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Italy Celebrates National Day

Italy, the one known as the land of the sun and the land of the olive tree, was born on the 17th of May 1861. It was the day when the Kingdom of Sardinia, the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, the Kingdom of the Papal States, the Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia, the Kingdom of Naples and the Kingdom of Sicily were united into a single nation. Today, Italy is a modern, democratic, and free country. It is a country that has made significant contributions to the world in the fields of art, science, and culture. Italy is a country that is proud of its rich heritage and its beautiful landscapes. Italy is a country that is proud to be a part of the European Union. Italy is a country that is proud to be a part of the world.

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La Festa Della Mamma

See story on Page 15



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

For more events, visit www.UNICO.org

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NATIONAL
PRESIDENT

*A message
from*

STEVE PELONERO

Ciao a tutti, hello everyone. Wow! Five months have already soared past us since our 98th annual convention in July and I do have to say that I have enjoyed every day of it. Visiting chapters and districts both locally and afar, it has been an honor and a blessing to be able to see everyone in person, and to meet even more of our UNICO family.

A thank you to the Springfield, Massachusetts chapters for hosting the Eastern Regional Meeting and for all those that came out to meet me at both the NJ, NY, PA and at the CT and MA "Meet the President" dinners: again, I was blessed by your Neighborliness.

Let us not forget the Christmas season and what it means. Seeing when Jesus received the gifts from the 3 wise men, we also as UNICO, give the gift of Charity and Opportunity and that deserves a huge thank you to the chapters and districts for your gift giving both locally and for supporting the UNICO Foundation.

It was great to see everyone who visited the UNICO National office on December 17th at our annual Open House. There, we had the opportunity to meet our two newest employees, Sandra and Cathleen, along with Sue and Sal, of course.

As we move forward in 2022, in January we will be blessed with the chartering of two new chapters. Thank you, Joe Nasello our National Expansion Director, for the diligent work and time that you put into it. A welcome to Elmwood Park NJ UNICO on January 5th, and to Orlando FL UNICO on January 23rd. A thank you as well, to our Committee Chairs, both nationally and locally, for your time and dedication to UNICO.

On that note, we hope to see you, if

not all our chapters and districts, in Myrtle Beach, SC, where we will have our Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting. Until then, keep spreading the UNICO word. I wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year. God Bless all of us.



EXECUTIVE VICE
PRESIDENT

*A message
from*

DR. PETER PETTINATO

'Twas two weeks before Christmas and all through the land, ComUNICO writers were wringing their hands.

An article is due, we must gather our thoughts, it should be so easy, yet often is not.

How easy it was, way back when, when we were little and picked up our pen.

We found it quite easy to jot down our wish, we'd seal it up tight, and send it off to Saint Nick.

He would read each little missive, ponder naughty or nice, then add each name to his list and check it again twice.

Much like our editor, for the next several days, as he suffers through our submissions, in a wine induced haze.

How nice it would be, to just jot down a list, a UNICO version, an adult Christmas wish.

I'd wish our help wasn't required, that all had what they need, no hunger or illness, no anger or greed.

It's a big wish for certain, in scope and in size, it's sounds quite impossible, I do realize.

Yet we still strive, we hope and we plan, we gladly give our spare time, to help our fellow man.

We raise funds for the needy, we feed those who have naught, and we help provide schooling to those with new thoughts.

We do this quite gladly, we'd like to do even more, it's not for any glory, it's just ingrained in our core.

I'd wish for new chapters, new members young and old, why not wish big, why not wish bold?

We've set an example, a tradition to preserve; now we need to find others, who have a similar nerve.

Our good deeds will go on, without end, without fuss, just as we kept growing, the ideas of those before us.

Our mission is noble, the old adage is true, what you do for all others, comes back ten fold to you.

So thank you dear reader for all that you've done, the race may not be over, but we've already won.

We've worked this past century to erase a few tears, now let's redouble our efforts, this next hundred years.



FIRST VICE
PRESIDENT

*A message
from*

CAV. RALPH A.
CONTINI

Season's Greetings! As I write this message, the holiday season is already underway as we are nearing the end of another tumultuous year. By the time you receive this issue, Christmas will have come and gone. I hope you and your family had a great Holiday Season as we welcome 2022!

We Italians love Christmas and its beautiful traditions, especially those associated with Christmas Eve. We love to recall memories which remind us of family and friends and the love we share with each other, with the birth of Our Lord, and with all our delicious Christmas dishes. We hope you resumed your gatherings with the family to celebrate this year.

These have been trying times for sure. In spite of the ongoing pandemic, however, we UNICANS have been able to move forward as we continue going out and getting away from the electronic mode and into the human mode!

As previously stated, it is my hope in this year to work with the District Gover-

nors to strengthen the District Governor core and revitalize nonfunctioning districts. To that end, we held a successful reorganization meeting of Pennsylvania District IV in early December in order to revitalize the District. Our work is ongoing, and with the cooperation of our District Governors and Chapter Presidents, we will continue to make progress.

Over the last few months, I have visited many Chapters and some prospective Chapter and District meetings and events. The truly commendable good work of UNICO goes on. Please keep doing the good things that make UNICO unique in our communities now more than ever.

My wife and I were pleased to attend the CT/MA Meet the National President Dinner in Connecticut. We especially appreciated the warm welcome we received from the members of the CT/MA area.

At the recent Eastern Regional Meeting in Springfield, I hosted a productive and informative seminar for District Governors. Our focus was on the core duties of District Governors, utilizing available resources on the UNICO National website, leveraging social media, and understanding the importance of communication between and among Chapters, Districts, and National. It is imperative that these lines remain open at all times. If communication breaks down, contact with all levels of our organization ceases.

It was good to see and hear from many of the grass roots members of the Massachusetts chapters and their Chapter Presidents. For years we had heard that there was little to no interest in UNICO National. After speaking with many of the members present, I found that they are most eager to learn more about the workings of UNICO National as we strive to strengthen UNICO. This can only happen when we gain a better understanding of how to best work together. We also discussed the importance of having a succession plan in place at the District level. We congratulate and applaud the Massachusetts Chapters on hosting a

very memorable Eastern Regional meeting of UNICO National.

May 2022 bring all UNICANS much hope and optimism as we work together to continue making our beloved UNICO organization achieve growth and success. I wish you all a Happy, Healthy, Safe and Productive Anno Nuovo.

Ciao for now and "Sempre Avanti".



First, I would like to express my warmest wishes to all our UNICO members and families for a very prosperous and healthy 2022. This year we will reach a very important milestone, our 100th anniversary of UNICO. From one chapter in Waterbury, CT in 1922, we have expanded to over 100 chapters today. This year will be a year to celebrate our accomplishments of 100 years. We are proud of our continued missions of the promotion of our Italian culture and language, as well as our generous charity through the years.

As your Second Vice President I am charged with overseeing our chapters. Our local chapters big and small throughout the country are the backbone of our organization. I would like you to know that I diligently read each and every chapter monthly report that is submitted by your chapter. So please continue to submit your chapter reports electronically, which enables me to keep track of all your chapter programs. The form to submit is available on our UNICO website. If you need any help at all on how to submit the report, please don't hesitate to contact me personally or the national office. We are here to assist you.

If any chapter is experiencing a concern or if you have any recommendations, please reach out to me by email or phone. I would be happy to discuss any

topic with you. Our national officers are here to listen to our membership. We are like a great family, so please feel free to reach out to us at any time.

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



Non Dimenticare le Lenticchie! Don't Forget the Lentils!

Felice Anno Nuovo Fratelli e Sorelle! I wish all our UNCO members a happy, healthy, and safe New Year. Anno Nuovo, Vita Nuova! New Year, New Life! As always, we will continue to celebrate our magnificent heritage and work to make things better. The New Year offers us the opportunity to become stronger; to accomplish more.

An Italian tradition, thought to date back to ancient Rome, is to celebrate the New Year by enjoying lentils after midnight. The legend goes, that to wish family and friends continued prosperity, the ancient Romans would give them a pouch, called a scarsella, filled with lentils. The lentils would then become gold coins. Since lentils swell when cooked, the gold was thought to increase in value.

From the onset of COVID, the ability of many Chapters to hold fundraisers in support of important causes has been severely restricted. It is our hope, that as we move forward, we will see great improvement. You might want to try some lentils, prior to your events. It is my understanding, owing to the pandemic, the prosperity timeline has been extended indefinitely. A bit of good luck is always in order!

As you are aware, scholarship applications for '21-'22 are now open. Complete

information was sent out to members by way of Constant Contact. Scholarship material can also be found on the UNICO website.

Tremendous interest in UNICO scholarships continues. As education costs spiral upward, more and more students require financial assistance. Our offerings are highly valued, sought after and appreciated. The opportunities we provide young scholars, through our Chapters, Districts and National, are truly significant.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline to complete applications is March 1 for the DiMattio Celli Family Scholarships, to be reinstated pending the opening of Study Abroad programs; April 15 for all other programs.

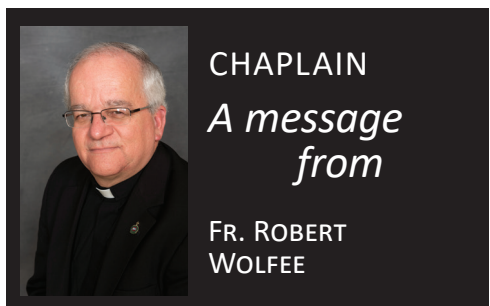
Some Chapters wish to use the National application form for local scholarships. Since the online procedure does not allow Chapter access, we have posted an application template on the Members Section of our website. This model can be edited to meet Chapter requirements.

Grazie mille to members of the Scholarship Committee for their advice and guidance. Special thanks to Senior Administrative Assistant Sue Anzelmo for her hard work and professionalism. Most of all, I thank all UNICO Fratelli e Sorelle. You continue to give our Scholarship Program new life, with or without the lenticchie.

On New Year's Day, the Catholic

Scusa!

Circumstances beyond UNICO's control (the ongoing supply chain problems) resulted in the November issue being delivered late to members.



Church honors the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother of God. It also recognizes this day as World Day of Peace. While we can and should pray for peace at any time, it is fitting to start the new year praying for peace. In this context, we are not only referring to an end to war but also an end to all the violence in the world. Sometimes, when we consider the events happening throughout the world, it may seem futile to pray for peace. However, that is exactly why we must do so. Pope St. Paul VI reminded us, "Peace is difficult, extremely difficult, but not impossible." Pope St. John Paul II reminded us, "Peace remains possible. And if peace is possible, it is also a duty." One way that we can turn from violence to peace on a national and local level is if we see each other as God sees us, beloved sons and daughters of his, and brothers and sisters to one another.

None of us knows what this year will bring, but our faith tells us that God will be with us through both the good and the bad. Mary believed that. She did not clearly understand all that would be required of her as the mother of Jesus. She did not receive a blueprint of what the future would hold for either her or Jesus. However, she knew how to turn inward to find God's wisdom and guidance. Mary knew how to contemplate the events in her life in a way that opened her up to the presence of God and kept her from the fears and anxieties that could have easily overwhelmed her.

Jesus' birth was the initiation of God's act of salvation and the fulfillment of his promises. Jesus lived among us to show us how to truly be God's children and live the intimacy that he intended for us as his children. This new year must be a time to make a serious effort to deep-

en our relationship with Jesus. We are reminded that when we are as open to God's message and grace as Mary was, we can be assured that God will "let his face shine upon us, be gracious to us and give us his peace." So, our resolution in this new year can be to exhibit the same obedience and fidelity that Mary did. She lived her whole life as a true servant of the Lord and wants to lead us to her son. We can confidently seek God's blessings just as she did. As we begin another year, let us remember what God has done for us in the past and set our goals and dreams for what we want him to work in us in the future.



Many Italians have been lauded and applauded for receiving a Nobel Prize. Since 1906 to the present, 21 Italians have been awarded Nobel laureates in medicine, literature, physics, chemistry, economics, and, of course, peace.

In this season of "looking back" in appreciation of others' accomplishments and preparing to award them for their special and often heroic endeavors, I encourage you to go online to view the admirable list and information too long to be printed here.

There are many familiar names cited like Marconi, Pirandello, Fermi, Levi-Montalcini, and more recently Dario Fo; yet so many others to incite our interest and "pride".

We are aware of the many accomplishments of Italians in art, architecture, design, electronics, automation; things that we see and buy; yet medicines we use and medical procedures that help us enjoy living longer or with less pain were often discovered and produced first in Italy.

And let's not forget those like Amadeo Giannini, founder of the Bank of Italy (today Bank of America) although not a Nobel laureate, was an economist and philanthropist who improved so many lives and supported projects to help everyone.

The Italian genius, benevolence, and determination have spread far and wide, in places we may have not even heard of. That genius and determination were carried "across the Pond", as they say, to leave us with a legacy and model to be proud of and emulate.

And one last thought: Things built over 2000 years ago that some consider "Roman" and not Italian, are still pertinent today: the Colosseum - a "game plan" for today's arenas; the aqueducts - a plan for transporting water long distances; the Pantheon - a model for free standing domes; and do chariot races and the shape of the track at the Circus Maximus preview those of Saratoga, Churchill Downs, and Santa Anita? I wonder?



As we continue to navigate through many challenges, our UNICO Foundation continues to provide opportunities. I encourage you to invite youngsters preparing for college to search on the UNICO website for scholarships. There are funds available for a variety of studies ranging from the arts to sciences to Italian heritage study programs. Many of these scholarships have been created by financial gifts received by individual donors, however, some of them are not permanently endowed and rely on the generosity of contributions from UNICO Chapters, Districts and Members. Therefore, I encourage you to remember the UNICO Foundation and ask for your chapter's

support when you are awarding grants and donations in your community.

We are all grateful to those who remember to donate to the UNICO Foundation each year. It's been a practice for years at some chapters to save a few dollars raised from a local fundraiser and present the check to the UNICO Foundation at the Annual Convention, drop in the mail or safely on-line at www.unico.org. There are many students who win scholarships from chapters who do not contribute to the UNICO Foundation. I personally solicit all chapters to set aside a few dollars to assist with this important part of UNICO. Of course, UNICO supports many needy causes such as Cancer Research, Mental Health, Italian Studies, and Cooley's Anemia. The Foundation relies on financial support from donors like you and your chapter.

Most importantly, I encourage all chapters to invite your local Food Pantry or Shelter to apply for the Ralph Toracco Food Bank/Shelter Fund available through the UNICO Foundation. Now, more than ever, these organizations may be needing funds to operate their works of charity. Therefore, have them go to the UNICO website and apply. The application process is easy, and the grants will be awarded during the Board Meeting in March. As always, please feel free to contact me or any Trustee with any questions and I welcome the opportunity to address your chapter or district in person.



Over the past few months I've come to find out the term "Youth Member" is only a billing identifier for our 18-25-year-old members.

Did you know that nowhere in the UNICO National Constitution is the term

"YOUTH MEMBER" mentioned or used to identify a specific age group. Per the Constitution - "Article IV - Membership, Section 2 - Individual:

2b. "That they are persons at least eighteen (18) years of age who are of Italian origin..."

Section 3. "Membership in chapters shall be designated as Active, Honorary, Associates or ACES."

SO PLEASE REMEMBER, ALL MEMBERS 18 YEARS AND OLDER HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There should be no other delineation of age except for application fee and annual dues for our 18-25-year-old members.

To all Chapter Presidents: Please include, if not already doing so, your members ages 18-25 at your General Meetings and events as you would do for all other members. Allow them to express and share their ideas, visions and values. Our younger members will be our future leaders. Encourage their involvement, embrace and respect their generation. A perfect recipe for our success is the blending of our generations!

If our younger members feel comfortable to speak up on issues and share ideas to help move our organization forward and their voices are heard, they will feel appreciated as a valued member of their chapter, thus wanting to maintain their membership.

Quick Tip - Most young people use Instagram as one of their social media platforms. Chapters should consider setting up an Instagram account. If you have a member that uses Instagram, ask them to set up an account for your chapter and be responsible for posting. Encourage all members to use Instagram to follow each other, family, and friends.

If you have any questions or comments - feel free to contact me at buontempo@aol.com



***In Memorium:
UNICO National President 1988
Frank Castrignano***



Frank Castrignano of Swoyersville, PA passed away Friday, Oct. 29, 2021.

He was born Sept. 21, 1925, in Wilkes-Barre, a son of the late Dominic Castrignano and Marie Lauzano.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Louise DeAngelo; brothers, Dominic Castrignano and wife, Sandra; and Michael "Mickey" Castrignano; three sons, Dominic, Anthony and wife, Sheri, and Frank and wife, Debra Castrignano; six grandchildren, Dominic, Frank, Danielle, Destiny, Stephanie and Jaclyn Castrignano; and three great-grandchildren, Kallista, Thomas John "TJ" and Brynlee.

Frank attended GAR High School. He joined the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II, during which two ships he was aboard sunk in the Atlantic Ocean. He then went on to serve in the Navy during the Korean War.

Frank was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, in which he was a 4th degree knight. He was also a life member of the Sons and Daughters of Italy. Frank's real love was UNICO. He was the local chapter president and chairman for many charity events. He became UNICO national president in charge of all the chapters in the United States. He was also the owner of a garment factory in Swoyersville for over 40 years.

99th National Convention July 27 - 31, 2022 New Orleans



Visit the French Quarter, Jackson Square, Cafe Du Monde, The French Market, and Pat O'Briens.

Visit The National World War II Museum and The American Italian Cultural Center.

Visit The Audubon Park Zoo, Aquarium, and 9-Hole Golf Course.

Information on tours, transportation, and restaurants will be available on the UNICO website as we get closer to the 2022 Convention.

Join us from July 27th to July 31, 2022! Laissez le bon temps rouler!



UNICO NATIONAL

2022 MID-YEAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, March 11th thru Sunday, March 13th, 2022



Marriott Myrtle Beach Resort & Spa at Grande Dunes

8400 Costa Verde Drive, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29572

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- IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS BEING PART OF THE UNICO GROUP
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ONLINE at [UNICO National Board of Directors 2022](#)

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE **Wednesday, February 9th**

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\$175 + tax (Single/Double)

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2022 UNICO National

Mid Year Board Meeting March 11 - March 13, 2022

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

Registration Form

Due by February 18, 2022

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Spouse's Name: (if attending) _____
(If spouse is a member, please complete a separate form.)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Chapter: _____ District: _____ Office: _____
(i.e., National, District, Chapter, Delegate)

- **Weekend Package per Person: \$165.00**
INCLUDES: Registration and Saturday Night Dinner with Wine and Cash Bar

Number of Persons _____ x \$165.00 = \$ _____

- **Registration Only:** (For Members not taking the Weekend Package)

\$50.00 per member X _____ = \$ _____

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Eastern Regional Meeting

Welcome to Springfield, Massachusetts!



For the first time in memory, the Massachusetts UNICO chapters hosted the Eastern Regional meeting in Springfield, held at the Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel. President Pelonero expressed his desire to hold the ERM in Massachusetts and the chapters in the area really responded. First, West Springfield Chapter President Carmino Santinello gave Steve and First Lady Pat a tour of their “UNICO Building”. The chapter built it over 50 years ago and sponsors charity events there regularly. Next, the chapters invited President Steve and over 60 of his guests to a fabulous meal at Red Rose Pizzeria on Friday night, organized by Springfield Chapter President Vin Rhongi. On Saturday, the ERM attendees were greeted by Springfield Mayor (and UNICO member) Domenic Sarno and a representative from the Western Massachusetts Italian Consulate. Springfield is home to the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Dr. Seuss Museum, among other notable landmarks.



Eastern Regional Meeting



Eastern Regional Meeting



Saturday's meeting included opening remarks from President Pelonero, followed by updates from the Vice-Presidents, and several committee chairs. At Saturday night's dinner dance Cav. Josephine Maietta received the Coccia Heritage, Language, and Culture Award. Josephine is an educator and at the forefront of Italian American language and culture. She is a frequent subject of newspaper articles and interviews. Attorney Frank Lorenzo of the Italian American One Voice Coalition received the Mille Grazie Award from the UNICO Anti Bias Committee for his admirable work in combating discrimination and negative stereotyping. Attendees then enjoyed a delicious meal and dancing. The band, 91 South, proved to be one of the finest ever at a UNICO meeting and attendees were on the dance floor all night. It was truly a fine weekend. UNICO appreciates the hard work put in to make it successful, especially from our hosts, the Massachusetts chapters.



Eastern Regional Meeting



NJ/NY/PA Meet the President



PNP Joe Agresti and Expansion Director Joe Nasello hosted the annual Meet the President event at the Venetian in Garfield, this year honoring National President Steve Pelonero. Over 200 attendees enjoyed the evening which included presentations to Steve and First Lady Pat, a delicious dinner, donations to Steve's favorite charity, many laughs, and great conversations.



NJ/NY/PA Meet the President



CT/MA Meet the President

President Pelonero and First Lady Pat also “met” the Connecticut and Massachusetts chapters the evening before the Eastern Regional. The dinner was hosted by District Governors Brian Guarco, Larry Ardito, Francine Nido, Wayne Ditore, and Al Marino, at Tunxis Country Club in Farmington, CT. Also attending were Connecticut’s two Past National Presidents Tony Braico and Tom Vaughan, along with PNPs Ann Walko and Frank DeFrank.



CT/MA Meet the President



Cigar Night Convention Fundraiser

PNPs Rick D'Arminio and Joe Agresti, along with First Vice President Ralph Contini, once again hosted the unofficial kickoff fundraising event for the 2022 Convention at the Brickhouse in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Executive Vice President Peter Pettinato with 2022 Convention Chair Gerry Heytink were among the 80 or so attendees. Also in attendance were President Steve Pelonero, several PNPs and national officers, and members from several states. A great time was had by all.



Cigar Night Convention Fundraiser



Chapter Spotlight:

Since last April, the Avon Connecticut chapter has doubled to 62 members, 90% of which are active. ComUNICO asked Chapter President Dominck Lucenti to tell us how they did it:

“Back in February 2021 our President abruptly resigned. Being the Vice President, I stepped up and was officially voted in as President in April 2021. At that time, our chapter rallied around me and we came out even stronger!”

“We started a membership drive and had members invite guests to our monthly meetings. Either the chapter or the member paid for their dinner. We tried to keep our meetings fun, making them half social and half business. Every month we went to different restaurants. We did a cocktail hour at the beginning of each meeting so everyone had a chance to mingle, and planned a place to continue socializing after the meeting as well. We also incorporated themes into our meetings. We did a wine tasting dinner one meeting, a backyard paella picnic at our Treasurer’s house, Scholarship night, Awards nights, pasta night, etc.”

“Part of our agenda each meeting includes ‘Member Feedback’, and all members started to get involved. We used

sign-up sheets at every meeting to encourage newer members to get involved on committees. We started engaging more with social media and overall really focused on getting our name out in the community. Our monthly meetings are something to look forward to and are a ‘fun night out.’”



“Chief Breakfast Cook” Chapter President Dom Lucenti (at right, above) in the kitchen at the Veteran’s Appreciation event.



In keeping with Avon UNICO’s support of veterans’ causes, it sponsored its annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast in November. Chief Breakfast Cook, President Dom Lucenti and his team produced a five-star breakfast for over 120 guests, including 25 area veterans. 1st Vice President Nick Scata (in front above) reported that he personally oversaw the peeling of over 50 pounds of potatoes to complement the hundreds of eggs and many pounds of bacon and sausages that made up the breakfast menu. Net proceeds from the event are distributed to several veteran programs.



Avon, Connecticut



In September the Avon Chapter held its annual Charity Golf Tournament with over 110 golfers and 20 guests enjoying an excellent patio dinner after. The principal beneficiary of the net proceeds was Work Vessels for Vets. Work Vessels provides equipment to injured veterans to start businesses or pursue careers they otherwise couldn't due to their injuries. Over \$20,000 was realized from this event.



Chapter President Dom Lucenti would like to recognize the chapter leaders that came before him and established the chapter's legacy:

Founding President James Serruta

Past National President Anthony Braico

Past President and Past District Governor, Dr. Joseph Pavano

Past President James Fanelli

Past President Doug Hope

Past President Peter Marzano



Avon UNICO presented its 23rd Annual Avon Citizen of the Year Award. This Award is presented to a resident of Avon who has demonstrated a dedication to the UNICO motto – "Service Above Self". This year the award was presented to Caroline LaMonica, who all agreed had distinguished herself over her nearly 40 years in the central role of Town Clerk for the Town of Avon. In the picture at top, Dr. Joe Pavano, past president and district governor, emcees the award dinner. At bottom Joe and past president James Fanelli deliver the plaque to Ms. LaMonica, who was unable to attend the dinner in person.



REHOBETH AREA, DE



The 8th Annual UNICO Brian Piccolo Award Dinner was held on Nov. 14th, at Saint Edmond Parish Hall in Rehoboth Beach. It was attended by over 50 members and guests. From left: Richard DiLiberto, Deacon David McDowell, Bayleigh Perdue: Winner of the Brian Piccolo Award 2021, District Governor Maria Teresa Sachele Morrison, and Nick DelCampo.

BAYONNE, NJ



Florida I District Governor Frank LoRe traveled north to attend his former chapter's "Man Of The Year Dinner". There were over 250 in attendance for this wonderful event. The City of Bayonne is very supportive of UNICO. L-R: Anthony DeSalvo Esq.- Recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Vincent Serafino, MD - 2021 Man of the Year, Frank LoRe, Sharon Ashe Nadrowski - Service Above Self Award, Mark Duffy - Joseph P. Tagliareni Community Service Award.

SADDLE BROOK, NJ



Members celebrate at their annual Christmas party with special guest National President Steve Pelonero.

PARAMUS, NJ

Top four pictures: Paramus chapter Christmas Celebration Dinner. At bottom Paramus Toy Drive and donation to Paramus PBA.



VERONA, NJ



The Holiday Party for the Verona chapter was held on December 9 at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Verona, NJ. The Reverend Jerry A. Racioppi, Rector at Holy Spirit, as well as Chaplain to the Verona chapter, hosted the event. An elaborate dinner was provided by chapter member Anthony Violante of Violante & Son of Cedar Grove. Each member brought a gift for a needy child to receive this Christmas.

HAZLETON, PA



Hazleton UNICO volunteering for the ACS Telethon. They received the Gans Award for their years of participation and support. L-R: Elena Timko, Dan Demelfi, and Cheri Yanuzzi.

DISTRICT X NEW JERSEY



The District X Dinner meeting at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park, NJ with District Governor Bob Bengivenga; Second Vice President Anthony Bengivenga; PNP Ann Walko and chapter presidents Joe Arancio (Clark), Nino Quaglia (Elizabeth), Laura Morana (Kenilworth), Nathan Santaromita (Hillsborough), Bob Tarte (Westfield), Geri Samuel (Scotch Plains-Fanwood), and Fran Doyle (Union), with other chapter officers.

HAZLETON, PA



The Hazleton chapter celebrating Christmas above, and below, celebrating First Night with L-R: Jeff Collura, Brenda Conway, Jim Dino (Santa), Donna Delehanty, and Cindy Mirachi.

EASTON, PA



Easton Mayor Sal Panto addresses a crowd of about 50 people from various Italian American organizations in Easton, PA on Saturday, October 9 following the annual Columbus Procession.



Easton and Roseto Chapter officers pose at the Columbus Statue in Easton, PA. Left to right front: Easton President Tony Curto, founding member Rico Grillo, Dave Corpora, Bill Palaferro, and Ty Corallo. Background: Roseto President Dr. Marino Saveri.

HAZLETON, PA



Hazleton UNICO participating in the Trail of Treats at City View Park.

FARMINGTON, CT

Farmington UNICO had a Pasta and Pasta Sauce fundraiser to replace their annual Pasta Dinner that was postponed this year due to Covid-19. UNICO donated close to 600 pounds of pasta and sauce to the Farmington Food Pantry. A special thanks to members Geno Avenoso and Gary Palumbo for using their jewelry stores as a donation location, and Frank Dolce for organizing this worthwhile event.



Frank Dolce, President Tom Magro, Gary Palumbo, and Geno Avenoso deliver donated pasta and sauce to the Farmington Food Pantry.

PLAINFIELDS, NJ



The South Plainfield Borough Council issued and presented a proclamation recognizing the positive contributions that Italians and Italian Americans have made to the town. Chapter President April Bengivenga displays the proclamation with District Governor Bob Bengivenga, to the left and Second National Vice President Anthony Bengivenga on her right. They are flanked by chapter members, Mayor Matt Anesh, and several council members.

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

Hillsborough UNICO held a wine making event for members at Grape Expectations in Bridgewater, NJ. They will test the finished product at a tasting in January and the bottling will come a few months later after the wine ages in an oak barrel. The Chapter members were happy to resume their wine making, always a fun project!



Chapter President Nathan Santaromita presses the grapes.



Marian Cialdella takes a turn.



Laura Messina Campo



Members enjoying a break after their hard work!

BLOOMFIELD, NJ

Forty-five members and four Interns attended the chapter's Christmas Get Together on December 9th, at the Bella Napoli Restaurant in Bloomfield. Chapter members brought unwrapped toys to be donated to the Bloomfield Police Youth Division. The Youth Division distributes the toys to families in need in the Bloomfield community.



Toy Drive Interns: Andrew LoMonte, Gabby Nucci, Emily Haraka, Nickolina Nasce.



L-R: Michael Sisco, Tom Pelaia, President, Maria Principe, Alan LaQuaglia, Sal Cordi, and Joe Finkler.



PNP Paul Alongi, Rocco Iacovone, Joseph Cupoli, Frank Pagano, and President Tom Pelaia.

PEQUANNOCK, NJ

Pequannock UNICO, along with families of the community, members of fire and first aid department, local boy scouts, town clergy, town council members and veterans from the American Legion and Color Guards were all on hand to gather together for the 20th annual memorial ceremony. The ceremony reminds us of the many lives lost on September 11th, in addition to all the lives lost since then fighting the war on terror.

The history of the memorial service started with one of their original members, Tony LaNeve, who was helping to transport equipment to and from the World Trade Center to help in the search for survivors. After being there for three full days and nights, Tony asked an iron worker for a piece of steel for which he had special plans. Immediately, a 9-11 Memorial committee was formed within the chapter and the first order of business was to create a monument using the steel that was received. The completed monument rests in front of the town's Municipal Building, and serves as a solemn reflecting place to remember all those lost. It is UNICO's honor and privilege to have this monument on display for the benefit for all members and citizens of Pequannock.



Past National President Dr. Frank De-Frank provides words of recollection and is joined by past Pequannock President Perry Russo.



Guy Giordano and Tony LaNeve present the memorial wreath alongside the monument.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

The Rockaway Township Chapter made several donations since the last ComUNICO issue. In addition to those cited below, the chapter has also helped successfully reinstate Columbus Day on the school calendar, donated several hundred dollars to NJ Blue Knights Chapter 8 to support their Transplant Patient Event, and are in the process of working with the Mayors of both Rockaway and Rockaway Township to erect a UNICO plaque honoring 4 Star General Ray Odierno, a Rockaway native who passed away.



The chapter donated over \$8,000 and bags of clothes to Project Kind to help them in their efforts to feed homeless people in Newark.



Rockaway UNICO donated many Thanksgiving turkeys and food products to the Rockaway Food Pantry, and also to St. Clement Church Food Pantry, to help needy families in Rockaway, Denville, Wharton, Dover and Rockaway Township.



The chapter donated many toys to the Marine "Toys for Tots" program to help needy children enjoy the Christmas holiday.



The Chapter has sworn in 13 new members recently.



They held their Chapter Christmas Party at Caffe Navona and enjoyed terrific Italian food, played many great games, raffled off a lot of prizes, and had a 50/50 drawing.



KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone UNICO conducted their Tenth Annual Columbus Day Coloring Contest. This annual contest is for all students in the second-grade classes at the Dunmore Elementary Center and Saint Mary's Parochial School. The student with the winning entry from each of the second grades received a \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart and had their artwork professionally framed. Jim Mack is the Coloring Contest Chairman and is pictured on the left in the photos below along with other chapter members.



ST. JOE'S MONTVALE, NJ

On November 1st, the chapter was honored to have UNICO National First Vice President, Cav. Ralph Contini, conduct the installation of new members with District Governor Donna Brown. Since September they have had 33 new ACES and 1 new adult member join.



Ralph Contini installing ACES Officers: Michael DeMarco, Nino DeMarco and James Titolo. Also pictured Deacon Joe Sisco and Mr. Robert Garrison.



Mike DeMarco, New Chapter President being installed by Ralph Contini.



Some of the newly installed members with Donna Brown, District IX Governor, Ralph Contini, National First Vice President; Deacon Joe Sisco, Chaplain and Faculty moderator; and Mike DeMarco, Chapter president.



District IX Governor Donna Brown received a Chapter Achievement certificate and patch on the chapter's behalf at the National Convention.



With temperatures dropping, the ACES, under the direction of Deacon Joe Sisco, are running a hat, glove, and sock drive for those in need at Mercy House in Newark.

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VERONA, NJ



Verona UNICO again participated in the 24th Annual Verona Fair in the Square on December 4. Joining many community organizations as well as local vendors, the chapter sponsored and staffed the fun-filled children's Bouncy House which is always one of the most popular attractions. Other activities included entertainment by various school choruses, the arrival of Santa Claus, and the lighting of the Christmas tree in the town square.

HAZLETON, PA



Hazleton UNICO partnered with the City of Hazleton for a Thanksgiving food delivery. L-R Tony Colombo, Lauren Sacco, Donna Delehanty, Brenda Conway, Allison Antolick, and Jim Perry.

KEARNY, NJ



The Kearny Ladies of UNICO celebrated their 27th "Born to Shop Night" at The Fiesta in Wood-Ridge. Joann Mitchell (l) and Ladies' President Theresa Trucillo (r) sold 50-50 tickets to the 100 guests at the dinner.



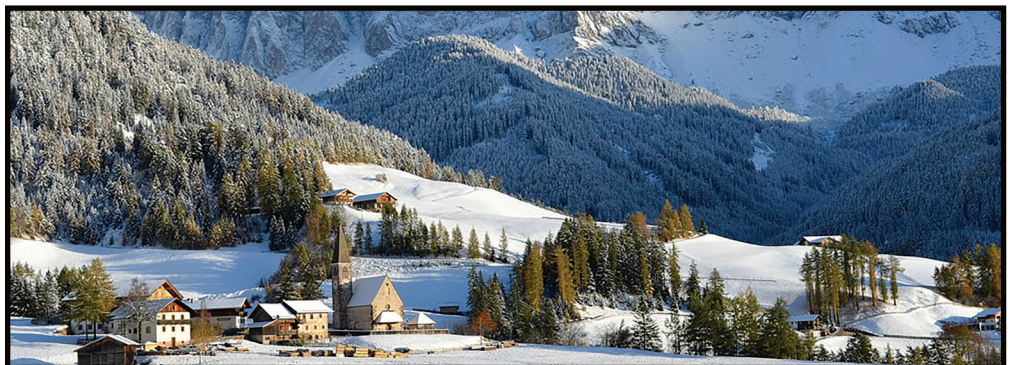
The Kearny Chapter also participated in the event, by selling bags of truffles to guests. Judy Hyde (l) and Kearny Chapter President Annamarie Latushko (r) at the Chapter's table.



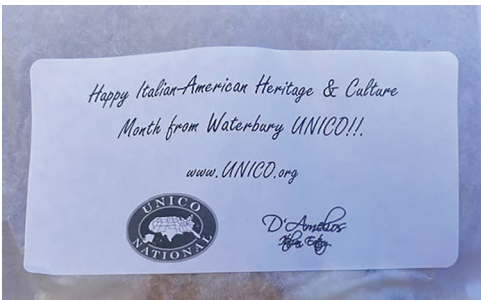
Members of the Kearny Chapter took part in Kearny Scout Unit 305's Trunk or Treat event. Members handed out candy, pencils, and other goodies to all who stopped by the Chapter's table. Pictured (l-r) are JoAnn Mitchell, Celeste Pandolfi, Dennis Latushko and Bob Vignola. Not pictured are Chapter President Annamarie Latushko and Lou Pandolfi.



The Kearny Chapter had representation at the Eastern Region Meeting held in Springfield, MA. Celeste Pandolfi along with Rutherford Chapter President and PNP Frank Tidona.



WATERBURY, CT



On October 19th, Post University in Waterbury celebrated Italian American Heritage Month with “Lunch and Desserts with Italy” at their main campus in Waterbury. After dining on a traditional Italian American meal, students and faculty were treated to cannoli courtesy of Waterbury UNICO along with UNICO Face Masks, Italian Flags, and information about famous Italian-Americans. Enjoying the celebration were members of the Post Soccer Team and International Students from Italy.



FARMINGTON, CT

Members gathered at Avon First and Last Tavern for the November meeting. President Tom Magro outlined plans for the upcoming year. Gifts were brought by members to be donated to Klingberg Family Center, a private, nonprofit multi-service agency providing help to thousands of persons across Connecticut each year. Lea Marcello organizes this very successful gift collection and delivers the gifts to Klingberg every year.



Lea Marcello and President Tom Magro.



President Tom Magro welcomes charter member Sal DiMauro to the November meeting.



Dan Thurlow, Wiley Swain, Chelsea Thurlow, Alison Swain.



Madelyn Filomeno, Paul and Judy Deccelles, Tom Filomeno.



Left to right (standing) Paul Pedemonti, John Civitillo, Sal DiMauro, Mike Demicco, Gary Palumbo.



BRIDGEPORT, CT

Bridgeport UNICO celebrated Columbus Day alongside the Council of Italian-American Societies and Circolo Sportivo of Bridgeport in a flag raising ceremony. UNICO presented a celebratory wreath in honor of the occasion. Columbus Day has been celebrated in Bridgeport by Italians for the 113 consecutive years.



CLIFFSIDE PARK, NJ



A reorganization meeting of the Cliffside Park chapter was held in December. It was spearheaded by National 1st Vice President Ralph Contini and hosted by MaryAnn Maiorana of Cliffside Park. This is a first step to revitalizing the chapter.

PENNSYLVANIA I



This year every chapter in Pennsylvania District I has a female president. And both Scranton and Wilkes Barre had immediate past presidents who were women. Pictured (l-r): Meredith Rynkiewicz, President, Wilkes Barre; Angela Sperazza Homza, past president, Wilkes Barre; Donna Delahanty, President, Hazleton; Gail Cicerini, past president, Scranton, and Ann Genett, President, Scranton.

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton chapter donates \$2500 from the proceeds of the recently rebooted Golf Tournament to Allied Services Foundation as part of the chapter's continuing commitment to aid local charities for those in need. Pictured (l-r): Jim Brogna, Vice President for strategic partnership development for Allied Services; Vince Martino, chairman of the golf tournament, Ann Genett, President of the Scranton Chapter, and past chapter President Gail Cicerini.



The Scranton chapter hosted the Raduanta thirtieth anniversary. Pictured are front row: Mary Lou Cerra-Brannon, Carbondale President, Terri Pettinato, PA II District Governor, PNP Glenn Pettinato, Melanie Naro, District Governor; Angela Sperazza, President, Wilkes-Barre; PNP Chris DiMattio, Back row standing: Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa; President of the Italian American Museum; Dr. Peter Pettinato, Executive Vice-president, Ann Genett, President, Scranton Chapter, Marino Saveri, Roseto President; PNP Dr. Frank DeFrank, and Frank Blasi, National General Counsel.

RARITAN VALLEY, NJ

On Veteran’s Day, the Raritan Valley chapter dedicated a plaque and memorial to Ed Danberry, one of their deceased members.



Chapter First Vice President Donna Lish designed and created the memorial.



The ceremony was attended by chapter and NJ X District members.



FAIRFIELD, NJ



Fairfield UNICO erected a new Christopher Columbus statue at the Fairfield Recreation Center.

GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The Greater Binghamton chapter gathered for a holiday celebration in December. President Jean Desio and Nick Pianella served as hosts. Members and guests donated toys for the “Toys for Tots” program organized by Gerald Docteur, Connie Cardullo, Lorraine Rogers, and Richard Wahila. Basket Raffles enhanced the festive celebration along with the chapter’s devotion to comradery among members and guests to enjoy a holiday celebration not held in two years.

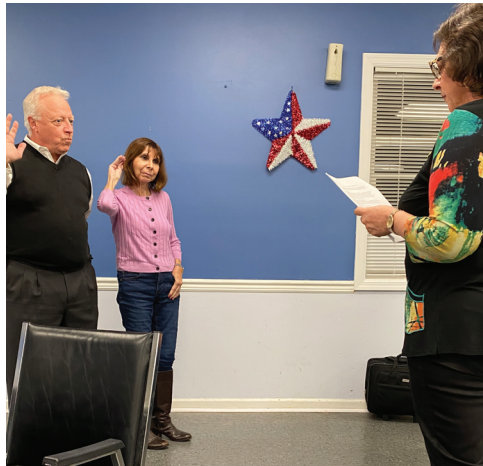


BLOOMFIELD, NJ



Saturday, November 6th, was a cold Fall morning, but chapter members were out bright and early in front of the Brookdale ShopRite in Bloomfield collecting items for their first Food Drive. The shoppers were more than generous in their donations. The chapter was able to donate food and household products to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Verona, the Presbyterian Church on the Green and the New Light Baptist Church in Bloomfield Food Pantries.

PEQUANNOCK, NJ



Pequannock UNICO President Anna Lee welcomes Don and Marisa Denzler to the chapter. New membership is a key focus to continue and expand the community service of the organization which has donated over \$450,000 since established.



In September the grills were hot as Pequannock members prepared for a full day of service to the township. The smell of sausage and peppers, cheese steaks, zeppole, ribbon fries, and funnel cakes filled the streets and drew long lines throughout the day. All proceeds from the event have been prepared for donation to the local food banks and those in need within the community. It was a great day for the membership and for all those that attended.

“Service Above Self”

KEARNY, NJ



Members of the Kearny Ladies of UNICO celebrated the Christmas Season by enjoying a delicious Italian luncheon at Lassoni Ristorante in North Arlington. Pictured (l-r) are Joann Mitchell, Celeste Pandolfi, Jeanette Fries, Alexa Fantacone, Ladies President Theresa Trucillo, and Kearny Chapter President Annamarie Latushko. In the center is Emilia Rue, the chapter’s newest shining star (also seen below with Alexa).



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HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

UNICO Hillsborough was asked by honorary member Father John Rozembajgier, pastor of Mary, Mother of God RC Church in Hillsborough, to help with their Christmas tree lighting. The church has helped those in the area affected by Hurricane Ida by providing food, money, and help with getting a living space. UNICO members prepared a champagne toast for over two hundred people and afterward served hot cocoa, beverages and cookies to the attendees.



President Nathan Santaromita, Carolyn Tighe, Father John Rozembajgier, Elaine Jackson, Laura Messina Campo, Matt D’Agostino, Philomena Cellilli, and Kathi D’Agostino.

QUEENSBORO, NY



Queensboro UNICO hosted a comedy night fundraiser to benefit ALS. Board Chairman Mike Mucaria, Tony Iannitelli, and Enrico Bellotti chaired the event.

STAMFORD, CT

Stamford UNICO celebrated Columbus Day with a flag raising ceremony. Dr. Alfred Fusco, President of Stamford UNICO, addressed the crowd along with State Senator Ryan Fazio (below right.)



SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, NJ

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter was a sponsor of “PIG GIG 6”, a fundraiser to raise awareness and funds for the Fibrolamellar Cancer Foundation. Each year Glenn Alexander hosts a pig roast with several live band performances in memory of his nephew, Jay Alexander, who lost his battle to this disease.



Glenn Alexander and Daniela Sellinger



Matt Marino, Daniela Sellinger, and Luciana Rodak

KEYSTONE, PA

The Annual Keystone Chapter Christmas Party at Fiorelli's was a wonderful evening with enjoyment for all! Four new members were inducted into the Chapter by Executive Vice-President Dr. Peter Pettinato. A check presentation was made to Saint Joseph's Center in memory of Chapter Charter Member Cherie' Mecca by her Mom, Dolores Mecca. Accepting the check was UNICO member Sister Mary Alice Jacquinot, IHM. Another highlight of the evening was the three U.S. Marines present to accept the plethora of Christmas gifts and monetary donations for their Annual Toys for Tots Drive, an annual ritual for Keystone since their chartering.



United States Marines on the ready to load their truck are Staff Sergeant Sal Dely, Staff Sergeant Andrew Clark, and Sergeant Adam Vasquez. Staff Sargeant Dely said "This evening's event was the best he had attended this year".

A donation was made to St. Joseph's Center. L-R: Mary Lou Montana and Dolores Mecca, Sister Mary Alice Jacquinot IHM, President of Saint Joseph's Center; and Mary Ann Coviello, Keystone President.

Induction of four new members with Ann Summa in front and standing from left are President Mary Ann Coviello; UNICO National Executive Vice-President Dr. Peter Pettinato; new members Jeanne Palumbo, Sherry Burgio, Diane Beckage and Holly Scacchitti; and Mark McDade.



Guests who are retired members of the U.S. Armed Services gather with the three U.S. Marines for the Toy's for Tot's presentation.





PNP Joe Agresti after being knighted into the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. With Joe are Executive Director Sal Benvenuti and wife Debbie, and National President Steve Pelonero with First Lady Pat.

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Send all submissions
to
comunico@unico.org

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.

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO held a Thanksgiving food drive for the month of November. Featherbed Lane School in Clark also contributed multiple beautifully decorated, filled to the top baskets of food. Clark UNICO picked up and delivered all the food to The Knights of Columbus in Garwood. The food was distributed to various families and the remainder to St. Joes in Elizabeth. Pictured are President Joe Arancio, Vice President Ralph Bernardo and Second Vice President Mark Conforti.



KENILWORTH, NJ



The Kenilworth chapter and Pinho's bakery hosted their annual Thanksgiving Pie sale.



The Kenilworth chapter collaborated with the Kenilworth Fire Department to collect and donate toys for the national Toys for Tots program.

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD, NJ

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood chapter began their homemade winemaking for 2021 at Grape Expectations in Bridgewater. This year will be an Opus wine. Salute!



MONTVILLE, NJ



Montville members Karen Arakelian and Mike Boos worked the chapter's booth at Montville Day. The chapter received over a dozen requests for membership.



Turkeys 4U, a non-profit student run organization now in its twentieth year, in conjunction with the Montville UNICO Foundation, once again distributed turkeys and food certificates to needy families, food pantries, churches, and soup kitchens throughout northern New Jersey. Last year, Turkeys 4U raised over \$8,000 and distributed 540 turkeys and \$1,500 worth of food certificates.

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton chapter organized its 19th annual soccer cup for local high school boys and girls all stars. The meet was held at Riverfront Sports Arena, Scranton. Pictured are Tony Summa, Lou DiMattio, Lynda Cook, and Melanie Naro, chair of the Soccer Cup Committee.



The Scranton chapter, having rebooted its annual golf tournament, donated \$5000 of the proceeds to the Lackawanna Blind Association in memory of Florence Carlucci. Pictured are Gail Cicerini, chapter President Ann Genett, Mary Lou Wascavich, executive director of the Blind Association, Vince Martino, golf tournament chair, and Anne Carlucci Martino.

CEDAR GROVE, NJ

The past two years have been challenging, and even though the light has brightened, it is still a struggle for many. Cedar Grove UNICO made a \$1000 donation to The Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair. Mike Bruno, the Executive Director of the HNFP, along with his support staff, have done heroic work in aiding the community with food and meals, as the struggle continues for families and individuals in our towns. In November, with the support of the Cedar Grove chapter and the HNFP, they were able to donate 382 turkeys along with non-perishable foods such as stuffing mix, mashed potatoes, canned fruits, and vegetables to the St. Lucy's Church In Newark, as they assist those most in need.



QUEENSBORO, NY



In December the Queensboro chapter presented a \$30,000 donation check to ALS of Greater NY in honor of Adele Licata. Pictured left to right: Tony Iannitelli, Len Licata, ALS representative, Mike Mucaria Anthony Dibenedetto, chapter President Gaspare Mistretta.



Queensboro, in association with food provided by Panera Bread Restaurants in Queens/Nassau provided food and fed over 100 Veterans at the Veterans Homeless Stand Down Event. Pictured left to right: Paul Vista of Veterans Homeless Stand Down, Gaspare Mistretta Queensboro President, Frank Palmeri, and Joel Lapadura.



Queensboro UNICO made a donation to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry just in time for Thanksgiving. Nancy Baer and the entire staff do an amazing job assisting families in need. The chapter supports the pantry all year.

Please Support
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HILLSBOROUGH, NJ

Hillsborough UNICO was proud to swear in six new members at their monthly meetings in October and November.



L to R: Elaine Jackson, Mariann Cialdella, New members Charlie and Maria McCarthy, Doug and Janet Rigg, President Nathan Santaromita.



L to R: Anthony Bengivenga, UNICO 2nd Vice President, new members Kathi D'Agostino and daughter, Carolyn Tighe, Hillsborough UNICO President Nathan Santaromita.

ISLIP/SMITHTOWN, NY



Islip/Smithtown's Annual Food Drive delivery.

STAMFORD, CT

Each year since 1979 the Stamford Chapter's "Gift of Christmas Fund" has been making special Christmas wishes come true for the neediest families in Stamford. Seven families with thirteen adults and sixteen children had all their gifts provided by the generosity of the UNICO members and their supporters. Special thanks go out to the Christmas elves who did all the shopping, wrapping, and delivering: Dr. Al Fusco, Chapter President and Christmas Chairman, Cabrina Rizzi, Alda Braccia, Rita Conte, Chessy Santoro, and Melissa Papallo Hanzlik. In the picture below Dr. Al Fusco delivers gifts for a family to the Salvation Army.



PENNSYLVANIA I



Melanie Naro of Dunmore was sworn in as the PA I District Governor. Ms. Naro is a past chapter president, board chair, and member of the UNICO National scholarship committee. She also chairs the annual Scranton UNICO Soccer Cup. National Executive Vice President Dr. Peter Pettinato swore her in at the annual gathering of the UNICO chapters in northeastern PA.

PENNSYLVANIA IV



A reorganization and District election meeting of UNICO National PA District IV was chaired by 1st National Vice President Ralph Contini. At the meeting the First Vice President installed Tony Curto of the Easton chapter as District Governor, and Dr. Marino Saveri of the Roseto Chapter as Deputy District Governor. This revitalizes the cooperation between chapters in the district. On the left Ralph Contini installs Tony Curto as District Governor. On the right: seated L – R, Dr. Dr. Marino Saveri, Deputy District Governor, Ralph Contini, and Tony Curto, District Governor. Standing are members from Easton and Roseto chapters.

ST. JOE'S MONTVALE, NJ

During the month of October, the ACES and Deacon Joe Sisco collected 670 boxes of cereal with contributions from students at St. Joe's and Academy of St. Paul. These donations were split between St. Cecelia's Office of Concern and Fr. English Center's food pantries for needy families.



CARBONDALE, PA



Marissa Collura was sworn in by President Mary Lynn Brannon at the Carbondale Chapter October monthly meeting.

PEQUANNOCK, NJ



Pequannock member Perry Russo presented contributions to Pastor Kathleen Edwards-Chase of The First Reformed Church of Pompton Plains and to the Rev. Stephen Prisk, Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Pequannock for their food pantries.

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton chapter heard a presentation by Dr. Joseph Scelsa, the president of the new Italian American Museum in Little Italy, in Manhattan.

KEYSTONE, PA



Some of the members who made the Keystone chapter winter coat drive a success include, front row from left, Karen Sadowski, President Mary Ann Coviello and Joe Sadowski. Back row from left are Sandy Collins, Ann Summa, Gino Perna, Val Riggi, Eileen and Bob Kovatch, Sallie Noto, Frank Coviello, Peter Noto, Nancy Malone, Tom Carlucci, Mary Lou Karliak and Mark and Michele McDade.



Newly inducted members with Keystone officers include from left Mark McDade, inducting officer; Gene Passarella, long time conductor of the Gene Dempsey Orchestra; Louise Passarella, Gino Perna, Allison Rocco, Lisa Kearney, President Mary Ann Coviello, and Ann Summa.



GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY



The Greater Binghamton chapter sponsored a holiday tree at the Roberson Museum and Science Center for their annual Christmas Tree Forest. Members Lorraine Rogers, Dot Marinaccio, and Donna Lupardo decorated the tree.

BRISTOL, CT

The Bristol chapter donated over \$600 worth of Thanksgiving meal fixings to the Meals For Neighbors food pantry in Bristol. Pictured are Bob DeLuzio, Chapter President, Monak Van Chun, MFN director, and Mario Giovannucci, Foundation Trustee.



RUTHERFORD, NJ



A check for St. Mary's Social Concerns Committee was presented to Pastor Michael Kreder, by Rutherford UNICO. From Left: Nick Iocca, Lena Iocca, Father Kreder, Barbara Laborim, Joan Tidona, and Shirley Tokarz.



Neighbors Helping Neighbors. The Rutherford chapter presented \$500 worth of Shop Rite gift cards to the Rutherford Food Pantry. From Left: Joan Tidona, Borough Social Service Director Genevieve Kacmarcik, Barbara Laborim.

WILKES BARRE, PA



UNICO Wilkes Barre presented the Luzerne County Children and Youth Services Foster Child Program with a \$1,500 donation of stockings and gifts for the holidays. Pictured are Members Leo Sperrazza, Anna Gallo, John Terzana, Esq., and Dave Fusco.



UNICO Wilkes Barre sponsored a booth at La Festa Natale in Pittston City, PA with a portion of proceeds benefiting the city and the promotion of local Italian American heritage. Pictured are the Pittston City Mr. Tomato, with President Meredith Rynkiewicz, Tiziana Mazzarella, Dawn Free-more, and Al Martino.

QUEENSBORO, NY



Queensboro UNICO is doing good work supporting two major charities annually: JDRF and Alzheimer's Association. Both organizations recently held awareness walks in New York City. Queensboro President Gaspare Mistretta presented donation checks to each organization.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH, NJ

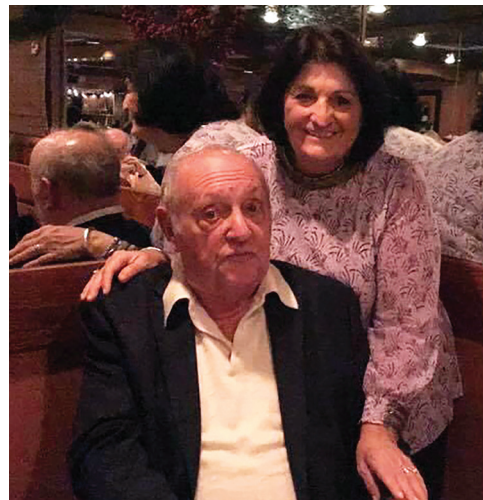
2021 was a turbulent year for many, but Point Pleasant Beach UNICO managed to persevere and continue to support national and local charities while honoring their Italian Heritage. During the holiday season, members donated to food pantries and provided Christmas gifts to several needy families at Dottie's House, a shelter for women and children as well as gift cards for The Christmas Angels of St Vincent de Paul Society. Again this year the high school students in Point Pleasant Beach Junior chapter volunteered for UNICO charities and made an impact in their communities.



High School students from Point Pleasant Beach Junior Chapter of UNICO made Christmas Bags for residents of Valentine House, a home for disabled adults.



Point Pleasant members Ron Agresta, Vin Levito and John Porta delivering regifts to Valentine House so residents can shop for their families.



Grace Gynn welcomes back Point Pleasant Beach Chapter President Charles Brema at the Christmas dinner party.



Send all submissions to
comunico@unico.org

Travels with President Steve



At the Pequannock NJ chapter Installation Dinner.



Steve, with Presidential Aide Gene Maddalena, relaxing before visiting the Florida UNICO chapters.



Steve and First Lady Patricia celebrating the Christmas Holiday Season with the Orange/West Orange NJ chapter. Pictured here with Chapter President Ken Broderick and his wife Cindy.



Steve and Pat with members of the Highland Beach FL chapter.



Steve and Pat with the Greater Tampa FL chapter. Mike Salierno, Chapter President on the left, and Paul Benvenuti, First Vice President on the right.



Wilkes Barre Pig Roast and Cigar Night.



Pat and Steve on their way into the Highland Beach Meet the President dinner.



The President at the Greater Philadelphia PA chapter's Man of the Year Dinner.

SPRINGFIELD, MA



At the Eastern Regional, the Springfield chapter was responsible for procuring some special guests to address the meeting. From left are Italian Consulate Representative Giuseppe Palomeni, member Laura Gentile, Sheriff Nick Cocchi, West Springfield President Carm Santaniello, Springfield Mayor (and UNICO member) Domenic Sarno, and Springfield President Vin Rhongi.



The chapter was also proud to announce Sherriff Nick Cocchi as their 2022 Person of the Year. This is the first Person of the Year selected since 2014. In a demonstration of unity and support West Springfield (Carmino Santaniello) and East Longmeadow (Leo Hood) UNICO chapters endorsed Springfield’s selection as they too applaud Sheriff Cocchis’ initiatives as a true testament to “Service Above Self”. At the beginning of the pandemic, Sheriff Cocchi organized an 84-room First Responder Recovery Home for frontline workers diagnosed with COVID-19. Doctors, nurses, police, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, corrections professionals, and U.S. military members with COVID-19 staying at the Pre-Release Center were provided with hotel bedding and restaurant quality food at no-charge. This is just one example of why the Sheriff will be receiving the award.



As a culmination of Italian Heritage Month, Veterans Day, and the Italian Day of National Unity or Day of the Armed Forces, the Italian Cultural Center of Western Massachusetts held a wreath laying ceremony at the Italian American War Veterans Memorial on Sunday Nov 7th. President Pelonero spoke at the ceremony and was joined by UNICO officers and local dignitaries.



Springfield UNICO held its annual toy drive Holiday dinner December 8th. President Vin Ronghi mentioned that though still not fully attended due to COVID, more than 40 attended, donating more than 150 toys. This year’s recipient for these toys is the Shriners Hospital for Children.



The UNICO National staff with the President and First Lady at the Holiday Open House in December. From left, Executive Director Sal Benvenuti, part-time Administrative Assistant Kathleen DeFeo, First Lady Pat, President Steve, Senior Administrative Assistant Sue Anzelmo, and part-time Administrative Assistant Sandra Idris.

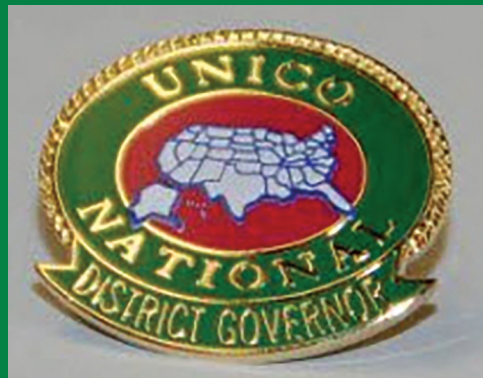
UNICO would like to welcome Kathleen and Sandra, who were hired recently. Both of them come to us with extensive experience and background in administrative work. Benvenuto e buona fortuna!

Don't forget

UNICO Merchandise can be ordered by contacting the national office.

973-808-0035

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

New Members: November, December

Congratulations and welcome to UNICO!

Avon

Judy Benvenuto
Dino Carbone
Peter J. Marzano
John Stack
Lisa Michelle Stack
Bryan Virgadula
Mark Zacchio
Basking Ridge
Serena Bocchino
Lawrence Nastro

Bayonne

Lou Mele
Mark Venice
Mark A. Venice

Bridgeport

Alex Vazzano
John O. Vazzano
Rick Vazzano

Brookhaven

Dr. Luigi Fontanella
Irene Marchegiani

Bloomfield

Rocco Iacovone

Carbondale

Roxanne Farber

Chicago W. Suburban

Pete Pavone
Nikko Tsalapatani

Clark

Marcella Cutrona
Teresa M. Gemenden
Vincent LaBarbera
Peter Vaccarelli
Lauren Jenna Veltri

Elmwood Park

Jake Andrea
Sophia Anzalone

Michael Carmiche III
Joe Chirichello
Matt Ciampi
Jon Paul De Maio
Gennaro A. Di Muro
Antonio Esposito
Dislaidy Garcia-Nicastro
Aviana Ingui
Alexander Jolakian
Victoria Jolakian
Louis Lago
Anton Meindl
Randy Napolitano
Dominick J. Nicastro Jr.
Louis A. Nicastro
Nicholas Nicastro
Michael Rodriguez
Paul Vela
Kris Zielinski

Elizabeth

Craig D'Adamo
Fred Robinson

Garfield

Anthony Cornacchia
Carol Cornacchia
Dr. Gary J. Vitta

Greater Atlantic City

Paquale J. Gallellir

Greater Orlando

Andrea E. Scalo
Jamie Schweim
Keith Wheaton
Samantha Wheaton
Toni Wheaton
Greater Westfield
Carmela Juliano

Hackensack

Stephanie R. Cirigliano
Stephanie Van Rudenburg

Highland Beach

Rachel Autiello
Walter Bianchi
Joan Buzzallino

Robert Dougherty
Edward J. Gynn
Doreen Gynn
Maria Iovine
Michael Marcisak
Millie Seda-Marcisak
Gloria Gersh Palumbo
Regina Peters
Louise Straney

Hillsborough

Kathi D Agostino
Doug Rigg
Janet Rigg
Carolyn Tighe

Islip-Smithtown

Jacqueline Leone-Joy

Keystone

Gabrielle Angradi
Diane Beckage
Sherry Burgio

Livingston

Gregory Piegaro

Lodi

Ursula Tartaglia

Low Country

Sergio Smith

Montclair

William L. Hurlock

National

Cav. Josephine A. Maietta
Paul Renna

Nutley

Gregory Palma
Carlo Vitale
Basilio Vitale

North Shore

New Members Continued

Joseph Cusumano
Maria Cusumano
Carmine Falco
Tanyelle Gill
Jeannine J. Izzo
Anthony LaRosa
Nicola Maurello
Vincenzo Matozzo
Leonello Orologio
Carmine Posillico
Susan Vasselman

Passaic Clifton

Isabelle Borgese Cook
Jessica Walker

Passaic Valley

Giuseppe Joe Ciarfella
Alyssa Minnella
Nicola Nicky Zummo

Pequannock

Donald Denzler
Marisa Denzler
Carmen Fondacaro
Michael Fondacaro
Antoinette Mathes

Plainfields

Francis DeAndrea
Pt. Pleasant
Gena Boutin
Maria Ciccone
Kathy Fazzari

Pt. Pleasant Beach

Gena Boutin
Maria Ciccone
Kathy Fazzari

Rehoboth Area

Denise DiSabatino
Allen Arthur Chomas
Bernadine Chomas
Jack Gifford
Marilou Hahn
Sam Ratner
Ruth Vella

Rockaway Twp.

Ariane Barroqueiro
Joe Jackson
Susanne Jackson
Vincent Michael Paglucci

Santa Barbara

William E. Vollero M.D.

Scranton

Mary Ann Capone
Jim Griffith
Frank Lorenzo
Bill Padula

Secaucus

Donna Cipriano
Fatin Nesheiwat

Southington

William Taglia

Sparta

Frances C. Weiss

St. Josephs H.S. Montvale

Carmine Coiro
Edward C. Coyle
Daniela DiMeglio
Colin Finn
Gannon Henderson
Eileen Hiller
Marcus Hiller
Michael Kaminsky
Maria Antonino Konig
Kevin Konovitch
Brady Knuckles
Luca Manganello
Dante Mercadante
John Mercadante
Jimmy Montesano
Matthew Negrini
Zane Parent
Dominic Sarro
Brett Spinosa

Union

Richard Bianchi
Anne Caswell

Verona

Linda DeLuca Molinaro
Charles Molinary
Vera Roebuck

Wayne

Michael Maglio
Leonard Minervini

Waterbury

Maria Burns
Michele Marchetti

West Essex

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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, KCM, 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

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 Fairfield, NJ 07004

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.



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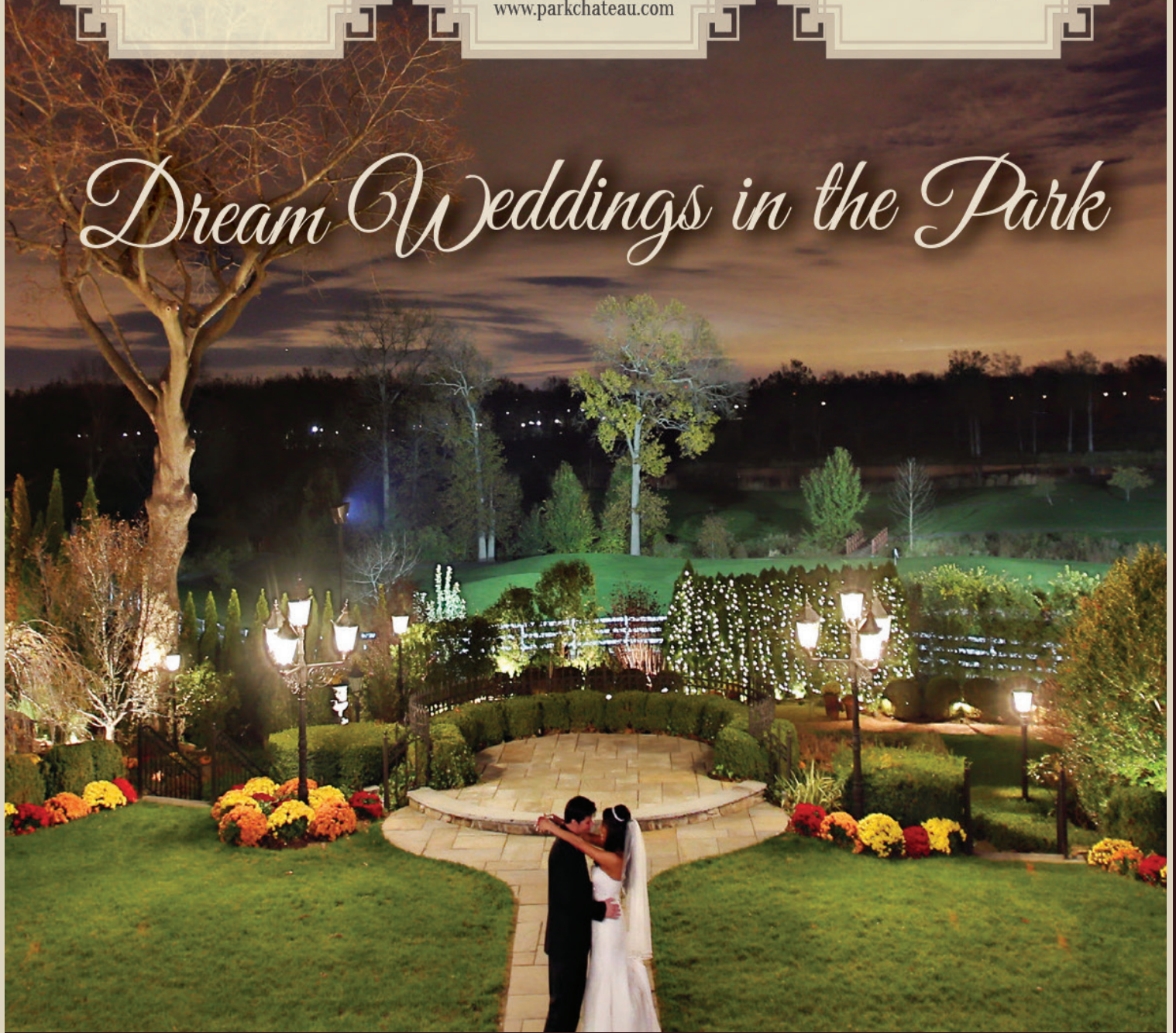
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