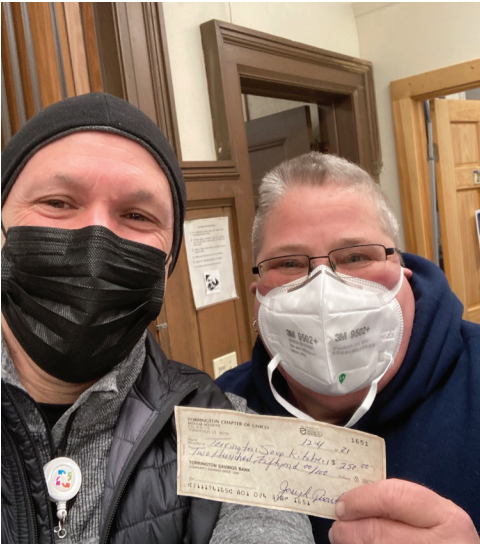
Carbondale chapter supports the Unified Bocce team at Carbondale Area School District. Special Olympics Unified Sports spreads the message of inclusion within the school. Head Coach Samantha Masco accepts a check from Carbondale Chapter President Mary Lynn Brannon as team members and chapter members, Yvonne Gatto, Patti Morrell, Angel Masco, and Ann Boyle gather to support the team.



Roxanne Farber is sworn into the Carbondale Chapter by Mary Lynn Brannon.

TORRINGTON, CT

Torrington chapter President Brian Mattiello presents checks top to bottom: Lisa Hagaman of the Torrington Soup Kitchen, Deirdre DiCara of FISH, and Karen Scarfo Thomas of Friendly Hands Food Bank.



GREATER RAMSEY, NJ



The Greater Ramsey chapter recently celebrated their 15th anniversary. From left: Marie Anaya, Elaine Muzzillo, Diane Noto, Ron Targove, Maria Arrabito, Chapter President Aurelius Licata, Steven and Pat Pelonero, National President and First Lady, Ralph Contini First Vice President, and Maria-Rose Contini.



Past First Ladies Manuela D'Arminio and May D'Arminio.



National President Steven Pelonero and Aurelius Licata, Chapter President



Roberta and Jim Kleinbard, Ron and Rose Targove.



President Aurelius Licata and Eric Jachzel. Eric was sponsored by Greater Ramsey for his Eagle Scout Project at the Woodlands Senior living building.

CEDAR GROVE, NJ



March 4, 2022 THE UNICO CHALLENGE
Our Three Sons Stable LLC, Upland Farm & Stephen M. Smith Purse \$15,500
Steve Smith, Driver Pace 1 Mile 1:52.0
Karin Garland, Trainer Keep Rockin' A Zed
© Lisa Photo, Inc. Meadowlands A Better Game 3rd



Cedar Grove UNICO had their 3rd annual Night at The Races At The Meadowlands Race Track March 4th. It was a chance for members and family and friends to get out and have a good time at the track (and lighten our collective wallets!). Left to right, after the jockey are chapter members John Borgese, Greg Tufaro, Bill Dipietro, Lou Serafini and Steve Destefano.

GRANBY, CT



Here's a photo from a recent Granby UNICO chapter meeting. For their monthly Italian Heritage presentation, they had 92-year-old identical twin sisters Bambina Grimaldi and Virginia Valente, talk about their family, who immigrated from Pratola Peligna in Abruzzo, Italy. They served the chapter their homemade pizzelles and entertained them with an Italian song, L'Amore dami L'Fazzolatina. They are the mother and Aunt of chapter member Tom Grimaldi.

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ



Cristina Massa (2nd from left) is sworn in by 2nd Vice President UNICO National Anthony Bengivenga (left) as Greater Westfield Chapter president Robert Tarte looks on. Cristina's husband, member Mario Massa (second from right), and Chapter Vice President Myriam Restrepo witness the swearing-in ceremony.



Greater Westfield chapter members in attendance at their March meeting at Romola's restaurant in Cranford, NJ.

MANCHESTER, CT



Manchester warmly welcomes three additional members at their February dinner meeting. (L to R) Vice President Dolores Betti, new members: Judith Boyko, Marianne Policastro-Wik and Carol Cavaliere.

KEYSTONE, PA



Keystone UNICO sponsored a Saint Patrick's Day Bingo Party at the Gino Merli Veterans' Center of Northeastern PA. Due to covid restrictions, Keystone members were not allowed to be in person at the Bingo, as they have participated these past 10 years. At the presentation, from left are Bob Tagert; Margo Coleman; Mark McDade; Pam Wood, Janice McAllister; Frank Coviello, Val Riggi, President Mary Ann Coviello, Marilyn Vitali, and Louise Ligi.



The Keystone chapter conducted a Saint Patrick's Day Theme at their March meeting at Arcaro and Genell restaurant in Old Forge. Included in the agenda was the February Lottery Seller's Grand Prize Ticket Drawing. Pictured is dinner guest Tina Haas pulling the winner's name with Lottery Chairman Mark McDade.

NUTLEY, NJ

Due to Editor error, the submissions by the Nutley chapter, intended for the January issue, are published below. Our apologies.



The Nutley chapter celebrated Italian Heritage Month with a wreath laying ceremony at the Columbus statue at Nutley Town Hall, followed by the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade. Several members also participated in the NY Columbus Day Parade.



Several new members were sworn in at the October monthly meeting. Membership Chair Cathy Marucci on the left and President Vito Maturro on the right.



Nutley Bocce tournament winners: Lenny Guglielmello, Carlo Vitale, Leo Vitale, and Tom Sposato.



Sal Corvino (left), Pasquale Pisani, and Bob Solimo with a little female help at the Nutley Bocce Tournament.



Nutley member John Cafone doing double duty as the DJ and singer at the annual Christmas Party.

PLAINFIELDS, NJ

In December the Plainfields’ Chapter of UNICO and South Plainfield, NJ continued their Sister-City cultural exchange with the Isola Bergamasca in the Bergamo region of Italy which was initiated in 2008. This year, the Isola Bergamasca Volunteer Fire Department of Bergamo Italy invited Second Vice President Anthony Bengivenga to bring a volunteer firefighter from South Plainfield for their annual firefighter’s anniversary ceremony on Dec 8 in Italy. South Plainfield Firefighter Allison Kreiss attended with Anthony, and both spoke to all the volunteers, guests and mayors of the 22 communities of the Bergamo area. They also met with the mayors of Terno D’Isola and Medolago, Italy on separate days of the journey to discuss future student and cultural exchanges, which had been interrupted by the Pandemic. Accompanying Anthony and Allison were Greater Westfield Chapter UNICANS Mario Massa and Cristina Leone Massa.



Meeting and speeches with Mayor Gianluca Sala of Terno D’Isola (Bergamo) and officials at the Terno town hall, as South Plainfield Past Firechief Larry Del-Negro zoomed live from NJ on the video monitor from behind all the speakers. Gifts were exchanged between Second Vice President Anthony Bengivenga and Mayor Gianluca Sala.



At the Isola Bergamasca Firefighter’s Ceremony in Madone (Bergamo) Italy. L-R Giacomo Pedrini; South Plainfield NJ Firefighter Allison Kreiss; Mayor Alessandro Medolago; UNICO Second Vice President Anthony Bengivenga; Westfield UNICAN Mario Massa.



Meeting with Mayor Alessandro Medolago of the community of Medolago (Bergamo) Italy. Left to Right: Westfield UNICAN Mario Massa; Giacomo Pedrini; Second Vice President Anthony Bengivenga; Mayor Alessandro Medolago; Westfield UNICAN Cristina Leone Massa.

SCRANTON, PA



UNICO Scranton recently donated baby and children’s clothing, diapers and baby items to Saint Joseph’s Center Baby and Children’s Pantry. Patti Montalbano and Jo Ann Verduce, President, Ladies Auxiliary delivering the donation to Mary Griffin, Outreach Coordinator.



The Ladies Auxiliary of the Scranton Chapter held a Spring Raffle Fundraiser to benefit local charities: Chapter President Ann Genett, Diane Alberigi, Mary Marrara, Chairperson, Lori Nozzi, and Ladies Auxiliary President Jo Ann Verduce, Absent from photo is Joyce Lomma.



Members of Scranton Chapter aid in food distribution prior to Christmas with the Family To Family program sponsored by the Friends of the Poor. L-r: Charlie Spano, Dr. Al Giallorenzi, Tony Summa, and Mary Rose Spano.

CEDAR GROVE, NJ

Cedar Grove UNICO held its 10th annual War at The Rock Fundraiser Saturday, January 8 where the Seton Hall Pirates hosted Danny Hurley and the UCONN Huskies. The chapter would like to thank all that attended and supported this great event as they raised over \$1,000 for local scholarships.



GARFIELD, NJ

The Garfield chapter's annual Christmas basket donation drive.



WATERBURY, CT

Waterbury UNICO hosted their Annual O’Talian Dinner on March 9th in celebration of St. Patrick’s and St. Joseph’s Day! Held for over 30 years, this “fun-raising” event has transitioned into a to-go format due to COVID. This year, over 350 people picked-up up a full Corned Beef Dinner served with a side of Pasta e Fagioli and a St. Joseph’s Day Zeppole proving once again that times may change, but traditions remain. Proceeds from the dinner are used for local community projects.



Chapter President and Event Chair Francine Nido and Bob Rinaldi checking out the sponsor bags.



4th Generation UNICAN Dawn Maiorano and Bob Gerace checking out the zeppole.



Dorene Rinaldi and Brigitte Nido-Aaronsen scooping out the 100 pounds of Pasta e Fagioli.



Bill DeMaida and Bianca Daniels counting the soup containers.



Karen Ciarleglio, David Kalach, Lili Fitzpatrick, and Christine Stolfi, packing up the zeppole for distribution.



Rosalie Griffin and Frank Travisano checking the order list.



Waterbury’s Italian Leprechaun: 4th Generation UNICAN Nicole Maiorano greeting the guests.



NORTH SHORE/ LONG ISLAND, NY

With Covid restrictions easing, the North Shore L.I. chapter began to hold meetings again. The last two meetings were busy with installations, donations, and a Carnevale program. From their 2021 Cigar Night event \$6,000 was donated to the ALS Foundation. From the 2021 Golf Outing event \$12,000 was donated to three different charities which included Best Buddies, ACDS (All Children Deserve Success), and Adult & Teen Challenge New York. In addition, \$3,000 in donations were sent to six local Long Island Food Pantries. With the representatives from the four charities present, each spoke about their programs and the people they help. Their heartfelt speeches were informative and emotional for everyone present. The chapter was appreciative that their donations are going towards excellent causes. The Carnevale Program provided much information of its origins and traditions and captured the interest of all the members and the many guests present.



Teresa Donovan-Imperato receiving the donation for ALS. (L-R) Member Len Licata, Teresa, Al Crecco, Cigar Night Chair; and Patricia Stake.



Patricia Stake, Chapter President, with Eileen Schwagerl and Deb Brown from "Best Buddies"; Anthony Trocchia, Golf Outing Chair; and Megan Lombardo from ACDS.



Chapter President Patricia Stake presenting a check to Amy Mathieson from Adult and Teen Challenge NY.



Chapter Secretary and Carnevale Program Chair Francesca Calio



At their recent St. Joseph's dinner meeting, North Shore L.I. installed their ninth member since the membership drive held several months ago. Past NYII District Governor Lou Di Rico swore in Carmine Falco as President Patricia Stake welcomes him to the chapter.



Rosemarie Torrissi and Tanya Brochart displaying Venetian style masks!



Membership and Retention Chair Joe Vessio, (R) installed seven new members from the Membership Drive held before the latest Covid surge.

PITTSFIELD, MA



Members of the Pittsfield chapter held a successful Diaper and Personal Products drive to aid the Pittsfield Christian Center. Shown are chapter members that volunteered and some of the items that were collected.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ



Saddle Brook UNICO pinning 25 year member Steve Cusmano (third from left).



The Pittsfield Chapter welcomed and installed four new members at the February membership meeting. Pictured from left to right, Gregg Levante, Suzanne Pretetta, Donna Phair, and Anthony DeBlasis. Congratulations to all!



Pittsfield member, Peter Vacchina (right), and another artist, Robert Markey (left), carved this ice sculpture as a kick-off for a local community event the "10x10 Winter Arts Festival". The sculpture "Love" is bookended by two hearts and sits in front of the Berkshire Museum on South Street. Peter often shares his artistic talent with the community.

The Deadline for the
July 2022 issue
is
June 17, 2022

BRIDGEPORT, CT



The Bridgeport chapter presented a check to The Merton House supporting their tireless efforts for the community homeless. Pictured (left to right) Jay Piccirillo, Sabine Kuzco, Program Director, Barb Susi, and Bill Colson Executive Director.



Members of the Bridgeport Chapter gathered for a picture after a successful Bingo night to raise scholarship funds.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ



Two new members were installed to Point Pleasant Chapter by Past District Governor Grace Gynn. From left to right Evelyn Cottone, Membership Chair, Grace Gynn, New members Kathy Fazzari and Maria Ciccone with their sponsor Donna Gallina.

REHOBETH AREA, DE

Even during the pandemic, Italian lessons, offered free to UNICO members, went on uninterrupted on both the Beginner and Continuing levels. These lessons, which began approximately 6 years ago, feature conversation, structure, and culture. Now conducted via Zoom, professoressa Maria Teresa Sachele-Morrison presents lessons to adults, some of whom have been faithful students since the classes began. For more information please contact unicodelawaredistrict1@gmail.com.



La Festa di San Giuseppe: Pictured is bread blessed and distributed after the 8:30 am Mass on the feast of Saint Joseph. Donations of diapers, wipes and pull-ups were also given to a homeless shelter. Easter Baskets were prepared and sent to approximately 35 children.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

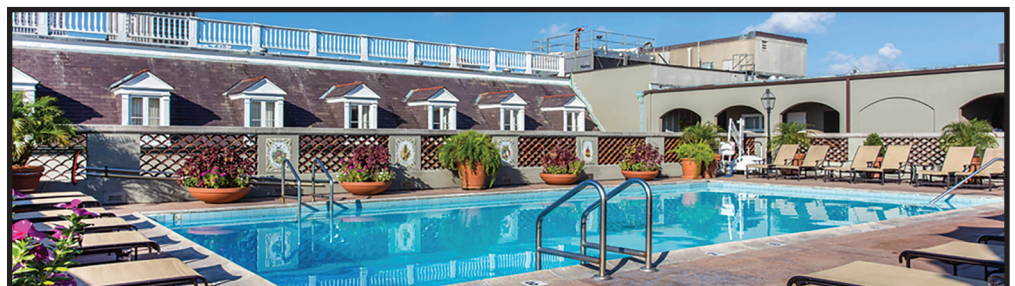


John Barbieri once again chaired the Super Bowl Fundraiser. It proved to be a success with all squares sold. The Rams may have beaten the Bengals and collected their rings and trophies, but the winners from the fundraiser are the charities the chapter supports.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ



The Rockaway Township chapter has a lot of activities going on. They have signed up eleven new members in the past six months and sworn in two new members at last month's virtual Chapter meeting. They ran a Super Bowl pool as a fundraising event which proved to be very successful. The chapter made many donations including: donating 8 gift cards at the local Veteran's Dinner, donating \$250 to the UNICO Foundation for Cancer Research in honor of Unican of the Year Joe Bell, donating countless bags of clothes to Project Kind in Rockaway to help clothe homeless people in Newark, and donating \$200 to the Vietnam Moving Wall that will be visiting Morris County College. They are also finalizing plans for many events in the coming months, including awarding scholarships to high school students, working on a memorial to be erected for General Ray Odierno in town, a tailgate dinner in June, their annual Motorcycle Run for the Kids, escorted by the N.J. Blue Knights on August 28th, and the Dan Bell Citizenship Award Dinner, honoring a local person, that will be held in October.



KEYSTONE, PA



Pictured are the Keystone Chapter's 10th Anniversary Committee. This event will be conducted on Sunday, May 22nd at Fiorelli's Catering.



It was truly a great day for the 60th Lackawanna County St. Patrick's Day Parade in Scranton, PA! Keystone Chapter Charter Member Drew and wife Mary Hailstone were named this year's Honorary Parade Marshall's and their son Jaime is this year's Parade Association's President. Jaime invited Keystone to participate in both the pre-parade Mass in Saint Peter's Cathedral and to march in the parade. Pictured with the Parade Dignitaries just before the liturgical celebration are Michele McDade, Tom Carlucci, Mark McDade, Jaime, Mary and Drew Hailstone, Sylvia and Bob Tagert, Cathy Gerard and President Mary Ann and Frank Coviello.

SCRANTON, PA

Scranton UNICO at their annual hockey night at the Penguins game at Mohegan Sun Arena with UNICO National president Steve Pelonero dropping the puck and many of the UNICO members posing for a photo and getting a ride on the Zamboni. The Hazleton Chapter was also represented by Donna Delehanty and Brenda Conway.



POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ



Bernadette and Tom Antonelli helping arrange Point Pleasant Beach Dinner Meetings. The star of the March meeting was of course Zeppole di San Guiseppe.



WILKES BARRE, PA



UNICO Wilkes Barre's Heritage Night: The Club hosted a classical music performance, *Notte di Luce*, by a quartet from Italy, coupled with a donation of \$500. Pictured are Angela Sperrazza, Esq., Ariana Lizza, Ashley Altavilla, Gianna Altavilla, Reverend Dr. Bob Zanicky, Wilkes Barre Chapter President Meredith Rynkiewicz, Violinist Domenico Masiello, Pianist Michele Fazio, and Jerry Altavilla.

GARFIELD, NJ

Dr. Gary Vitta was sworn in as the newest member of the Garfield chapter by PNP Dominick Nicastro at their well attended monthly meeting.



QUEENSBORO, NY

The Queensboro UNICO Toys for Tots event was sponsored by Queensboro President Gaspare Mistretta and Co-Chair Joel Lapadura together with the U. S. Marine Corps NYC area Toys for Tots campaign. This year over 2000 toys were presented, as well as a \$500 donation from Queensboro UNICO.



COMUNICO RULES AND GUIDELINES

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

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

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

12. Photos coming in after a holiday will not be included in the next issue, if deemed to be untimely. ComUNICO should reflect the current time of year.
 13. Articles cannot contain copyrighted materials. All articles must be original and completely written by the person submitting the article. An article compiled from information that was cut and pasted from other sources is considered plagiarism.
- The following are ComUNICO Guidelines for a Chapter to follow:
1. Photos should be sent in landscape not portrait form.
 2. Do not send in blurry pictures.
 3. Review all submissions prior to sending for grammar and punctuation.

SCRANTON, PA



The Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Race Committee, along with the Scranton chapter, continue providing the children at The Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA with a Christmas party from funds raised during The Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Memorial Race that takes place over Labor Day weekend during LaFesta Italiana. Every child was provided with food, refreshments, a warm fleece embroidered vest, winter hats and gloves and other surprises.



The Scranton chapter added Jim Griffiths Jr. to its membership at the January meeting. Jimmy is a Scranton police officer and a 2nd Lieutenant in the PA National Guard on deployment to Egypt. Pictured, l-r: Mary Marrara, Ann Genett, chapter president; Jim Griffiths; Mary Ann Rubin, sponsor, and District Governor Melanie Naro, installing officer.

HACKENSACK, NJ



National 1st Vice President Cav. Ralph Contini had the honor of swearing in one of the oldest new members in the history of UNICO National, Rose Ascolese age of 96. Rose was previously a member and Past President of the Hackensack Ladies of UNICO.

CLIFFSIDE PARK, NJ

The Cliffside Park Chapter's reorganization and revitalization has been completed. During this time, three reorganization meetings were held. Eleven new members were installed, and 1st Vice Cav. President Ralph Contini had the honor of swearing in a new Chapter President, Mary Ann Maiorana. The Chapter made a new beginning and, we are confident, a bright future is ahead.



Hackensack Chapter President Alfredo Masullo MD, UNICO National 1st VP Cav. Ralph Contini, New member Rose Ascolese and Past National First Lady (and First Mother) Mae D'Arminio.



Mary Ann Maiorana is sworn in as Chapter President by UNICO National 1st VP Cav. Ralph Contini .



Board members Dennis Jastrzebski, Elaine Caruso, Cathy Fedele, and Angeline Jastrzebski are sworn in by Mary Ann Maiorana and Ralph Contini.

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***In Memorium:
Charles Alberto***
Orange/West Orange



It is with great sadness that the Orange/West Orange chapter reports the passing of longtime member and past Chapter President Charles Alberto. Charlie had strong ties to his Italian roots and, through his philanthropic foundation, established the The Charles and Joan Alberto Italian Studies Institute at Seton Hall University. For his work, Charlie was awarded the UNICO National Cianci Humanitarian Award. He will be greatly missed by all that had the privilege of knowing him.

***In Memorium:
Al Branchi***
Livingston

Livingston Chapter President Maria Brush on the passing of Al Branchi:

“Al was such a positive leader for the Livingston Chapter. Before coming to our chapter he was a member of Cedar Grove chapter.

He was President for 4 terms and brought our membership from 45 to 88 members during that time. In addition, we went from ZERO female members to 31. Al truly made the path for there to be a female President of this chapter today.

He was instrumental in the success of our Columbus Day display at the library and our Columbus Day events with the elementary school, as well as our newsletter and parade activities.

His guidance and wisdom will be greatly missed.”



***In Memorium:
John P. Cook***
Saddle Brook



Saddle Brook UNICO Charter member, John P. Cook. John served as Chapter President on three different occasions, 1971-73, 1993-95 and again in 2011-2012. He also served as District Governor of New Jersey District VII in 1998-99 and received the Outstanding District Governor Award from UNICO National that year. He served loyally as Aide to Past National President, Salvatore Mangano during the year 1997-1998. John served on the Saddle Brook Township Council from January 1997 through February 2008. John was employed with WABC News for many years and was recognized by his peers winning a number of Emmys over his career. John was well liked by all who knew him. He will be sorely missed. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to John's devoted wife Jean, his children, grandchildren, extended family, and friends.

UNICO FOUNDATION - ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Financial

As of

Balances

December 31, 2021

UNICO National Charities:

COOLEY's ANEMIA	\$22,479
ITALIAN STUDIES	13,040
GERALDINE LIPARI MENTAL HEALTH	\$20,854
CANCER RESEARCH	\$86,169
Varsalona Fund	\$37,311
St. Jude	\$1,625
TORRACO FOOD/SHELTER	\$653,301

UNICO Scholarships:

Alessio Southern Italy	\$54,553
Cottone Medical	\$220,887
DeFrancis Science	\$169,686
DiMattio-Celli Study Abroad	\$67,333
Robert Tarte Italian Studies	\$59,142
Louise Torraco Science	\$210,592
Torraco Fine Arts	\$197,990
Torraco General	\$215,940
Torraco Nursing	\$771,972
Torraco Physical Therapy	\$148,380
Torraco Seminary Studies	\$128,205
Torraco Special Education	\$148,402
Torraco Veterinary	\$158,232

21st CENTURY FUND

RESTRICTED SPENDING	\$1,819,956
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GENERAL ACCOUNTS

UNRESTRICTED FUND	\$48,302
RAFFLE	100

TOTAL ASSETS . . . \$5,231,972

Revenue - Disbursements

COOLEY's ANEMIA	
Donations	\$7,075
Grants	\$20,000
ITALIAN STUDIES	
Donations	\$3,700
Grants	\$4,775
GERALDINE LIPARI MENTAL HEALTH	
Donations	\$10,575
Grants	\$9,460
CANCER RESEARCH & PREVENTION	
Donations	\$38,297
Grants	\$3,903
TORRACO FOOD/SHELTER	
Donations	
Grants	\$22,500
SCHOLARSHIPS - Endowed	
Donations	\$125,000
Awards	\$55,000
21 st CENTURY FUND	
Donations	
Scholarship Awards	\$33,250
Grants	\$10,000
MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS	
Unrestricted	\$685
Raffle Proceeds	\$15,307

EXPENSES

Tax Preparation & Filings	\$1,300
Annual Outside Audit	\$2,750
Charitable Registrations	\$150
Bank-Credit Card Fees	\$137
Scholarship Administration Fee	\$3,000

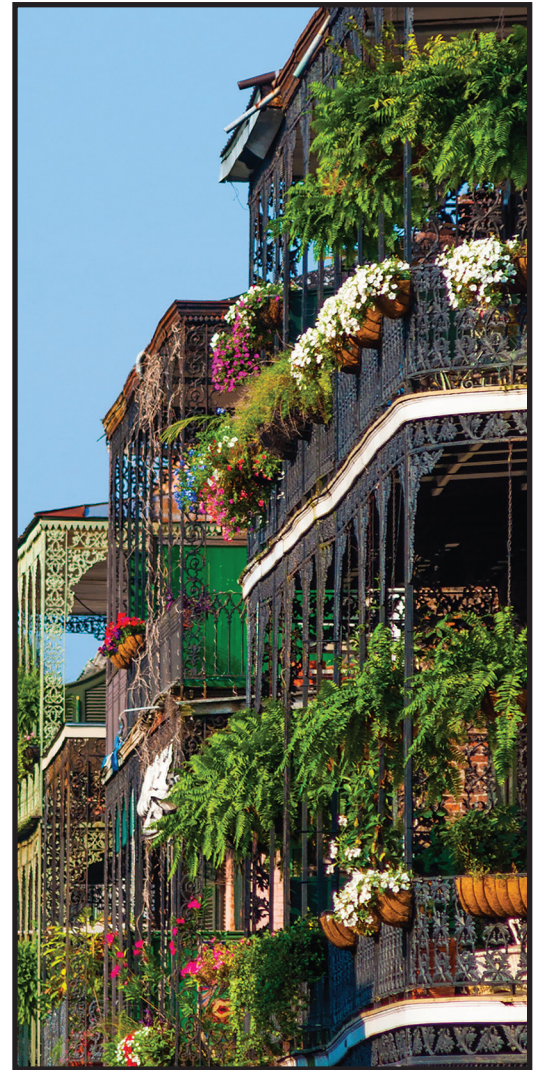
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Nutley Chapter
Rehoboth Area Chapter**AMICI***(\$250 to \$999)*Paul Alongi
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Brookhaven Chapter
Carbondale Chapter
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Elizabeth Chapter
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New Members: January, February, March

Congratulations and welcome to UNICO!

BAYONNE

Anthony Franconeri

CLIFFSIDE PARK

Elaine M. Caruso
Cathy Fedele
Frank Gaetani
Angelina Jastrzebski
Dennis Jastrzebski
Maryann Maiorana
Annabelle Mauceri
Domenico Rovenda
Lucy Tarallo
Giselle Veltri
Mary Ann Virgona

ELMWOOD PARK

Victoria Jolakian
Alexander Jolakian
Jake Andrea
Sophia Anzalone
Michael Carmiche III
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Matt Ciampi
Maria L. Nicaastro Conn
Jon Paul De Maio
Thomas Derienzo
Gennaro A. Di Muro
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Joseph Ferrara
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Louis Lago
Anton Meindl
Nicholas Nicaastro
Louis A. Nicaastro
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Alison Monteiro Swain
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Nancy Carlson
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Patrick John Cianci
Concetta Cremin
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Jill Anne Scalo
Andrea Scalo
Joe Scalo
Jeana M. Scalo
Alison Scalo-Bryant
Jamie Schweim
Tina Stafstrom
Bartholomew Vernace
Mary Ann Vernace
Keith Wheaton
Toni Wheaton
Samantha Wheaton

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Erin Monahan

GREATER WESTFIELD

Cristina Massa

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Rose M. Ascolese

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Tawnie Porpiglia

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Salvatore Gregory Le Vota
Mike Leardi
Charles Loose
Matthew Joseph Manzo Jr.
John G. Picone
Thomas Joseph Sorrentino
Hannah Michelle Salvo

KEYSTONE

Mikhail Barnansky

LONGMEADOW

Kathy Mullins
Judith A. Boyko
Carol Cavalleri
Marianne Policastro-Wik

MILWAUKEE

Adrian Zilveti

MONTCLAIR

Eligio Cristantiello
Francesca Simone
Robert J. Iracane

NATIONAL

Paul M. Foglia

New Members Continued

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Raymond Kuebler
John Monaco

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Anthony De Blasiis
Gregg Levante
Suzanne Petretta
Donna Phair
Laurie Stracuzzi
Patricia Verdi

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Matthew Ozbalik
Alexis Ratti

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SECAUCUS

Brianna Marra
Steven Mastorelli

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Sophia Vigiletti
Jack Smith
Mattie Ann Smith
Juliann Vigiletti
Nicholas Vigiletti

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The magnets and decals will be free to each member, but the National Office is asking to defray the cost of shipping. You can order either the magnets or decals or any combination of both for each member in your chapter.

Please contact the national office if you are interested.

**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.)

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

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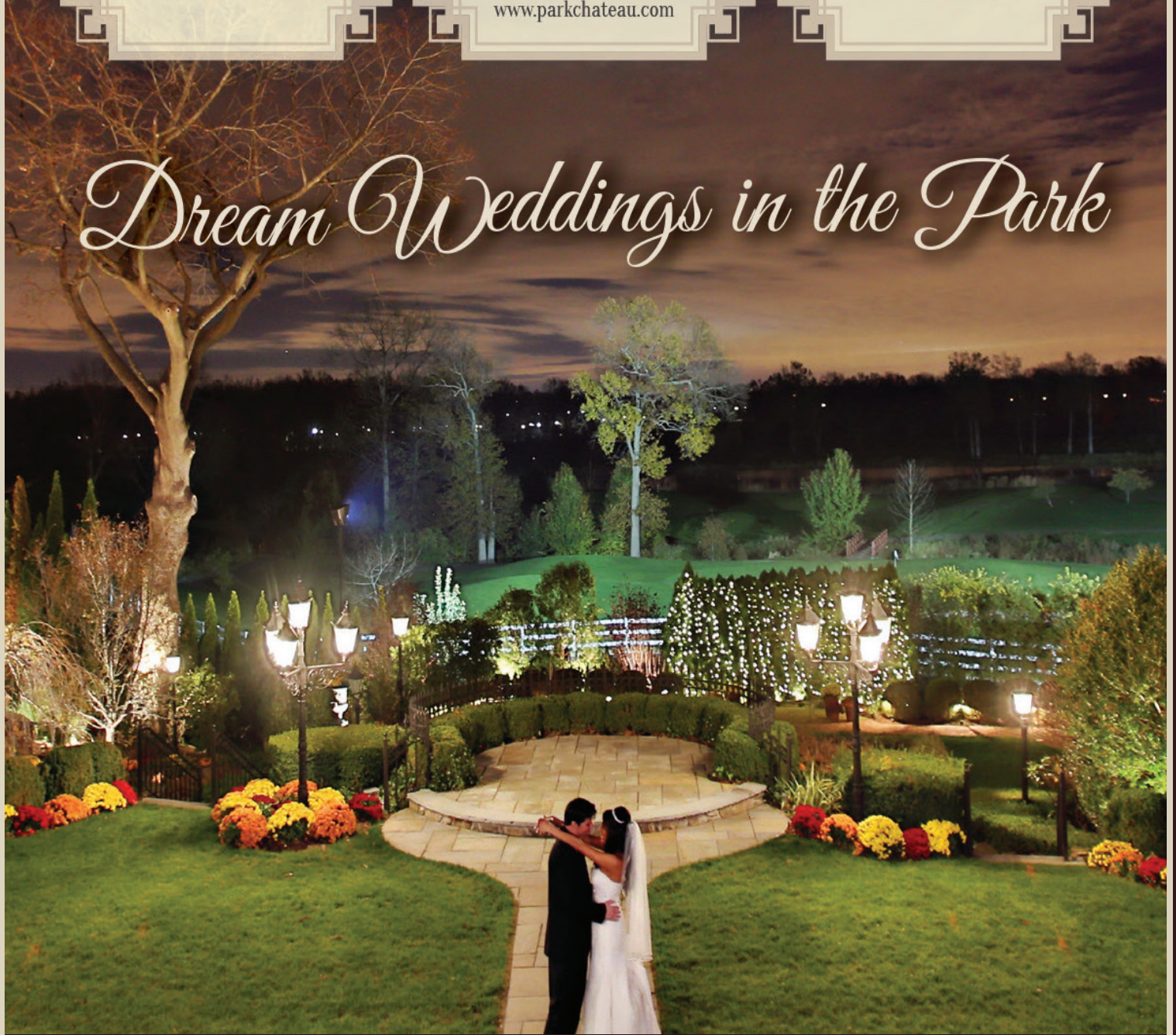
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