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The Voice of the Largest Italian American Service Organization in the Country

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

July 27-31, 2022: 99th UNICO National Convention
 October 2, 2022: Waterbury Chapter 100th Anniversary
 July 26-30, 2023: 100th UNICO National Convention

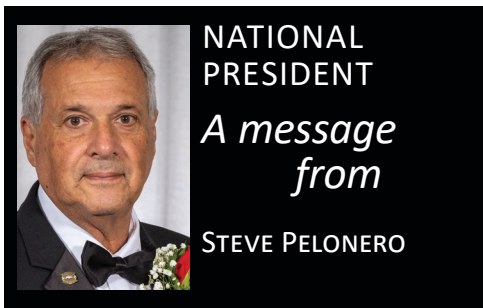
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**NATIONAL
PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
STEVE PELONERO

Ciao everyone. Seeing as this will be my last message in ComUNICO, I would like to sincerely thank everyone.

It has been an honor to serve you. It was a blessing to work with my executive board, the board of directors, our National Committees, and also with all of our members across the country. It truly exemplifies the “U” in UNICO, “Unity” where we can work together in all that we do. I applaud you for stepping up and being a member and for living up to our motto of “Service Above Self”.

I had the pleasure to be able to visit so many chapters and districts at meetings and events. I am still in awe at the hospitality that was afforded Pat and myself: The “N” in UNICO for Neighborliness.

The “I” in UNICO. Integrity is not to be forgotten: To have strong moral principles that portray UNICO proudly. To have a quality of being complete and undivided. We have definitely worked together, even with the covid situation. Of course there are differences of opinions, but we got through it for the good of our organization. We worked diligently when we hired John Marino’s consultant firm, and it is paying off. We also came through when we brought on our new Executive Director, Melanie Naro. She will be taking over Sal Benvenuti’s place at the end of this year’s convention in New Orleans. I am truly proud to be a member of the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States.

I have seen so much charity given within all of my years of being involved in UNICO and this year in particular has been no different. Both UNICO National and the UNICO Foundation have given so much back because of the generosity of our members and friends. The Founda-

tion recently presented separate checks to two Cancer Research Foundations. Nationally, again with the generosity of our members, chapters, districts, and friends, we raised and donated over \$7,000 for the Mayfield, KY tornado relief fund. We also raised and donated \$10,500 for the World Central Food Kitchen in Poland which is feeding thousands of refugees from Ukraine. Let’s not forget about all the chapters and the money they have donated to local and national causes. True charity: the “C” in UNICO.

Opportunity: What can I say? There is not enough room in this magazine to write about all the things that UNICO has done, and that we continue to do for others. I am thankful that we have ComUNICO magazine that showcases what the chapters are doing across the country. To have witnessed and seen them in person is even more inspiring. We are truly an amazing and unique organization and I sincerely want to thank everyone again for all that they do.

God Bless everyone and I hope to see you in New Orleans at our 99th Annual UNICO National Convention. I am also looking forward to seeing everyone in October at the 100th year celebration of UNICO in Waterbury, CT.



**EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT**
*A message
from*
DR. PETER PETTINATO

I have often heard that as we get a little older (me, not you of course) that time seems to go by faster and faster. It must be true, because it seems like yesterday that I was thinking about running for Second Vice President and now, in a few short weeks, I shall assume the National Presidency (deep breaths, Peter, deep breaths.).

The 2022 UNICO National Convention is practically upon us. Right now, the Convention Committee is hard at work making sure that you have a memorable

and exciting time in New Orleans. We are in an historic city that has plenty to offer our attendees. We’re also at an elegant hotel where the vast majority of guests will be with UNICO. We’ll commence our yearlong celebration of our 100th year of Service Above Self, and we’ll also celebrate 25 years of women in UNICO.

We’ll kick things off with our Ice Breaker Tailgate Party on Wednesday evening. Talk up some friendly rivalries while wearing your favorite team’s jersey or logo. Our cocktail hour that evening will be on the second floor in the picturesque courtyard. After an evening of fun, food and entertainment, the business of the Convention begins Thursday morning. There’s a lot on our business agenda, but we will be sure to allow plenty of free time for you to enjoy the sights, sounds and food of New Orleans. Saturday evening we will conduct our traditional gala event and dinner. This year we will present our 2022 Cianci, Rizzuto, and Vastola awardees and also make a Special Achievement Award presentation to Jimmy Pitaro, Chairman of ESPN & Sports Content. Incidentally, the Ice Breaker theme was established about three years ago, but funny how things work out sometimes, isn’t it?

In addition, I ask that you remember the UNICO National charities in your usual generous manner. Young people are still in need of scholarships; our friends and relatives still suffer with Cooley’s Anemia, cancer, and mental health issues, and our heritage is still needlessly denigrated and deemed less important. Let us continue the great work of UNICO serving its communities while having a fabulous time doing so. The next 100 years will likely fly by, but those we help will never forget UNICO.

Finally, I want to once again thank you for the trust and faith you have placed in me by selecting me to serve as your National President. I consider it the highest honor UNICO can bestow upon anyone, and I will do everything in my power to continue the exemplary work of those who preceded me.



Buon Giorno a tutti! As I write this column, the UNICO year is winding down, and our National Convention is right around the corner in New Orleans. Life seems to have returned to normal; hopefully, it stays that way.

It has been a very interesting, active, and successful year for UNICO National, notwithstanding the post-holiday Covid related hiccup.

As it is my responsibility to supervise the activities of all District Governors and to oversee the UNICO National website, I am happy to report that much progress has been made during the past year. We have visited as many Districts, Chapters, and events as we could get to, and we were privileged to attend events and meetings ranging from Massachusetts to Florida.

During this year we confronted challenges and focused on dormant districts and districts without a named District Governor. To that end, we have stayed in touch with all District Governors and Districts via many emails and visitations. At the recent Mid-Year Board Meeting in Myrtle Beach, we hosted a very productive, informative, and interactive District Governors Forum. Since the future of any organization is based on its ability to grow and retain what it possesses, I congratulate the District Governors who are integral to the continued growth and success of their respective Chapters. They, together with resources available from UNICO National, are the keys to the accomplishment of UNICO's goals and commitments.

Because of our successful relationships, we have been instrumental in helping to revive and facilitate reorganizations, and we have begun a dialogue

on how we, working with district and chapter leadership, can revitalize a number of other districts. At the upcoming Convention we will be proponents of the proposed amendment to streamline and clarify voting by the District Governor offices at conventions.

We have noticed that there has been a huge uptick in District Governors' quarterly reporting of their activities during the year; clearly District Governors have demonstrated a renewed commitment to their respective districts.

As First Vice President, I found it a great honor to attend the Charter of the newly created Greater Orlando Chapter. At that time, I was pleased to present and install the officers for induction into this new Chapter. Benvenuti to the UNICO family Greater Orlando, Florida Chapter!

President Steve Pelonero has done a remarkable job leading UNICO National this past year and has demonstrated clear leadership in all areas. Thank you, Steve and First Lady Pat, for your hard work, dedication, and for your commitment to advancing UNICO! It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as First National VP and Columbus Day Chair during his term of office. I would be honored to continue to serve UNICO National as Executive Vice President and would appreciate your support in this upcoming year.

It is never too early to start planning Columbus Day and Italian Heritage month events, especially as UNICO is now Celebrating 100 Years of Service Above Self 1922-2022. Please note that the NYC Columbus Day Parade will take place on Monday, October 10.

It has been a great honor to work with the District Governors and members. I thank all UNICO Chapters for their great passion and perseverance; I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming National Convention. Ciao for now and Uniti "Sempre Avanti."

2023 UNICO Convention

Marriott Sanibel Harbour



Festeggiamo! In Italian it means "Let's celebrate!" Happy 100 years to UNICO. I am so proud and honored to have served this past year as your Second Vice President during our Centennial year. We can and should be so proud of our continued missions of the promotion of our Italian culture and language, as well as all our generous charity work both locally and nationally.

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. I do read each and every one of the chapter reports which are submitted to National. These reports allow me to keep close track of your chapter's monthly meetings and the great work your chapter is doing in the community. This form is available on our website www.unico.org in the "members section" and can be filled out electronically on your computer or notebook 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.

As Italian Studies Chair, I recommend that you consider a special chapter donation earmarked to Italian Studies. This past year we have received a request by Florida Atlantic University to help them endow an Italian Studies Chair at their University, which would allow them to award degrees in Italian Studies in perpetuity. FAU currently has one of the best Italian Language programs on the East Coast, however, they do not have a degree program in Italian Studies. In the past our organization was pivotal in helping to fund Italian Studies chairs at 6 universities, including Seton Hall Uni-


versity, Montclair State University, California State University at Long Beach, SUNY-Stony Brook, University of Connecticut, and Loyola (Chicago). If your chapter wishes to promote this cause, please contact me or Frank LoRe, who is our District Governor in Florida.

If any member or chapter has any concerns at all or if you have any recommendations, please reach out to me by email or phone. We, as 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 stay positive and share information with each other so that we keep our UNICO family strong and vibrant. I'll be in touch again very soon, so please always check your spam folder, just in case my email finds its way there.

This past year, I participated in so many chapter and district events. I will be so happy to continue to participate depending on my schedule. My email is anthony@bengivenga.com and my phone number is (732) 310 6031.

I look forward to seeing you at the National Convention in New Orleans.

Baci e abbracci. A big hug to all.



CHAPLAIN
A message from
FR. ROBERT WOLFEE

We recently celebrated the “Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ,” which was previously known by its Latin name, “Corpus Christi.” It is a day set aside to celebrate, in a particularly focused way, what we celebrate and believe every time we gather at Jesus’ altar for Mass. We profess the Real Presence of the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ in the elements of, and under the appearance of, bread and wine in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is meant to unite us. That is why we call it Communion. However, at times, there might be divisions. When St. Paul wrote his first letter to the Corinthians, the community was experiencing some sharp internal division on moral, theological, ideological, and historical grounds. So, he urged them to find their source of unity in the common bread and common cup they shared in worship. He reminded them that these simple elements signaled their participation in the very body and blood of Jesus, who was the only hope for the healing of this fractured community. Only he could unite such a hopelessly splintered church, and he did! The congregation in Corinth rekindled their oneness and fellowship after St. Paul reminded them of their true center in Christ.

When we receive our Lord’s body and blood, we participate in his very essence and being. So, it is important that we open our hearts, not just our mouths. In St. John’s gospel, Jesus tells us that if we eat his flesh and drink his blood, we will remain in him and he in us, and that he will lead us to eternal life. The Eucharist we receive at Mass carries us throughout the week. Jesus is a steady presence, sharing in both the good times and in the struggles of our lives.

The next time we receive Jesus, let us pray for open hearts --- hearts that will know his presence in the beauty around us, in the love of family and friends, in the kindness of colleagues, and even in the challenges that we face. Let us also pray that we can truly be his presence in our world. God bless.



MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION
A message from
NICOLINA CARPINELLI

Ciao a Tutti. It’s been a rough comeback, but we made it. It’s been a productive year working on engaging our members again. It’s important that we listen to how they feel and find out what we can do to improve our chapters. It’s especially crucial that we find ways to retain our present members and attract new ones. UNICO provides many tools and guides to help you conduct Heritage Nights and special events but the simplest and most effective way to get someone to join is to **ASK THEM!!**

Please strive to be more in tune with the community. Make guests feel welcome and show them what UNICO is all about. The only way we can do this is by demonstrating what UNICO stands for. Remember communication is key to success. Return phone calls and emails, show them you care and want them as members. We can only continue to thrive through enthusiasm and communication. Do your part to make sure people know that UNICO is not just “any service club” – we are an Italian American service organization that gives members an opportunity to provide community service while honoring their heritage. What’s better than that? As always, it is up to each of us to make UNICO grow! Please contact me at ncarpinelli@gmail.com if you have any questions or ideas to share.





HERITAGE & CULTURE

A message from

MARY TERESA MORRISON

EVVIVA La MUSICA ! I must admit that in researching the articles which I have submitted, I was not only informed but also entertained. That is especially true here, and as always, I encourage you to dig further into the topic (italiansinfonia.com); read the references (“Viaggio Musicale” is listed), listen to the ever-enjoyable voice (in English) of “Zucchero” (the Father of Italian Blues) interviewed by NPR. This interview delightfully connects the music of his background (Verdi, Puccini) with that of today (Miles Davis, Ray Charles) and his collaboration with the more modern Bono, Sting, and others.

Italy is as famous for its music as for its fine arts, evidenced by the international use of “adagio, piano” The history of Italian music is said to have begun in Florence (circa 1200), yet, a century prior, the 4-line staff was developed.

Music then continued into the 16th Century (Cinquecento) – Palestrina. Almost all types of music that exist today have their origins in the Italy of that period.

Italian Opera (Opera Lirica), in particular, although performed in many languages, was an exclusively Italian creation: (“Dafne” – Jacopo Peri - 1597,” L’Orfeo” Claudio Monteverdi – 1607).

In the 18th Century (Settecento) Naples was the center of comic opera (Opera Buffa): (“La Serva Padrona” – Pergolesi – 1733; “il Matrimonio Segreto” Cimarosa – 1792); yet the most well known composer of the Napoleonic era was Alessandro Scarlatti who wrote over 100 musical compositions. During this time symphonic music was developed - (“Quattro Stagioni” - Vivaldi; and by Domenico Scarlatti, son of Alessandro).

I have only referenced a few great

composers and classical works. The list continues, so I hope to have whet your appetite to research further.

In the next Issue, I will continue with the great composers of the 19th and 20th Centuries, the Italian influence on American Jazz and also on modern music and singers.

In my next column I will submit a “Trivia” matching quiz, relating songs written originally in Italian and performed in English. The results may surprise you.



YOUTH

A message from

TINA BUONTIEMPO

As Chair of the Youth Committee, I want to thank the members of my committee for their support in developing our Youth Member Survey. To our Youth Members who participated in our survey, THANK YOU! Your voices have been heard and your opinions matter. Your comments and suggestions have been shared with the Executive Committee..

- Each chapter should identify the strengths of their Youth Members. Channel those strengths to specific ways they can contribute to your chapter, e.g., have a Youth Member with marketing experience Co-chair a fundraiser or event with an experienced member who can mentor them.

- Youth Members are valuable resources for setting up and maintaining social media platforms. Social Media is a great way to highlight your chapter’s activities and attract potential new members.

- Strong consideration should be given to having a Youth Member(s) serve on your Board of Directors. Have an experienced Board Member mentor the Youth Board Member.

- Mentoring our Youth Members and keeping them involved is a great means to prepare them for future posi-

tions in our chapters and imperative to the future growth of our organization

- We have an opportunity before us to harvest new ideas from our younger members to help preserve and promote our culture and traditions. They are our future changemakers.

- Keep Youth Members involved and engaged. They will be more inclined to refer friends of Italian heritage, to join our chapters.

- I encourage our Youth Members to attend Chapter meetings, share your ideas and volunteer to participate on committees, help with fundraisers and other chapter events. If you are not receiving emails from your chapter, please reach out to your chapter President or Secretary.

- A good percentage of our Youth Members either attend college out of state or they are in state, but a distance from home. It’s important that they continue to receive all emails and other correspondence from their chapters.

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, “We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.” The Youth Members of our organization are our Future!

The Deadline for

the

September

2022 issue

is

August 19, 2022



CANCER RESEARCH
& PREVENTION

*A message
from*

FRANK DEFRANK, MD

Ciao a tutti! I hope and trust that everyone is staying healthy and “sane” during these difficult times. With cancer touching so many lives, cancer research continues to be one of UNICO’s major charitable endeavors. Since 1999, UNICO National/Foundation (largely through our members) has contributed approximately \$800,000 to help fight this dreaded disease.

Most recently UNICO has provided a grant of \$25,000 each to the Madeline Fiadini LoRe Foundation for Cancer Prevention in Bayonne, New Jersey and to “Peggy’s Pathways” for research on uterine cancer at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

We all understand that the pandemic has notably limited fundraising. However, we would humbly and respectfully ask that you make room in your hearts, minds, checkbooks, and Chapter/District budgets for donations to help with Cancer Research and Prevention; no gift is too small (or large!).

Once again, thank you for all you do for your local communities, UNICO National, and Italian Americans everywhere! Molte grazie e Dio vi benedica!



UNICO thanks National President Steve Pelonero and First Lady Pat for their service to the organization this past year, and wishes them well in the future!



COMUNICO
EDITOR

*A message
from*

TOM VAUGHAN

So...this will mark my last issue as ComUNICO Editor. When I was National President in 2017/18, I understood the burden publishing the magazine put on the National Office. I retired soon after my year as President, and with my experience as an English Major and a Information Technology Training Manager, I thought I could help UNICO by letting the office concentrate on other organizational matters. Dr. Frank DeFrank appointed me as ComUNICO Editor when he became President and so I was all set, or so I thought. Learning the Adobe In-Design software used to do the layout, along with Adobe Photoshop to process the pictures, was WAY more difficult than I assumed. Sal Benvenuti almost fired me several times! (well, maybe not, but I’m sure he thought about it!). After several rough issues, I think I’ve got it now! But it is a lot of work and a lot of pressure to put these issues out. I’m supposed to be retired! I’ve enjoyed being the Editor and getting to know your chapters. I’m still amazed at how much you do to make others’ lives better. Thank you for the opportunity and your patience. I’ll still be around to help our beloved UNICO.

UNICO DISASTER RELIEF FUND

UNICO National held a campaign to raise funds for those affected by the recent tornados in Kentucky. A check for \$7090 was sent, in support of the rebuilding of Mayfield and Graves County, to the Mayfield Graves Tornado Relief Fund. For more information, go to: <https://mayfieldgravesstrong.org/>.

Sal Benvenuti's last column as UNICO National Executive Director



Sal, with his lovely wife Debbie.

What a ride! I became the Executive Director at the 2008 Convention when incoming President, Kathi Strozza, asked me to take the position for three months until they found a permanent replacement. As you can see the three months turned out to be over 10 years!

However, it is now time for me to finally retire and spend some more time with my wife and family. My tenure as Executive Director will end at the completion of the 2022 Convention. Melanie Naro will be taking over as the Executive Director of UNICO National as of August 1, 2022. UNICO is in good hands with Melanie.

While I am stepping down as the Executive Director of National, I am not leaving UNICO and will still be active with my chapter (Passaic Valley) and remain as Executive Director of UNICO Foundation.

The last few years have certainly been challenging for our organization and especially the National Office. I am happy to report that our National Office is now fully staffed with our Senior Admin, Sue Anzelmo, and two part time employees, Kathleen DeFeo and Francine Dangler. In addition to the staffing, during the pandemic, we were able to update our computer system and all our software programs.

Over the course of my career with UNICO my wife and I have met so many wonderful people and made some lifelong friends. It has been a privilege and honor to have served as your Executive Director for all these years. I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans to celebrate our 100th anniversary as the largest Italian American service organization in the country.

Sempre Avanti!

Greater Orlando Charter Night



UNICO's newest chapter is our third in the sun-splashed state of Florida. Welcome to the Greater Orlando chapter! Greater Orlando joins Highland Beach and Greater Tampa as UNICO grows in the Southland. The chapter's Charter event was held at a member's home and brought several UNICO dignitaries to embrace the new members. National President Steve Pelonero remarked at the time "It is a blessing to have all of you be a part of our UNICO family. This helps us to promote and keep our Italian heritage alive. It is a way to show everyone the charitable work that we do with our motto of "Service Above Self". Expansion Director Joe Nasello, who helped organize the chapter, said "It was a pleasure working with the Greater Orlando people to get this chapter off the ground. I have every confidence they will be very successful." Joe Scalo, Chapter President, along with his wife Jeana had this to say: "The journey to form this new Chapter of UNICO started for us in July of 2019. With no Orlando area chapter we were asked to start one. The celebration on March 27th was an culmination of almost 3 years of tireless work and a beginning we will cherish for many years to come." UNICO salutes the Greater Orlando chapter and welcomes them to our family!



Greater Orlando Charter Night



Passaic Valley, NJ celebrates 50 Years!

The Passaic Valley chapter celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a gala honoring members Steve Pelonero and Sal Benvenuti for their numerous contributions to our organization as National President and Executive Director, respectively.



Keystone, PA 10th Anniversary Gala

The Keystone chapter recently celebrated their 10th Anniversary with a "Pig Roast". The chapter was chartered in Dunmore, PA on April 14, 2012 and sponsored by the Carbondale chapter. It has been an amazing 10 years with many more to come! A wonderful time was had by all. The theme was Black and White, many citations were presented, there was great National representation, entertainment by "Frankie and Toby", and everyone received a professional photo.



Verona, NJ marks 50 Years in UNICO

The Verona, NJ chapter of UNICO celebrated its 50th Anniversary where new Chapter President, Dr. Thomas Malanga, was installed. Linda-Gail Alati, Nicki Carpinelli, and Nancy Magrans celebrated 25 years with the chapter and were honored as the first women inducted into Verona UNICO. The chapter recognized the late Pat Filoso who had been a major sponsor of the Verona 5K Labor Day Run for 37 years. The evening also served to honor the memory of John Alati, former Chapter leader who served as UNICO National Past President and UNICO Foundation President. The event marked the inauguration of the John Alati Memorial Fund. His many contributions to UNICO and the community, as well as the personal relationships John had formed, were lauded. Verona Mayor Alex Roman read a proclamation acknowledging a \$10,000 chapter donation to the Township for a flashing light crosswalk sign near a Verona middle school. Father Jerry Racioppi, Rector of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Verona, was chosen UNICAN of the Year. UNICO National President and First Lady, Steve and Pat Pelonero attended the Anniversary Dinner as they celebrated their own 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were able to dance to their wedding song, "More."



Joseph Nasello Sr.

For Second Vice President
UNICO National
(2022-2023)



Record of Proven Service Above Self

- Expansion Director
- UNICO District Governor
- UNICO Chapter President
- Chapter Achievement Chair
- Columbus Day Committee
- National Nominating Committee
- District VII Nominating Committee Chair
- Americanism Award Committee
- Scrapbook Committee
- While serving Chapter President, his Chapter won Outstanding Chapter Achievement Award
- Co-Chair Meet the President
- Instrumental in helping re-organizing Cliffside Park UNICO

-While serving as the Expansion Director,
Charted the following UNICO Chapters

- Kenilworth
- Basking Ridge
- Elmwood Park
- Low Country, South Carolina
- Greater Orlando, Florida



Proven Leader in UNICO and in his community

This is an ad purchased by the Greater Orlando Chapter



The Greater Orlando Chapter of UNICO has launched its inaugural Fundraiser!

Like “UNICO”, we are offering a ten day “Uniquely” private trip to Italy. Valued at \$10,000!

You will explore ***FLORENCE***, the cultural capital of Italy; ***ROME***, her Heart; and The ***AMALFI COAST***, her colorful beauty.

Scan the QR code to be transferred to our website where you will get more information and be able to buy a ticket with a credit or debit card.



\$100 per raffle ticket

For check payments please contact Jeana at 407-758-1104 or zek752@gmail.com

Trip arranged by Private Italy Tours, Mark G Smith owner

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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.



Scholarship Report

Joan N. Tidona, National Scholarship Director

Candidates applying for the highly valued UNICO Foundation Scholarships continue, as expected, to demonstrate exceptional qualifications. The academic achievements, extracurricular activities and extraordinary community service projects of these young students are remarkable. Of special note is their understanding of, and appreciation for, Italian contributions to American history. All candidates are worthy of recognition in their own right. Selecting the awardees was, as usual, an extremely difficult undertaking. Congratulations to our participants. Their amazing accomplishments are truly impressive.

Scholarship recipients are featured in this issue of ComUNICO and on the UNICO website.

To ensure the integrity of our awards, judging is conducted as objectively as possible. Chaired by a Scholarship Committee member, but composed of non-UNICAN professionals, Judging Committees in separate locations evaluate entries using prescribed criteria. Mille grazie to those members who guided the judging process.

Review Committee

Gail R. Guy, Lou Pandolfi, Dr. Mary Ann Re

Judging Committee Chairpersons

Rose Anne Ceraso-Fritchie, Geri Samuel – Major Don S. Gentile Memorial Scholarship

Rose Anne Ceraso-Fritchie – William C. Davini Memorial Scholarship

Geri Samuel – Alphonse A. Miele Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Marc Summa – Theodore Mazza Memorial Scholarship

Melanie Naro, Esq. – Sgt. John Basilone Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Frank De Frank – Dr. Benjamin J. Cottone Memorial Scholarship

Frank Gonnella – Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarships

Pamela Ann Domico - DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship

Santi V. Buscemi – Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship

Nicola Genchi – Guglielmo Marconi Engineering Scholarship

Grace Gynn – Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship

Glenn P. Pettinato – Louise Torracco Memorial Scholarship for Science

Christopher I. DiMattio – Ralph J. Torracco Fine Arts Scholarship

Maria Teresa Morrison – Robert J. Tarte Scholarship for Italian Studies

Paolo and Maria Alessio Southern Italy Scholarship

Rose Ciarcia – Inserra Scholarships

Salvatore Benvenuti – Eleanor and Anthony DeFrancis Scholarship for Natural Sciences

Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Special Education – Temporarily Suspended

Anthony Bocchimuzo – Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Therapy Sciences

Dr. Peter Pettinato – Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Veterinary Studies

Rev. Robert Wolfee – Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Seminarian Studies

Special thanks to all Scholarship Committee members for their advice and assistance. Their help is truly valued.

It is also important to acknowledge the Chapters and Districts that sponsored candidates. Their commitment to encouraging students is recognized and appreciated.

Most of all, I thank all those who have contributed financially. Without your monetary support, we would not be able to continue our traditional offerings.

The Scholarship Program requires an incredible amount of attention from our National Office staff. I am sincerely grateful to Senior Administrative Assistant Sue Anzelmo for all her help. As always, Sue managed this tremendous responsibility with professionalism, integrity, patience and a sense of humor. I thank Executive Director Sal Benvenuti for his valued guidance. As with all things UNICO, their assistance is vital to our success.

UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Major Don S. Gentile Memorial Scholarship

Madison Victoria Giovenco

Lithia, Florida

Sponsor: National Office for Florida

Judged in New Jersey and Wisconsin

William C. Davini Memorial Scholarship

Adriana Marie Arrigo

Paramus, New Jersey

Sponsor: National Office for New Jersey

Judged in Wisconsin



Alphonse A. Miele Memorial Scholarship

Jackson James Zambarano

Monroe, Connecticut

Sponsor: National Office for Connecticut

Judged in New Jersey

Theodore Mazza Memorial Scholarship

Alexandra Rose Allonardo

East Hanover, New Jersey

Sponsor: Orange/West Orange Chapter, New Jersey

Judged in Florida



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Sgt. John Basilone Graduate Scholarship

Abigail Olivia Coco

Warrington, Pennsylvania

Sponsor: National Office for Pennsylvania

Sgt. John Basilone Memorial Scholarship

Jennifer Grace Mollica

Bloomfield, New Jersey

Sponsor: National Office for New Jersey

Judged in Pennsylvania



Dr. Benjamin J. Cottone Memorial Scholarship

John Christopher Cacciatore

Indialantic, Florida

Sponsor: National Office for Florida

Judged in Pennsylvania



Bernard and Carolyn Torraco Memorial Nursing Scholarships

Kelly Anne Hansen

Park Ridge, New Jersey

Sponsor: Woodcliff Lake Chapter, New Jersey



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Isabelle Rose Lauducci

Bridgewater, New Jersey

Sponsor: National Office for New Jersey

Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Anastasia Leone

Blauvelt, New York

Sponsor: North Shore Long Island Chapter, New York



Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Julia Marie Lombardi

Middlesex, New Jersey

Sponsor: National Office for New Jersey

Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Brooke Neller

Goshen, Connecticut

Sponsor: National Office for Connecticut



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Dana Ashley Pape

Elmwood Park, Illinois

Sponsor: Chicago West Suburban Chapter, Illinois

Bernard and Carolyn Torracco Memorial Nursing Scholarship

Ashley Voisin

Fort Mill, South Carolina

Sponsor: Denville Chapter, New Jersey

Judged in New Jersey



DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship

Sebastian Joseph Schwarz

Newburyport, Massachusetts

Sponsor: Merrimack Valley Chapter, Massachusetts

DiMattio Celli Family Study Abroad Scholarship

Marissa Lynn White

Waterbury, Connecticut

Sponsor: Waterbury Chapter, Connecticut

Judged in Illinois



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship

Isabella Magdalene Cicero

Mequon, Wisconsin

Sponsor: National Office for Wisconsin

Ella T. Grasso Literary Scholarship

Giada Skye Lalita Johnson

Boca Raton, Florida

Sponsor: National Office for Florida

Judged in New Jersey



Guglielmo Marconi Engineering Scholarship

Emma Grace Calderone

Laguna Hills, California

Sponsor: National Office for California

Judged in New Jersey

Robert J. Tarte Scholarship for Italian Studies

Audrey Buffo

Elmhurst, Illinois

Sponsor: National Office for Illinois

Judged in Delaware



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Ralph J. Torraco Scholarship

Benjamin Fanelli

Orland Park, Illinois

Sponsor: Chicago West Suburban Chapter, Illinois

Ralph J. Torraco Scholarship

Erica Licari

New York, New York

Sponsor: National Office for New York

Judged in New Jersey



Louise Torraco Memorial Scholarship for Science

Rebecca Morton

Elmhurst, Illinois

Sponsor: National Office for Illinois

Louise Torraco Memorial Scholarship for Science

Isabella Mia Romanucci

Elmwood Park, Illinois

Sponsor: National Office for Illinois

Judged in Pennsylvania



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Ralph J. Torraco Fine Arts Scholarship

Mary Helen Cerroni

Ridgway, Pennsylvania

Sponsor: National Office for Pennsylvania

Ralph J. Torraco Fine Arts Scholarship

Alyssa Gorman

Rancho Cordova, California

Sponsor: National Office for California

Judged in Pennsylvania



Maria and Paolo Alessio Southern Italy Scholarship

Ester Nicole Luna

New Haven, Connecticut

Sponsor: National Office for Connecticut

Judged in Delaware

Inserra Scholarship

Miriam Da Ponte

Bridgeport, Connecticut

Sponsor: National Office for Connecticut



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Inserra Scholarship
Anthony Michael Angelo Pettinato

New Britain, Connecticut

Sponsor: National Office for Connecticut
Judged in Florida

*Eleanor and Anthony De Francis Scholarship Fund
for Natural Sciences*

Victoria Grimaldi

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Sponsor: National Office for Florida
Judged in New Jersey



Ralph J. Torraco Scholarship for Therapy Sciences

Samantha Luise Haramis

North Haledon, New Jersey

Sponsor: National Office for New Jersey



Ralph J. Torraco Scholarship for Therapy Sciences

Jacqueline Rubino

Nutley, New Jersey

Sponsored by Nutley Chapter, New Jersey

Judged in New York



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Veterinary Studies

Alexia Madison Mazzarella

Pittston, Pennsylvania

Sponsor: Wilkes Barre Chapter, Pennsylvania

Judged in Pennsylvania

Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Seminarian Studies

Bryan R. Bangs

Barnstable, Massachusetts



Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Seminarian Studies

Andrew Juhyun Lee

South Orange, New Jersey



Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Seminarian Studies

Thomas Alexander Pluhar

Whitehouse, New Jersey



UNICO National Scholarship Recipients



Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Seminarian Studies

Andrew Michael Rubinich

South Orange, New Jersey

Evaluated in New Jersey

Ralph J. Torracco Scholarship for Special Education

Temporarily Suspended

Absence of Heritage Studies in U.S. Lesson Plans Prompts Education Officials to Introduce K-12 Curriculum Infusion Model

A Press Release from the Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations (of which UNICO is a member)

The Conference of Presidents of Major Italian American Organizations (COPOMIAO) is working closely with the New Jersey Italian Heritage Commission (NJIHC) on the national rollout of an equitable, diverse, and inclusive curriculum model that uses heritage as a guide to better educate U.S. students in both public and private schools. It is titled: The Universality of Italian Heritage. Through this K-12 infusion model, Italian cultural content in all subjects in grades K-12 can be integrated into a school district's existing, approved curriculum. Every lesson begins with an Italian theme then expands to incorporate the heritage of all students. COPOMIAO is inviting state commissioners/superintendents, dozens of dioceses, and Vatican officials in Rome to introduce this model to as many schools as possible. The lesson plans have been carefully designed and thoroughly tested, and they're available online at no cost at: njitalianheritage.org

"We are confident that The Universality of Italian heritage will open the door to an educationally stimulating and rewarding experience for teachers and students throughout the country," said Cav. Gilda Rorro Baldassari, Ed.D., who chairs the NJIHC Curriculum Development Committee. "Italy, through its art, philosophy, innovation and culture, heavily influenced and accelerated the development of the modern world, so it seems fitting that we use Italian heritage as a catalyst to create more enriching curricula for every student."

In addition to its lessons, the curriculum has implemented its AMICIZIA (Friendship) program. This "Gemellaggio" (twining) program takes students on a journey seldom traveled in education. It provides personal contact experiences, an international bilingual experience, and a vehicle for "piloting" new lessons through Zoom.

"This curriculum model will open the minds and perspectives of teachers and students who wish to elevate their classroom learning experiences," said COPOMIAO President Hon. Basil M. Russo. "This program will affect positive change, and right now, we need that more than ever."

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY (FAU) ITALIAN AND ITALIAN AMERICAN STUDIES



ABOUT FAU:

A public university with 30,000+ students, 170+ degree programs, award-winning undergraduate research, and the #1 most diverse public university in Florida.

DRIVING STUDENT SUCCESS:

As a national leader in student achievement FAU excels at bringing higher education to underserved and underrepresented communities. Designation at #36 in the country for Social Mobility by *US News & World Report*.

DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS:

Italian Studies is housed within the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Comparative Literature, one of twelve departments within the College, a dynamic college with a reputation of strong public programming and interdisciplinary collaborations.

More information: lcarney@fau.edu | 561-297-3606

RECOGNIZED ITALIAN SCHOLARS:



DR. ILARIA SERRA,
Professor, Italian and
Comparative Studies



DR. EMANUELE PETTENER,
Assistant Professor of Italian
and Writer in Residence

FAU
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES,
LINGUISTICS, AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University

fau.edu/artsandletters/llcl/italian

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

BACHELOR'S DEGREE | FAU has the only Major in Italian Studies south of the University of South Florida (Tampa). FAU serves an area of 9 million residents from Miami to Vero Beach.

MASTER'S DEGREE | FAU has the only specialization in Comparative Literature: Italian Studies, south of FL State University (Tallahassee)

DOCTORATE DEGREE | FAU has the only Ph.D. concentration in Italian in the state of Florida and south of UNC (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

STRENGTHS OF FAU'S ITALIAN STUDIES PROGRAM:

- We have a steady flow of graduate students from Italy at Masters and Ph.D. levels.
- Undergraduate and graduate students not only learn the language but are prepared to keep Italian culture in the U.S. alive and thriving.
- We produce important research projects and host annual national and international conferences.
- We have a strong connection with K-12 schools and other universities in the nation.
- We have a great relationship with the Italian American community and the Italian Consulate.
- The Italian Cultural Society (Il Circolo) helped establish, and continues to support, the FAU Italian Studies Program launched 35 years ago.
- UNICO Highland Beach funded the first Italian Studies scholarship endowment at FAU, and they continue to support students studying abroad to Venice each summer.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Our students are active in various groups.

- GKA, National Italian Honor Society.
- 35-year old FAU Italian Club "Insieme" (winner of four National Italian American Foundation grants).
- Constant meetings with community members including monthly "Nonna" nights organized with the Order of the Sons of Italy - Bonanno Lodge, Boca Raton.



STUDY ABROAD:

- We have had a successful study abroad program in Venice since 2009.
- More than 250 students have participated in 12 years.
- The program includes not only study but also active participation in the city's life.
- Before 2009, our study abroad was in Florence (2000-2008).

HOW ALL ITALIAN AMERICANS AND UNICO MEMBERS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP:

UNICO has a special and long relationship with FAU's Italian Studies Program. This national partnership would offer Italian Americans an expanded hub and center of attraction and diffusion of Italian American culture and learning, at the level of study, community engagement, and academic research.

FAU
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES,
LINGUISTICS, AND
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University

More information: lcarney@fau.edu | 561-297-3606

fau.edu/artsandletters/llcl/italian

UNICO FOUNDATION MENTAL HEALTH GRANTS



On Friday, April 29, 2022, a UNICO Foundation Geraldine Lipari Mental Health Grant was presented to New Beginning for Tomorrow in Fairfield, New Jersey. NB4T is a program for adults challenged with Autism and other developmental disabilities. It is their mission to continue preparation of the clients for the world that awaits them after the age of twenty-one. The adults work in small groups. NB4T addresses critical areas of learning that will support the client’s level of independence. This is accomplished by focusing on daily living activities, socialization, and community experience with a goal of meaningful employment opportunities. The grant will be used to purchase a smart board and two laptops.

REED Academy, Oakland, New Jersey was presented with a Geraldine Lipari Mental Health Grant through the UNICO Foundation. REED Academy is a private school program dedicated to educating children with Autism ages three through 21. Many of the students are non-verbal and rely heavily on technology to communicate. Our grant funded ten (10) iPads. Said technology is utilized by the student so they can follow a daily schedule of activities with the aim of increasing independence. For example, a schedule could include a morning routine depicting the steps needed to start their day: going to their locker, hanging up their coat, using the restroom, etc. Additional schedules may involve steps required to take a shower, do laundry, or make lunch. Activities we take for granted, must be introduced in a step-by-step process with constant reinforcement.

Pictured left to right: Celeste Pandolfi, Amy Goldberg, Fundraising Coordinator Kerry Bradford, Program Director for NB4T, Joan Tidona, Sal Benvenuti, Foundation Executive Director and Barbara Laborim, UNICO Foundation Mental Health Chair.

Pictured left to right: Joe and Dorothy Verdone, Celeste Pandolfi, Sal Benvenuti, Foundation Executive Director, Joan Tidona, Barbara Laborim, UNICO Foundation Mental Health Chair, Lisa Goldstein, VP of Development, and CEO Chantelle Walker of the REED Academy.



KENILWORTH, NJ

National Second Vice President Anthony Benvivenga and chapter President Laura Morano swore-in officers and new members at the Kenilworth Chapter June 2020 meeting.



BAYONNE, NJ



UNICO National 1st VP Cav. Ralph Contini, joined by Rick D'Arminio, PNP, Vito Bilotta, District Governor NJ III, Brian Della Bella, Chapter President and Bayonne Chapter members at their June meeting at Chandelier Restaurant in Bayonne.

RUTHERFORD, NJ



Rutherford Chapter Scholarship Committee with Recipient: From Left: Bob Donato, Dr. Jim Cuozzo, Pat Hirsch, Awardee Anthony Masullo, Chair Sal Brancato.



Rutherford Chapter Scholarship Awardee Anthony Masullo and Family. From Left: Dr. Al Masullo, Hackensack Chapter President, Dad Nino, Anthony, Mom Karen.



Rutherford Golf Outing Awesome Foursomes: Passaic Valley Member Joe McGill, Rutherford Member Luciano Miceli and friends.



NJ VI District Governor Marie Solimo installed Rutherford Chapter Officers and Board Members.



Rutherford UNICO new member Christian Cipollini is welcomed by DG Marie Solimo following installation.



Rutherford Chapter Brian Piccolo Award. From Left: Front - Bob Donato, Frank Tiodona, Back – AD David Frazier, Dad John Herninko, Awardee JJ Herninko, Mom Sherrienne Herninko.



CEDAR GROVE, NJ

After a 3 year hiatus, the Cedar Grove UNICO Annual Easter Egg Hunt returned. They had great weather and a great turnout. Amy Tufaro and Cinzia Faieta coordinated the event. Thank you to their "Easter Bunny" John Borgese. He worked his "tail" off!



HAZLETON, PA



Hazleton UNICO sharing Easter joy to the community.



Past President Angelo Porecca preparing the land for the chapter's new home base at Community Park. They are getting ready for Belle Italia in September.

MANCHESTER, CT



Along with volunteers from Knights of Columbus, Beth Sholom B'nai Israel, Masonic Lodges, and Chaired by Charlie Luchini, Manchester UNICO raised \$6,600 for the Victoriana Diaz family. The smiling 5-year-old struggles from Medulloblastoma.

CHICAGO WEST SUBURBAN, IL



UNICO National President Steven Pelonero at the Chicago West Suburban Chapter meeting. From left: PNP Michael Veselka, Marlene Veselka, Steve and Pat Pelonero, Chapter President Stan Kuczynski, and District Governor Jack Cerone.



While in Chicago President Pelonero visited the Italian Cultural Center. Pictured is a replica of St. Peter's Square: handmade of wood by a father and son which took them 10 years to make.

DELAWARE I



Delaware I donated 36 Easter baskets for children up to 12 years of age. They also donated age appropriate gifts for 15 older children.



CLARK, NJ



Opening day ceremonies were held for Little league and Clark Girls Softball. Clark UNICO has sponsored these teams for years.

ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ



UNICO National President Steven Pelonero (center) at the Orange West Orange and West Essex Carnival with (from the left) Ken Broderick, Gene Maddalena, Bob Masella, Frank Paolercio, and Dr. Frank Greco.

“Service Above Self”

AVON, CT



Avon UNICO held its annual Dinner Dance for Connecticut Children’s Hospital. In the top photo Dr. Joe Pavano introduces National President Steve Pelonero. In the bottom photo attendees enjoy a post event cigar.

PITTSFIELD, MA



The Pittsfield Chapter of UNICO recently held a diaper drive to benefit the “Berkshire Community Diaper Project” for parents in need. The BCDP distributes to 21 locations in Berkshire County. Pictured are members Larry Salvatore, Lori Borelli, and Peter Vacchina.

EASTON, PA



2nd Vice-President Anthony Bengivenga (center) and Raritan Valley Chapter President Tara Deleon (far right) were guest speakers at an Easton, PA chapter meeting earlier this year.

QUEENSBORO, NY

The Queensboro chapter cleaned up Juniper Park in Middle Village, Queens NY for UNICO Community Service Day. Pictured below, left to right: Gaspare Mistretta, Chapter President, Anthony Ferretti, and Mike Finamore.



ISLIP/SMITHTOWN, NY

The Islip/Smithtown chapter participated in the National Service Day on April 24. They worked with the Knights of Columbus of Elizabeth Anne Seton Church in Lake Ronkonkoma at one of their Blood Drives.



PLAINFIELDS, NJ



The Plainfield’s chapter proudly presented its annual Brian Piccolo Award to Gabriella Vitabile of South Plainfield. L to R: Fred and Lena Esposito, District Governor Bob Bengivenga, Gabriella Vitabile, her parents, Ida and Manny Vitabile, and John G DeAndrea.

ELMWOOD PARK, NJ



One of UNICO's newest chapters, Elmwood Park, swore in six new members at their chapter meeting. Above left, President Dom Nicastro pins his brother Nick. Above right, Garfield member Denise Ingui pins her daughter Aviana.

WATERBURY, CT

Waterbury UNICO held a Restaurant Fundraiser at a local establishment earning 10% of the gross sales of the night. Joining the fun were over 25 Chapter Members along with family, friends, and guests. Proceeds raised from the event and raffle will be used for local projects.

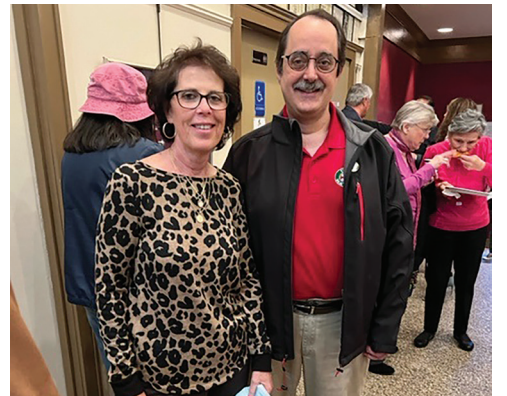


MONTVILLE, NJ

The Montville Chapter's Foundation sponsored a fundraiser at the Montville Barn Theatre for a performance of The Outsider. Food for the event was donated by local restaurants and Co-Chair Angie Pisano baked over 15 different desserts that were a huge hit for the theatre goers. The event raised over \$1200.



Co-chairs Angie and Russ Pisano pose by Angie's homemade desserts,



Montville President Nancy Metz and Executive Vice President Dr. Peter Pettinato at the Barn Theatre production of The Outsider.

SAYRE, PA

Sayre UNICO donated nearly \$32,000 to local students and organizations this year.

Chesapeake Energy donated \$2000 to Sayre UNICO to help in aiding in their causes.

CLARK, NJ



A large group of Clark Seniors got the shock of their life recently when they came in to play their weekly Mahjongg games. For years this group of seniors has played Mahjongg at the Clark Recreation Center. Joseph Arancio, President of Clark UNICO, purchased two brand new completely automated Mahjongg tables and surprised the group with some extra funds that were left from the proceeds of the UNICO Italian American Feast. They could not thank Joe and UNICO enough for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

WILKES BARRE, PA



UNICO Wilkes Barre participated in National Community Service Day. The chapter donated two sets of bleachers (\$2,800) to the Wyoming Valley Challenger Baseball League and then helped build them and clean-up the field. The League supports mentally and physically challenged local individuals who want to play baseball. Pictured are Jarrett Ferrentino, Leo Sperraza, Angela Sperrazza, Joe Homza, and Larry Wills.

KEARNY, NJ



On May 11th, representatives of the Kearny Ladies of UNICO attended the New Beginnings for Tomorrow (NB4T) Gala to present a donation to NB4T, an educational program for adults over 21 with disabilities. Pictured (l-r) Amy Goldberg, Fundraising Coordinator, Kerry Bradford, Program Director, Kearny Ladies Pearl Yaszczemski and Celeste Pandolfi.

TORRINGTON, CT



The Torrington chapter proudly presented the 2022 Community Ambassador Award to Retired Police Officer Tony Pietrafesa. Officer Pietrafesa retired in February from the Torrington Police Department after 20 years of service to the community in which he was born and raised. He has been involved in the community as a police officer, business owner, and a board member on a number of local non-profits. During his time with the police department Tony was assigned to the Community Policing Unit and was CEO of Torrington Police Activities League Inc. (PAL) where he was dedicated to empowering the youth of Northwest Connecticut.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Julie Narliski was the Raritan Valley Brian Piccolo Award recipient. Pictured are President Tara DeLeon, Joanne Narleski, Grandmother and role model Rosella DiDomenico Carson, Julie and William Narleski.

SPARTA, NJ



Sparta UNICO announced the Winner of its raffle for a “Trip of a Lifetime to Sunny Italy!”. A 10 Day trip to Rome, Tuscany, Veneto, and Umbria was won by Barbara Antonini Stote and her husband Lenny of Sparta. The \$100 a ticket raffle was a success with 300 tickets sold. The profits will be allocated to their Annual High School Student Scholarships.

KEARNY, NJ



Members of the Kearny chapter and a guest “got mootzed” at the Rutherford Chapter’s Mozzarella Night Fund-Raiser. Each member went home with two pounds of freshly made mozzarella. Pictured are (seated l-r): Jeanette Fries and Lou Pandolfi; (standing l-r): Celeste Pandolfi, Chapter President Annamarie Latushko and Theresa Trucillo.

WETHERSFIELD, CT

The Wethersfield chapter held its annual Scholarship Dinner where over \$10,000 was provided to deserving local students. In the pictures (clockwise from top left) President Dave Lanciano, Bob Donatelli, and Joe Balzo present checks.



PENNSYLVANIA II

District Governor Terri Pettinato presided over PA II’s March meeting with the Greater Binghamton Chapter as host. It was the first face-to-face district meeting of the chapters since the pandemic started. During the meeting, the district donated \$500 to the UNICO National Ukraine Fund. After the meeting, sister chapter members stayed and helped Greater Binghamton prepare a local project, their first since the pandemic. Fifty district members attended the meeting.

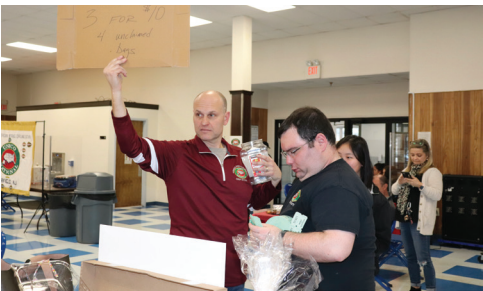


GARFIELD, NJ

The Garfield chapter held a pocketbook bingo fundraiser.



Alan Focarino and Denise Ingui



Salvatore Ingui and Giuseppe Barone



President Charles Nucifora, Giuseppe Barone, and Vincent Caravello.

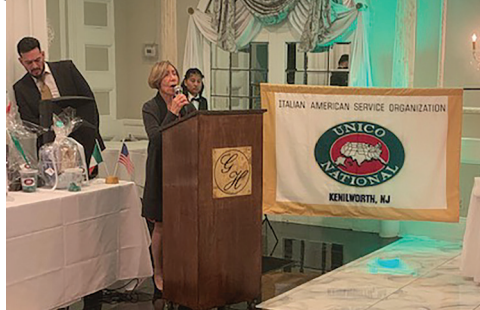
SADDLE BROOK, NJ



Saddle Brook UNICO Bingo Night fundraiser

KENILWORTH, NJ

On May 6th, Kenilworth UNICO held their first "Spring Night Out" fundraiser at Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, NJ. National President Steve Pelonero and First Lady Pat joined the 150 family members and friends of the Kenilworth Chapter and representatives from other UNICO chapters. Everyone was entertained by three comedians. The evening was filled with laughter, good food, and great company.



In recognition of UNICO National Day of Service, the Kenilworth Chapter sponsored a food drive in support of the Church of Saint Theresa's Food Pantry.



The Kenilworth Chapter is honored to nominate Kimberly Palmieri-Mouded (below) for the prestigious UNICO National Americanism Award. The chapter is proud of her achievements and her contributions to the well-being of all Union County residents. Kimberly exemplifies humility, self-direction, tenacity, determination, and resourcefulness.



ST. JOSEPH'S MONTVALE, NJ



The ACES, under the direction of Deacon Joe Sisco, ran a food drive for rice, beans, and pasta for needy families at Father English Community Center Food Bank in Paterson. They collected and delivered about 75 bags of groceries.

In March the ACES held a toiletries drive for veterans at the Paramus Veterans Memorial Home and those in need at Mercy House in Hackensack. They collected and delivered 4 large cases of toiletries for the Veterans and 40 shopping bags of travel size toiletries for Mercy House.



In May a group of graduating senior ACES volunteered their services at St. Peter's School in Belleville. They cleaned out an old storage room and transformed it into a teachers' lounge. They are pictured here with Principal Mrs. Phyllis Sisco.

Our ACES conducted a diaper drive and donated 80 baskets of diapers and baby wipes as well as a large haul of baby clothes to needy families at the Mommy and Me program at Straight and Narrow.



KEYSTONE, PA

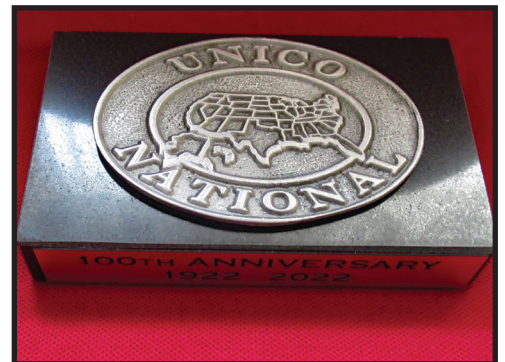
Keystone UNICO pitched in to help at the Friends of the Poor Annual Food and Easter Basket Give-Away at the Scranton Cultural Center.



Michele McDade, Eileen Kovatch, Toni and Gene DiVizio, and Val Riggi bagged canned vegetables and fresh produce items for distribution.



Lenore and Ed Latarewicz helped with the distribution of Easter Baskets.



The "UNICO Store" is offering a 100th Anniversary Commemorative Paperweight for sale at 2022 National Convention. Celebrate UNICO's 100th Anniversary with a distinctive desk accessory for yourself, or as a gift for your favorite Unican. Priced at \$25.00 each.

SPARTA, NJ



“It’s a Family Affair!” Sparta UNICO inducted the entire Vigiletti Family from Vernon in May at their monthly meeting. Juliann (mom), is a teacher in Clifton and her husband is also a teacher in Wayne and their children Christopher and Sophia are newly inducted as ACES sworn in by President Ray Shupak.

KEARNY, NJ



Carley Natosi received her Brian Piccolo Award from Chapter President Annamarie Latushko and Coach James Pickel of Kearny HS.



Members of the Kearny chapter and the Natosi Family attended the recent District VII Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner where Carley Natosi, a multi-sport student-athlete was presented with the Chapter’s Brian Piccolo Award.

WETHERSFIELD, CT



The Wethersfield chapter held its 4th Comedy Night fundraiser which was attended by almost 200 people. PNP Tom Vaughan and Nick Deramo co-chaired the fun event.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Raritan Valley chapter members Anna Ferrera, Joe Ferrera, and Donna Fillmore ran the chapter’s annual “Game Day” at the Wellness Center in Bridgewater, NJ.

KEARNY, NJ



On April 23rd, members of the Kearny Chapter conducted a Food Drive as part of UNICO National’s Community Service Day. Members, including (l-r) JoAnn Mitchell, Celeste Pandolfi, Dennis Latushko, Lou Pandolfi, Theresa Trucillo and Chapter President Annamarie Latushko gathered in the parking lot of American Legion Post 99 to collect non-perishable food items and monies which were donated to the Kearny Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church.



The collected food was loaded into a van ready to be distributed. Pictured (l-r) Food Pantry Driver Steve and President Annamarie Latushko.



2022 CONVENTION FUNDRAISERS



Presidential Aide Gene Maddalena of the Montville NJ chapter chaired a Convention 2022 Bocce Fundraiser at Montville Community Park.



The 2022 UNICO Convention Bocce Fundraiser winning team with National President Steve and future President Dr. Peter Pettinato: from the left: Mark Onsdorff, Mike Muyala, Steve, Peter, Michael Maddalena, and event Chair Gene Maddalena.



Connecticut III hosted a bowling tournament for the 2022 Convention. Foundation Trustee Morris Borea chaired the event which also raised money for the UNICO Ukranian Relief Fund.



PLAINFIELDS, NJ



The Plainfields chapter of UNICO inducted three new members at a special swearing-in ceremony and dinner meeting recently. UNICO National 2nd Vice President Anthony Bengivenga swore in the new members as District Governor Robert Bengivenga and Chapter President April Bengivenga witnessed the ceremony. The newly inducted members are Alexis Ratti, Allison Kreiss and Matthew Ozbalic.

WATERBURY, CT

The Waterbury chapter of UNICO National is pleased to announce that 14 students from the Waterbury Community received \$1,000 awards at their Annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony. Since 1922, high-school graduates of Italian descent have been recognized for their excellence.



Chairman Bob Gerace, the Honorable Sal Agati, and President Francine Nido.



School Principal Nicholas Albini and Scholarship Benefactor Frank Trivisano with their honoree.



VERONA, NJ



Two ACES were welcomed to the Verona chapter. Valentina Carpinelli, and Anna Carpinelli, installed. Both young women are nieces of Nicki Carpinelli, Membership and Retention Director of UNICO National and a long-time member of the Verona Chapter.

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ



Greater Westfield Chapter participated in the NJ District X annual Brian Piccolo Sports Award. Left to Right: National 2nd Vice President Anthony Bengivenga, PNP Ann Walko, Chapter President Robert Tarte, Award recipient Alivia Macaluso, Myriam Restrepo.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Raritan Valley members participate in UNICO's Community Service Day: President Tara DeLeon, Donna Lish, Anna Ferrera, "ACE" Gavin Rector, Joe Ferrera, and Sharon Gerard.



Joe and Anna Ferrera help with the cleanup.



Donna Lish and ACE Gavin Rector.



Members preparing for the Spring Fling Tricky Tray Fundraiser.

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X BRIAN PICCOLO AWARDS



Clark President Joe Arancio and District Governor Bob Bengivenga present a Brian Piccolo award to Anthony Cundari.



Clark recipients Anthony Cundari, Tatum Dobbins, Nicholas Pingor



Scotch Plains recipient Ashley DeFrancisco



Raritan Valley recipient Julie Narleski



Greater Westfield recipient Alivia Macaluso with Bob Tarte, Bob Bengivenga, and Second Vice President Anthony Bengivenga.



Clark recipients with chapter members

ELMWOOD PARK, NJ



Members of Elmwood Park UNICO assisted Saint Leo's Church with their annual sale of Palm Crosses. The crosses sold quickly as members greeted parishioners at the entrance to the church. They look forward to building this friendship and celebrating the life and history of St. Leo the Great, who was a Pope from Tuscany and Doctor of the Church.

FARMINGTON, CT

The Farmington chapter held their annual Joe Filomeno Memorial Golf Tournament which enables them to continue their over 50 years of community service. In the pictures: Paul Pedemonti sends the golfers off, Joe's grandsons are "best dressed", and on the right Dan, Tom, and Mike Filomeno.



NUTLEY, NJ

The Nutley, NJ chapter ended the 2021-22 year by awarding \$36,400 in scholarships to Nutley graduates. Thanks to the committee, chaired by the Honorable Alan Genitempo, for their diligence in selecting the 24 recipients. In addition to chapter-raised funds, families donated to this initiative in the name of loved ones. They include the Scarpelli, Arcuti, Kelly, Biondi, Battaglia, Cocchiola, DiMaggio, Ritacco, Bonnadonna, Palma and Crupi families. A special event was held on June 14 to award most of the scholarships.



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Arcuti present the \$1,200 Arcuti Family Scholarship to Luca Brancato at the Nutley Scholarship Breakfast.



Nutley, NJ President, Vito Maturra (right), presents a 25 year member certificate to Joe Cervasio.



Frank Cocchiola, Jr., Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast Chair, presents a Certificate of Appreciation and \$200 check to a charity of choice to guest speaker, Robert Belcuore, at the Piccolo Breakfast.



Scholarship Committee member Greg Tolve presenting the \$1,000 Vocational Scholarship to Madeline Quinn.



GARFIELD, NJ



The Garfield chapter held its traditional "Cannibal Night" event. National President Steve Pelonero attended.

The Deadline for the September 2022 issue is **August 19, 2022**

WATERBURY, CT



Waterbury UNICO participated in UNICO National's Day of Community Service which coincided with the City of Waterbury's Earth Day Clean-Up. Members participated in a yard clean-up at the Malta House in Waterbury. Since 2010, the Malta House of Care-Waterbury, Inc. has utilized an all-volunteer staff of medical professionals to provide primary health care services to uninsured adults of the Greater Waterbury area.

WETHERSFIELD, CT



The Wethersfield chapter donated a wreath and participated in the town's Memorial Day Parade. In the picture member Jerry Lettieri drives his 1936 Ford Roadster with Foundation Trustee Morris Borea in the rumble seat.



SPARTA, NJ



The Sparta UNICO Easter Egg Hunt event was held at Dykstra Park in Sparta. They provided twenty baskets of fun and three bicycles (donated by Dawn Corbo of Weichert Realty), to the lucky winners who found tickets in several of the 3,000 eggs that were distributed. For 24 years Sparta UNICO has opened this event to all people of Sussex County and their families and will continue the tradition for years to come. Help from Laura and Gary D'uva, Gerry Coppola, Kristin Salvatore, Mike Schaaf, Ray Shupak, Matte Smith, and most importantly their Bunny Anthony Galasso.

KEARNY, NJ



Members of the Kearny Chapter attended the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Passaic Valley Chapter. Pictured are (seated l-r) Celeste Pandolfi and Chapter President Annamarie Latushko and (standing l-r) Lou Pandolfi, UNICO National EVP Dr. Peter Pettinato and Dennis Latushko.

KEYSTONE, PA



Keystone UNICO recently made their annual donation and performed community service at Saint Francis Kitchen. The Kitchen provides much needed services to the hundreds of clients that stop by for a nutritious hot meal in a safe, respectful, and clean environment. Pictured are Rob Williams, Executive Director of St. Francis Kitchen; Cathy Gerard, Michele McDade, and Mark McDade.

MILWAUKEE, WI

The Milwaukee chapter held its Scholarship and Awards Dinner in May. The chapter was thrilled to host National President Steve and First Lady Pat Pelonero, along with PNP Mike Veselka and his wife Marlene. At the dinner Sal Purpora received the Milwaukee Chapter Citizen of the Year Award.



President Pelonero with chapter President Elizabeth Anne Ceraso.

President Elizabeth Anne Ceraso, Sophia Michalovitz, and Wisconsin I District Governor Rose Anne Ceraso – Fritchie.

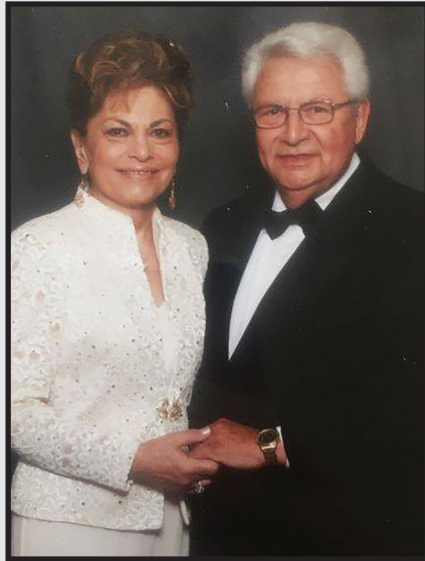
Master of Ceremony the Honorable John DiMotto and VP Sophia Michalovitz.

NEW JERSEY VII

After being suspended for two years due to the pandemic, New Jersey District VII held the Brian Piccolo Memorial Awards Presentation Dinner. District Governor Marie Solimo emceed the event. The keynote speaker was former NFL player Steve Maneri. He had a six-year career playing for the Patriots, Bears, Bucs and Jets. With several teammates he started the Kids Dream Big Foundation to help underprivileged kids set and attain goals leading to success using the same strategies as athletes. He stressed working harder than everyone else to achieve those goals. Award winners were: Anthony Giordano – Garfield HS, Angela Lombardi – Hackensack HS, Carley Natosi – Kearny HS, Ryan McGuire – Lodi HS, Mathew Harbison – Nutley HS, Jacob Herninko – Rutherford HS, Nicholas Ciolino – Saddle Brook HS.



In Memorium: Dr. Emanuele A. “Manny” Alfano



Dr. Emanuele A. “Manny” Alfano, a highly regarded Chiropractor, Educator, Civic leader, and nationally recognized leader of the Italian American community, passed away on Sunday, June 19, 2022.

In 1969 Dr. Alfano married Patricia Marinaro and raised a family in Bloomfield, New Jersey. They have three children Stephen Alfano (Tracey), Victor Alfano (Wynona), and Maria McKeon (Sean); They also have six grandchildren: Ashley, Alyssa, Stefano, Gabriella, Sienna and Christian.

A long-time musician, Manny’s music career spanned over 70 years, beginning with the Italian American Feast Bands while still in high school. A long-time member of the A. F. of M, he played trumpet and was the lead singer in a variety of musical groups, including The Preludes, Brotherhood, and Unico 5.

Dr. Alfano became a member of the Bloomfield Chapter of UNICO National in February of 1980 and served as Chapter President and later District Governor of New Jersey District II. He co-founded the Belleville Chapter and together with the Bloomfield chapter of UNICO, founded the Young Italian American A.C.E.S. Club of UNICO National. He was appointed the Anti Bias Committee Chair in 1990 and served in that position for decades. Dr. Alfano, UNICO, and the ADL sponsored a television program at CUNY University on defamation and stereotyping of Italian Americans. He launched the UNICO National Italian and Italian American heritage calendar. Dr. Alfano played a key role in obtaining equal membership for women in UNICO. In 2002 Dr. Alfano received UNICO National’s highest award, the Vastola Award.

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ

Greater Westfield UNICO held their annual Pig Roast fundraiser at the Garwood Knights of Columbus Hall.



KENILWORTH, NJ

One of the ways through which the Kenilworth chapter gives back to the community is to recognize and honor students who excel academically and who are accomplished athletes. On April 24, David Brearley students of Italian American heritage who exhibit the qualities modeled by Brian Piccolo in his life and career were honored for their accomplishments and post-high school endeavors. Congratulations Isabella Casolaro and Nicholas Manee!



CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO participated in the annual Clark Memorial Day parade. President Joe Arancio and members marched and then placed a wreath at the memorial presentation.



KEARNY, NJ

The Kearny chapter marched in the Kearny Memorial Day Parade.



President Annamarie Latushko (r) and Alexa Fantacone and Emilia (l) proudly carried the Chapter's banner.



Alexa Fantacone and her daughter, Emilia (the chapter's youngest member!) prepare to march in the Kearny Memorial Day Parade.



Chapter members decorated the "UNICO-mobile" before the start of the Parade. Riding in the UNICO-mobile were Dennis Latushko, JoAnn Mitchell, Celeste and Lou Pandolfi.w

WATERBURY, CT



Waterbury member Louis C. Gelada Jr. and his wife, Svetlana (Khorolskya) Gelada traveled to Hartford, CT to the Ukrainian National Home in two separate cars packed with supplies destined for Ukraine. Svetlana was born in Tsarichansky region, Dnepropetrovskaya oblast, Ukraine. They were accompanied by relatives, former colleagues and close friends with carloads of supplies. After hours of hard labor, the boxes were piled high to the ceiling and the room was still filled with supplies to be sorted and packed. The process of sorting, packing and transporting the 500+ boxes of supplies via tractor trailer to the airport took several more weeks after the initial volunteers began the mammoth undertaking. The Waterbury chapter was proud to support this effort. On March 13, Louis and Svetlana presented a check from Waterbury UNICO to Myron Kolinsky, who was the organizer of the event.

KEYSTONE, PA



Members of the Keystone UNICO Board of Directors presented a \$500 check to Father Myron Myronyuk, Pastor of Saint Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton, to be distributed to the needs of the Ukrainian citizens during this difficult time. This is the second \$500 donation made to Ukrainian Relief by Keystone UNICO, the first being the UNICO Ukrainian Relief Effort.



UNICO DISASTER RELIEF FUND

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ



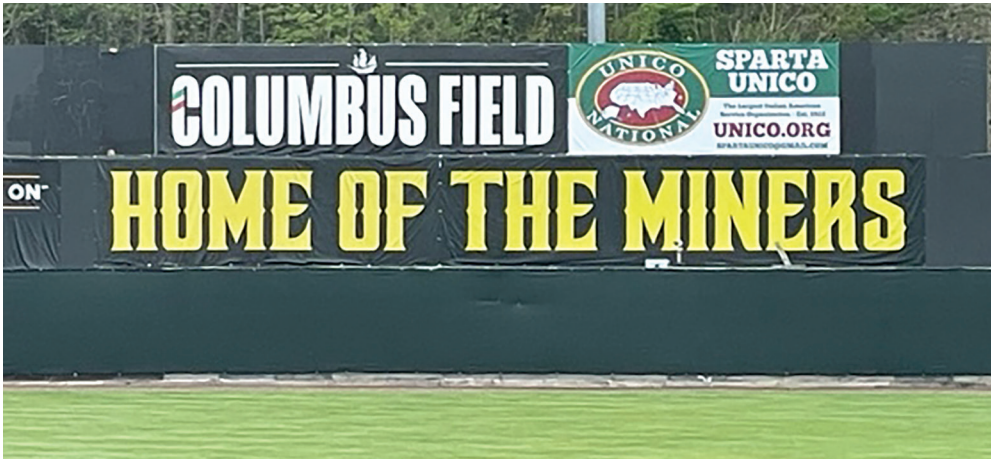
Greater Westfield chapter collected medical supplies and \$1,000 in money donations for their “We Stand with Ukraine” project which the chapter held jointly with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Rotary. Left to right: Chapter Vice President Myriam, President Robert Tarte, National 2nd Vice President Anthony Bengivenga.

Greater Westfield officers Myriam Restrepo, President Bob Tarte, Tony Valles, and Rich Esposito present a \$1,000 check to Rotary officer Al Smith for the joint project “We Stand with Ukraine”.

UNICO National collected \$10,500 toward the Ukrainian Relief fund. The funds have been allocated to the World Central Kitchen who are noted for providing fresh meals to communities in need. They are currently serving hot meals at eight border crossings and supporting local restaurants by preparing meals around Ukraine.

For more information go to: <https://wck.org/relief/activation-chefs-for-ukraine>

SPARTA, NJ



A UNICO Banner flies at the Columbus Stadium Ballpark in Augusta NJ, home of the Miners ball team. President Ray Shupak and members of UNICO National along with Al Dorso, owner of the Miners, promised and delivered this spectacular banner of UNICO in the outfield visible for all visitors and players at the ballpark. Sparta member Joann Ciancitto, Al Dorso's business manager, designed the banner.

ST. JOE'S MONTVALE, NJ

In keeping with the chapter's commitment to a yearly cancer charity donation, \$1350 was raised and donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Pictured are Deacon Joe Sisco and ACES members.



This year's St. Joe's High School UNICO chapter scholarship recipients were graduating seniors Michael DeMarco, Nino DeMarco, Daniel Rappa and James Titolo. These scholarships were awarded to them based on their outstanding levels of service to their chapter, school, and outside communities.



TORRINGTON, CT

The Torrington chapter held its 44th Annual Scholarship Awards Night. The chapter presented 19 scholarships to students from area schools for a total of \$40,500. They also presented a total of \$ 8,900 to several local service organizations. President Brian Mattiello presented Tony Pietrafesa with the Community Ambassador Award for his 20 years of work with the PAL Organization. The Brian Piccolo Award was presented to Dominic Samele by George Pollick. Over 100 people gathered together to make this event a great success.



Send all
submissions
to
comunico@unico.org

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QUEENSBORO, NY

Queensboro UNICO brings in 3 new members: Paul Vista, Phil Scandariato, and Joe Supa.



Queensboro also held their Annual Picnic where they provided community service by distributing clothes, shoes, and food to veterans and service members.



ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ

The Orange/West Orange chapter awarded eighteen scholarships totaling \$25,500 to West Orange High School seniors. Scholarship Chair Frank V Gonnella awarded scholarships to seniors in the areas of general academic excellence, science, engineering, culinary, music, business, VEI, the trades and Italian Studies and Language. Gonnella exclaimed, "What an impressive group of young men and women. Congratulations to all the winners!"



BLOOMFIELD, NJ

On May 17th, the Bloomfield Chapter celebrated their 52nd Brian Piccolo & Scholarship Dinner. The 96 attendees included seven scholarship and two Brian Piccolo recipients, their families and chapter members. Paul Alongi, PNP, coordinated the event. Tom Pelaia, Chapter President, welcomed everyone and congratulated the students and their parents. Tina Buontempo recognized the Chapter Interns for their dedication to Service above Self over the past year. At the end of the evening Paul Alongi inducted two Senior Interns into the chapter as Youth Members.

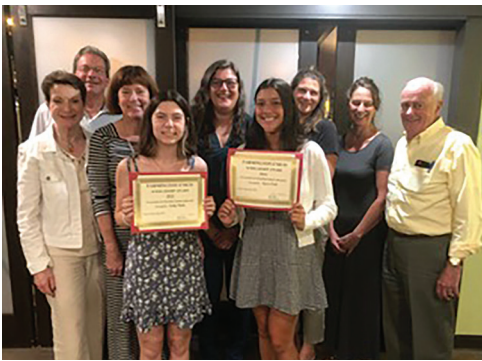


LODI, NJ



Lodi UNICO presented their Brian Piccolo award winner with a \$500 scholarship. In the photo Thomas Maccarrone, Connie Maccarrone, Jimmy Herd, Diane Laurita, Mark Maggio, and President Gary Laurita are presenting the award to Ryan McGuire with members of his family.

FARMINGTON, CT



Farmington UNICO presented scholarships to three recipients this year. In the picture are the recipients and members of the Scholarship Committee: Ginny Mugavero, Tom Magro, Debbie and Emily Vitale, Anna and Nyssa Park, Lea Marcello, Alison Swain, and Jim Kane.



Two new members were welcomed to Farmington UNICO. Left to right: Gloria Terenzio, President Tom Magro, and Carla Martin.

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ



Andrew Pantano was a Hillsborough charter member. To honor his memory the chapter donated a bench to be used at the Bocce court in Anne Van Dam Park in Hillsborough. Andrew was a blessing and an inspiration. He will be missed greatly by all his family and friends.

ISLIP/SMITHTOWN, NY

Pictures from Islip/Smithtown's Scholarship Awards Dinner.



EASTON, PA



2nd Vice-President Anthony Bengivenga (center) and Raritan Valley Chapter President Tara Deleon (far right) were guest speakers at an Easton, PA chapter meeting earlier this year.

Pictures from Islip/Smithtown's Casino Night Fundraiser.



2023 National Convention

Marriott Sanibel

Harbour Resort & Spa

July 26-30, 2023

MONTVILLE, NJ

The Montville chapter held a Kentucky Derby dinner/dance fundraiser where everyone had a chance to wager on the race and dress in the Derby finest. Also at the event: Michele Maddalena was sworn in as President by National President Steve Pelonero, and Angie Pisan and Joan Bunda were named Persons of the Year.



RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Chapter President Tara DeLeon and VP Donna Lish at the Raritan Valley "Spring Fling" fundraiser.



An award was presented to Maria Danberry for her continued support and generosity. From left: Maria with members Sharon Forte and Joe Forte.



EASTON, PA

The Easton, PA chapter held its annual Scholarship Dinner at La Dolce Vita Restaurant in Easton. Due to the pandemic, they were unable to host the dinner for the past 2 years. Fortunately, several of the student recipients from 2020 and 2021 were able to join them for proper recognition. In addition to awarding scholarships, Chapter President Anthony Curto, along with Chapter member PA State Senator Lisa Boscola, presented the Hugo A. Piagesi Achievement Award to longtime educator/coach Carmelo LaDuca. While the pandemic hampered some fundraising efforts, the Chapter made a commitment to continue with our scholarships, awarding 15 students since the pandemic began.



(L to R) 2022 Student Scholarship Winners: President Anthony Curto, Julia Caccarelli, Brendan Branosky, Paige Scalzo, Nino Rizzolino, Michael Hynes, Nicholas Murgia, State Senator Lisa Boscola.



(L to R) 2021 Student Scholarship Winners: President Anthony Curto, Joseph Macchia, Alyssa Caiati, State Senator Lisa Boscola.



(L-R) President Anthony Curto, Achievement Award Recipient Carmelo LaDuca, State Senator Lisa Boscola.



(L to R) 2020 Student Scholarship Winners: President Anthony Curto, Brett Scalzo, Lucca Scomilio, State Senator Lisa Boscola.

GREATER RAMSEY, NJ



Chapter President Maria Arrabito being sworn in by PNP Rick D'Arminio.



New Board of Directors and Officers sworn in by PNP Rick D'Arminio.



Outgoing President Aurelius Licata presented with an appreciation plaque by Ron Muzzillo.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ

The Saddle Brook Chapter proudly installed their new President, Ed Ebel, as Chapter President and awarded Scholarships to four worthy Saddle Brook students.



The Deadline for the September 2022 issue is **August 19, 2022**

BRISTOL, CT



Bristol UNICO held its scholarship awards dinner on June 7. Pictured are award recipients Hannah Aldieri, Central HS (on the phone), Brooke Trannic, Eastern HS, Olivia Belfonti, St Paul HS. With them are Bob DeLuzio, Chapter President, and Mario Giovannucci, Scholarship chairperson and Foundation Treasurer.

GARFIELD, NJ

The Garfield Bocce Tournament was chaired by Allan Focarino.



PEQUANNOCK, NJ

Members of the Pequannock Chapter participated in the Pequannock Township Memorial Day Parade with their float, members marching with their banner, and their Treasurer, Rich DePinto, playing taps along the parade route.



WETHERSFIELD, CT



Over 25 new and old bocce lovers showed up for Wethersfield UNICO's 15th season. A tournament is planned in September to benefit a UNICO Foundation cause.

CEDAR GROVE, NJ

President Will LaRusso and the Cedar Grove chapter presented \$1000 scholarships to Christopher Nicolette, Alexandria Eustice, Emily Capezio, and Matthew Schoner at their annual Scholarship Awards dinner.



RARITAN VALLEY, NJ



Raritan Valley Chapter members present a check to “Jack’s Kids”, a local organization, which helps children with special needs and their families.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ



In early June, members Judi Ricucci and Mayor Joe Jackson of Rockaway Township presented two \$1,000 college scholarship awards to Katherine Lanzerotti and Alexandra Gordon of Morris Hills High School. The winners also attended the June 27th Chapter Meeting to read their winning essays on “How their Italian heritage has influenced the person they are”.

REHOBETH AREA, DE

Rehobeth Area UNICO reflects on the chapter’s events of the last year.



Members and friends work together...



...and then enjoy the fruits of their labor!



Karen Coombe and Vic Varrassi enjoy singing together.



Kathy Pizzadili is truly in the spirit for the Kentucky Derby.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA



Members of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of UNICO held their April meeting at Buca d’Oro. This meeting was eventful as two new members were voted into the chapter; Matt Sacchetta and Mike Ferraioli. A lovely dinner was served by Buca d’Oro while members conversed and shared warm welcomes to Matt and Mike.

QUEENSBORO, NY



Queensboro UNICO donated \$2000 in scholarship funds to the FDNY Columbia association. Pictured is the winner Isabella Sicilian with her parents James and Monica along with Tony Nunziato and Mike Mucaria of the Queensboro chapter. The funds were proceeds from the chapter’s first annual bocce tournament held on May 21st at Eisenhower park.

WAYNE, NJ

The Wayne chapter has been busy the last few months:



Wayne NJ Memorial Day Parade



Pasta Night



Supplies for Ukraine: Wayne UNICO along with Mayor Vergano and Black Oak Pharmacy.



Swearing in new member Chris Giammarella (center) with Chapter President Steve Calantone and Past Chapter President Anthony DeGennaro.

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ



President Nate Santaromita, Nate Bonacci and President-elect Mariann Cialdella present the Brian Piccolo Award at the NJ District X award brunch. In the bottom photo are Nate and his proud family.



Hillsborough UNICO participated in the Township Spring Bocce league and won the Championship! Pictured above are Referee Emily, Sherry Ferrera, President Nate Santaromita, Marianne Ferrera, and Anthony Ferrera.

WESTWOOD, NJ



Westwood UNICO held their annual awards and scholarships evening. They were proud to provide two \$1,000 nursing scholarships to Katya Zeidwig and Sarah Urrea from the Miraglia Scholarship Fund. In addition, a \$1,000 scholarship was provided to Abigail Cleary from the DeRossi Scholarship. The Marie Cifelli Teaching Scholarship provided a \$1,000 scholarship to Jacqueline Metz. L-R - new President James Cleary, scholarship winners Abigail Cleary, Jacqueline Metz, Steve Bifulco, and Gerry Heytink.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ



In May, the Rockaway Township Chapter had 16 guests attend the District XI meeting at the Hanover Manor to honor Joe Bell as their Unican of the Year. Chapter President Judy Mustachio, along with District Governor Vince Palumbo, presented Joe with his well-deserved award.

SCRANTON, PA



Jim Sagona, center, is sworn in as President for 2022-23 by District Governor Gail Cicerini. Amanda Hallock (left) looks on.



The Scranton Chapter awarded scholarships named after the late Chicago Bears player Brian Piccolo to a male and female high school student of outstanding academics, athletic and community service. Presenting the awards were Cindy Farina, (far left) and Lisa Bieri (far right). Receiving the awards during the President's Dinner were Maria Parola and Michael Kazmierczak.

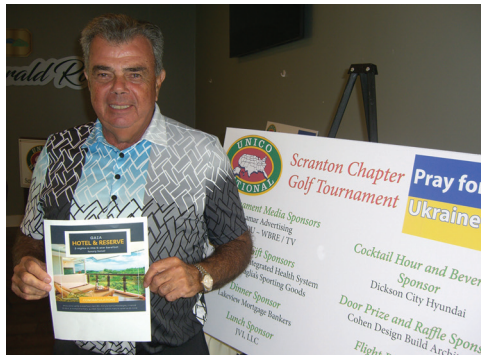
Scranton UNICO held its second golf tournament in May at Blue Ridge Trails, Nanticoke. All proceeds from the tournament benefitted Ukraine refugee relief through St. Vladimir's Ukrainian Catholic Church.



The Golf Committee



Ann Genett, president of the Scranton Chapter, addresses the golfers.



Grand Prize winner of a three-day all-inclusive stay in Costa Rica was Don Mancuso.



Jim Brogna, representing Allied Services, a major co-sponsor of the tournament, speaks to golfers.



Bill and Nancy Genello ready to hit the links at the golf tournament.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ



Point Pleasant Beach UNICO presented scholarships to eleven graduating Seniors at a banquet in their honor at The White Sands Resort. Members, friends, parents, and donors were on hand to congratulate these outstanding students. In addition to their UNICO Scholarship, graduates were given a Youth membership in UNICO National. Since the chapter has been unable to host big fundraisers these past two years, most of the scholarships were donated by members and friends of UNICO, many memorial tributes to family members.

KEARNY, NJ



Kearny Chapter President Annamarie Latushko and Kearny Ladies VP Celeste Pandolfi presented a Kearny Ladies of UNICO scholarship to Lauren Ciccarelli at Kearny High School's Senior Awards Night on June 9th.



Faith Kennedy was the recipient of one of the Kearny Chapter's scholarship awards at its June 14th Chapter meeting. Pictured with Faith are Faith's parents Ed and Mary Kennedy, Scholarship Chair Joe Sorbera and Chapter President Annamarie Latushko.



Carley Natosi was presented with a Brian Piccolo scholarship at the Chapter's June meeting. Pictured are Chapter President Annamarie Latushko, Joe Sorbera, and Judy Hyde.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY



The Greater Binghamton NY chapter presented a check for \$1500 to Reverend Teodor Czabala Jr of Sacred Heart Ukrainian Catholic Church located in Johnson City, NY. The monies will help the church buy medical supplies that they are sending to Ukraine to assist with the war and humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Presenting the check is Nick Pianella, Lorraine Rogers and Carolyn Pianella.

ROSETO, PA



The Roseto chapter had its scholarship presentation on June 15th. L to R. Treasurer and Scholarship Committee Chair Emile Guida, PNP Dr. Frank DeFrank, scholarship winner Isabel Lala from Faith Christian, VP Joseph Danubio, and President Dr. Marino Saveri.

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ



At their annual scholarship awards dinner on June 13, The Greater Westfield chapter presented Westfield High School seniors Anthony SanGiacomo and Payton Reese Silverman scholarships of \$1500 each. Payton Reese Silverman was not able to attend. Left to Right: Incoming Chapter President Myriam Restrepo, Scholarship recipient Anthony SanGiacomo, Outgoing President Robert Tarte.



Greater Westfield Chapter President Robert Tarte (right) swears in the 2022-2023 incoming President Myriam Restrepo, Sgt-at-Arms Vivian Strano, and Treasurer Tony Valles.



Members and officers of the Greater Westfield chapter celebrate their final dinner meeting before summer on June 13 at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park, NJ.

WETHERSFIELD, CT

The annual Keane Foundation/Wethersfield UNICO golf tournament was a great success led by Chairs Tony Santucci and Nick Deramo.



Members of the “Shack Lunch Crew” included District Governor Al Marino and President Dave Lanciano on the right.



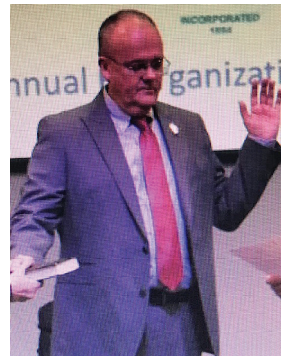
PNP Tom Vaughan poses next to two sponsor signs, including his own.

HACKENSACK, NJ



The Hackensack Chapter continues to support the Italian Advanced Placement Exam and hosts the Hackensack High School Italian Honor Society Induction. L to R: Dr. Alfredo Masullo, Chapter President; Maryann Russo, Marielle Messina, Karelia Tejada, and Cav. Ralph A. Contini, UNICO National 1st Vice President.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ



The Rockaway Township chapter held their Italian Tailgate Dinner at St. Clement’s Church complete with delicious Italian food catered by member Dana Ferraro-Ilic of Ferraro’s Italian Specialties. The day was filled with lots of fun, dancing, many raffle prizes, a 50/50 drawing and terrific live music played by Paul Czekaj.

At the end of June, Rockaway held their Chapter Meeting at Pizza Rustica where they swore in new Chapter President Nicole Capo (top), along with new Board members Susan Musto, Vinnie Paglucci (middle), Paula Plati and Fred Plati. They also swore in two new Chapter members, Tom Mulligan- Mayor of Rockaway Borough (bottom) and Tom DePaola.



CARBONDALE, PA



Maggie Pettinato plays Taps on her trumpet as she takes part in the National TAPS ACROSS AMERICA project on Memorial Day. She is joined by L-R: Nahan Masco, Angel Mascoe, Dr. Peter Pettinato, Executive Vice President UNICO National, chapter President Mary Lynn Brannon, Mark McDade, Mary Ann Kearney, Joe Masco, and Maggie.



Michele Santana, Catholic Social Services, accepts a donation from Chapter President Mary Lynn Brannon, along with members Angel Masco, Linda Gabriel and Patty Marrell.



Chapter members Patty Morrell, Linda Gabriel, and President Mary Lynn Brannon present a donation to Dr. Robert Powel, Carbondale Historical Society.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA, PA



Whitemarsh Country Club hosted The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of UNICO's annual golf outing fundraiser on April 25, 2022. Golfers were blessed with no rain and fantastic course conditions. Chapter President Maurizio Lo Piccolo, announced the winners. Overall scramble winners consisted of: Louis Tulio, Brian Saxon, and Mike Caputo.



Don't forget

UNICO Merchandise can be ordered by contacting the national office.

973-808-0035

UNICONational@UNICO.org

SCRANTON, PA



Scranton UNICO recently inducted its newest member at the May membership meeting. Gail Cicerini, District Governor, was the installing officer. Pictured, left to right are: Gail Cicerini, Judy Zhang, sponsor; Arlene Spinelli Hopkins newest member, Barbara Dirienzo, sponsor, Mary Marrara, and President Ann Genett.



The Scranton Chapter inducted members at its recent Presidents' Dinner. (L – R) Judy Zanghi and Ann Marie Spinelli Hopkins, both sponsors; Louise Spinelli Burnley, new member; Donna Cosmello re-inducted member, Gail Cicerini, installing officer, and Mary Marrara, Membership Chair.



POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ



At the Point Pleasant UNICO Scholarship dinner a fond farewell was given to member Marena Lobosco, who is leaving next month to live in Italy. Ms Lobosco, the Italian teacher at Point Beach high school has been a devoted leader of the Junior Chapter, which involved hundreds of students in the love of the Italian language and culture. Grace Gynn and Zeke Zaccaro extend best wishes to member Marena Lobosco as she heads to her new home in Italy.

CARBONDALE, PA



Channa Manachick, (Shade Tree Commission), Patty Morrell, Mary Lynn Brannon president, Joann Wall, (Shade Tree Commission) and Linda Gabriel present a donation to the Shade Tree Commission of Carbondale.



PARAMUS, NJ

Paramus UNICO supports Relay For Life



Survivors wearing purple take the first walk around the track with their caregiver.



Paramus UNICO sponsored a 50/50 table.



Some members stayed into the evening to give support.



The first UNICO Convention held by the "UNICO Club" at a hotel in New York June 13-14, 1930.



Paramus had an Italian Night with Uncle Floyd.



SHARE YOUR ENTHUSIASM! Join Us Today

UNICO National is the largest Italian American Organization in America. With over 100 local Chapters in 13 states, and more being formed, we have an unparalleled track record of giving that dates back to 1922.

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

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

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

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.

New Members: April, May, June

Congratulations and welcome to UNICO!

BLOOMFIELD

*Laura Haraka
Jordan Guglielmino
Gabbi Nucci
Emily Tice*

BROOKHAVEN

Peter Morrongiello

CHICAGO W SUBURBAN

Maryjane Muccianti

ELMWOOD PARK

*Christina DiLeo
Bianca DiLeo
Danielle Gherardi*

FAIRFIELD

*Salvatore Cappello
Joseph Cirigliano
Joseph T. Cutruzzula Jr.
Gaetano Iavarone
Robert Lombardy Jr.
Gina Ungermah*

FARMINGTON

Carla Martin

GRANBY

Gianna M. Grimaldi

GREATER ATLANTIC CITY

*Frank A. Barbela
Maria Lacca
Robert M. Lancione
Geri Rizzo*

GREATER ORLANDO

Giorgio Suarez De Lucca

GREATER PHILADELPHIA

*Michael Ferraioli
Matthew Sacchetta*

GREATER RAMSEY

*Fortunato Campesi
Marina Campesi
Dominick Chiola
Sabatino Chiola
Dominic De Laurentiis
Nicholas Lohziser
Ernest R. Nuzzo*

GREATER WESTFIELD

*Louis A. Di Leo
Frank Galdi
Daniela Gloor*

HIGHLAND BEACH

*Anthony M. Battista
Robert E. Carlucci
Joseph V. Del Raso Esq
Christine Lazzeri-Oronborg
Joseph Anthony Mastrullo
Toni R. Mastrullo
Gia Tutalo-Mote
Sofia Sadie Manocchio
Isabella Serpenti*

ISLIP/SMITHTOWN

*Eugene Cordi
Danielle Kleinhans*

KENILWORTH

*Maria Simone Cistaro
Gary Di Girolamo
Pamela Palmieri
Kathy Santor
Virginia Ward*

KEYSTONE

*Martina Bacarella
Linda Ferrari
Vincentina (Tina) Haas*

LIVINGSTON

Robert A. Bucich

LODI

Mark Maggio

LOW COUNTRY

Dr. Gerald Carlo Renato

MARLBORO

John Zago

NATIONAL

*Jonathon Berryman
James V. Paluzzi*

PARAMUS

*Lisa LoPiccolo
Victor LoPiccolo
Marie Vladyka
David Vladyka*

PT PLEASANT BEACH

*Isabella Castronvo
Paige Dearborn
Grace Fravenheim
Molly Kuzmic
Christopher Nunez
Madison Pellerito*

QUEENSBORO

*Phil Scandariato
Giovanni Silvagni
Joseph Suppa*

REHOBOTH AREA

Aria M. Di Liberto

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP

*Thomas DePaola
Thomas Mulligan*

SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD

*Joseph De Candia
Tony Isolda
Roberto Sorge
Angelo Ucciferri*

SPARTA

Gerard Ambrosino

New Members Continued

ST JOES HS MONTVALE

Dominic Conway
Thomas Gennaro Snyder
Diane Allen
Robert Allen
Beth A. Coyle
Jennifer Esposito
Suzanne Henderson
Glenn C. Toepert

WATERBURY

Ava Rose Andolena
Angelina Bernardi
Giovanna Del Buono
Sydney E. Sirica
Maizel A. Strang
Alyssa Colangelo
Giuliana Dorso
Damien Josephson
Julia F. Mehlin
Nicholas Mirabilio Mulhall
Brendan Poudrier
Nicholas J. Sarracco
Cameron Sivilla
Nathon P. Stellmach

WEST ESSEX

Brian O Connor

WESTWOOD

Maria Bifulco

WILKES BARRE

Robert Esposito
Joseph Homza
Catherine R. O'Donnell
James Sperrazza
Lori Terrana
Tristino J. Altavilla
Bianca Mazzarella
Alexia Mazzarella



The Largest Italian

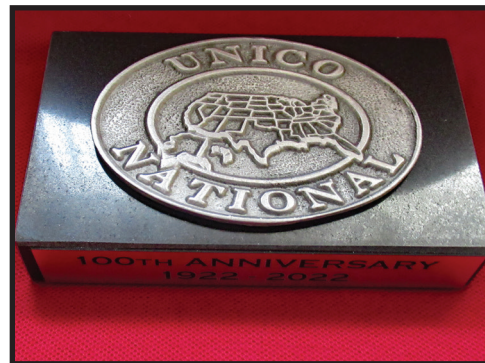
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Visit unico.org



The “UNICO Store” is offering a 100th Anniversary Commemorative Paperweight for sale at 2022 National Convention. Celebrate UNICO’s 100th Anniversary with a distinctive desk accessory for yourself, or as a gift for your favorite Unican. Priced at \$25.00 each.

In Memorium: Anthony Biondi, Sr. Nutley, NJ



Anthony Biondi, Sr., of Nutley, NJ and Boca Raton, Fla., passed away peacefully at his home in Boca Raton on Monday, April 4, surrounded by his loving family. Anthony was born and raised in the Ironbound section of Newark. He was a 1956 graduate of the American Academy of Funeral Services, NY City. Anthony proudly served as a medic in the US Air Force from 1954 – 1963, one year in France.

Anthony and his wife, Micheline, “Mickey” founded the Biondi Funeral Home in Nutley. Anthony was actively involved in many Nutley organizations, and was a past president of the Nutley Chapter. In 1994 he was honored as the Nutley Unican of the Year, and most recently as the Chapter’s oldest living member (50 years) was presented with the Chapter’s Lifetime Achievement Award. He leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, and service.

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GIVE THE GIFT OF HERITAGE

**Free UNICO
Magnets and Decals
for Members**



In an effort to promote the UNICO National name, the Executive Committee has agreed to order magnets and decals with the UNICO logo for all of the membership.

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, JS

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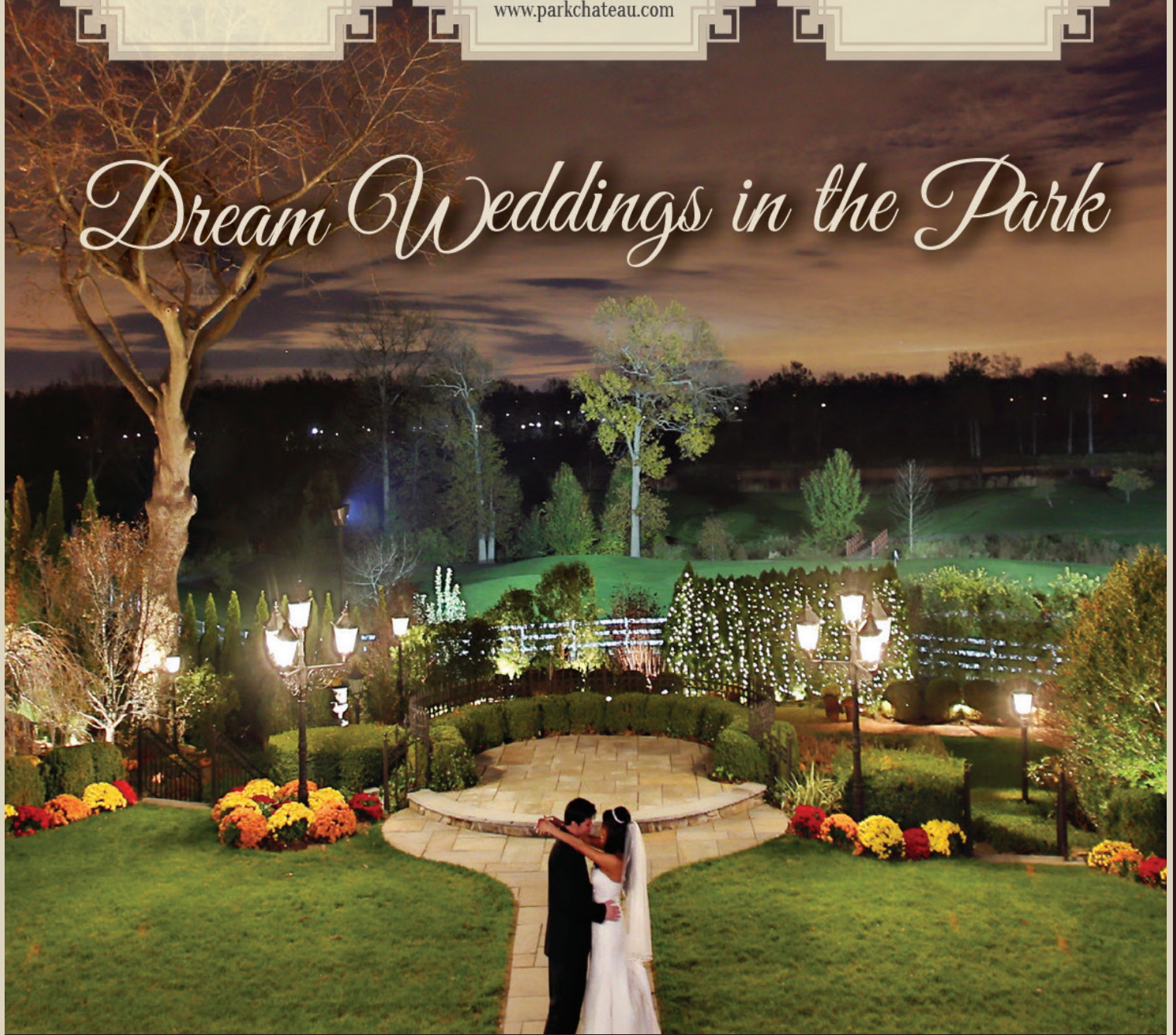
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