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TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGES

04	National President	06	Expansion
04	Executive Vice President	06	Cancer Research Chair
04	First Vice President	07	Membership &
05	Second Vice President		Retention
05	Chaplain		

STORIES & NEWS

08	Clark Annual Feast	16	Chapter News
09	La Festa Italiana	25	Torraco Food Bank
10	Celebrating Italian Heritage Month	27	New Members
		46	NIAF 50 Years
15	ALS Walk-A-Thon	47	In Memoriam

FEATURES

48	Book Review	53	Sports
49	Music Review	54	Ciao Italia
51	My Turn	55	Recipes
52	Film Review	58	Parting Shots

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 2026 ComUNICO Deadline: December 15, 2025

Mid-Year Board Meeting: March 22 - 23, 2026

103rd Annual Convention: July 22 - 25, 2026

For more events, visit www.UNICO.org

Title of Publication: ComUNICO Publication No. 00647700. Filed 10/31/25.
No. of Issues Published Annually: 5. Annual Subscription Price: \$25.00.

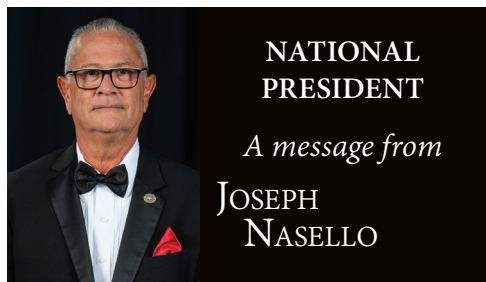
Mailing Address of Office of Publication, Headquarters, and Publisher:
271 U.S. Hwy. 46 West, Suite F-103, Fairfield, NJ 07004. Editor: Erin Sauerborn.
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt
status for Federal income tax purposes has not changed during the preceding
12 months. ComUNICO is the official publication of UNICO National.

Pages 1-47 editorial content copyrighted by UNICO National ©2025.

Pages 48-58 editorial content copyrighted by Fra Noi Inc. ©2025
Volume 81, No. 01 • ComUNICO (ISSN-1044-7202) • Total Circulation 7,000

Phone: 973.808.0035 • E-mail: UNICOnational@UNICO.org
Periodical postage is paid to Caldwell, NJ and additional offices.

Postmaster, please send Form 3579 and all address changes to:
271 US Highway 46 West, Suite F-103, Fairfield, NJ 07004-2458



NATIONAL PRESIDENT

A message from

**JOSEPH
NASELLO**

It's been a busy few months. I've gone to several Chapter events, several District events and they all have been very, very welcoming to me.

Recently, we hired the marketing company which will launch in November, and they will be helping us with promotions on our social media platforms to further expand our brand, working closely with John Marino and Erin Sauerborn.

We're currently in the process of charting the Naples, FL chapter of UNICO! My current board and I are working great together. Morris is doing a fabulous job as membership. He hit the ground running. Frank LoRe is also doing a great job with all the chapters – now we're having quite a bit of quite a bit membership drives, which is helping us keep members involved. Even though Columbus Day was canceled, we still attended a lot of flag raisings and wreath laying. We had a busy weekend. I look forward to seeing you all at the Eastern Regional Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Parsippany. I look forward to having a productive meeting.

As always, "Service Above Self." If there is anything I can do for anyone or if you have any questions, please reach out to me anytime.



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

A message from

**BRIAN
GUARCO**

As your Executive Vice President, I am honored to connect with our valued members and share recent updates, achievements, and our vision for the future. Our organization continues to thrive thanks to your dedication, passion, and commitment to our shared mission.

October holds special significance for UNICO, as it is the month when we celebrate our Italian Heritage. Columbus Day represents a celebration of Italian American pride, heritage, and achievement. Many chapters have worked diligently to promote this holiday and have collaborated with local governments throughout the U.S. to preserve its legacy.

Over the past year, UNICO has reached significant milestones in service, philanthropy, and cultural promotion. Our local chapters have organized impactful community events, supported educational initiatives, and raised funds for charitable causes. These accomplishments highlight the strength and unity of our membership. I am pleased to have attended the Torrington chapter to celebrate their 100-year anniversary with UNICO.

We are excited to announce several new initiatives designed to further engage our members and expand our reach. From leadership development programs to volunteer opportunities, there are many ways to get involved and make a difference. I encourage each of you to participate and help shape the future of UNICO. I also invite all members to stay connected by attending upcoming meetings, participating in events, and sharing your ideas with our leadership team. Your voice matters, and your involvement strengthens our organization.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our Eastern Regional meeting. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication. Together, we will continue to make a positive impact on our communities and beyond.



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

A message from

**STEVE
CALANTONE**

Ciao UNICO!

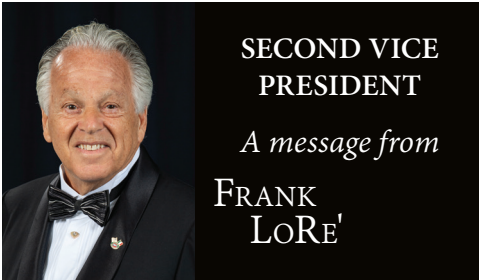
As your National First Vice President, I will continue to reach out and work closely with the District Governors and Regional chairs. While I believe email works, I am a believer in live communications. Call me anytime if there are any issues within the Chapters. I would like to see more reports submitted on the UNICO website, www.unico.org. I can promise I will read and respond to all that are submitted. Some of the Districts are doing Zoom meetings as some do travel to get to the meetings. Please continue to invite me to those as well as the in-person meetings. One last thought, please bring ideas and suggestions that come out of your meetings forward. That way we can accomplish things more efficiently.

One of the most satisfying moments is when you see Chapters and Districts working together for the common goal of our organization. I am very proud of the work and the passion we all have for UNICO. It truly goes to show that our heritage is alive and well and doesn't just show up in October for Italian heritage month. It is a joy to participate in the flag raisings and the parades. The joy when you walk past people at the parade, or when they see our float is so satisfying.

One very important topic is to teach our youth about our heritage. Sometimes they need to be reminded, it's not about spaghetti and meatballs on Sunday, I'm sure you know what I mean.

I hope to see you at the upcoming Meet the President nights in New Jersey and Connecticut, as well as the Eastern Regional Meeting. Please don't forget we are also holding a zoom meeting for the District Governors.

As always safe travels hope to see you up the road soon!



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

A message from

FRANK LORE'

It is hard to believe two months have already passed since our UNICO National Convention. During this time, I have been actively working on a special project assigned by our President, in collaboration with Morris Borea, Retention Chair. This project focuses on advancing UNICO membership across all chapters.

In response to this project, Morris recently held his first Zoom meeting. The meeting minutes will provide you with an update on the ideas provided for healthy outcomes. As part of our initiative, I have reached out to chapters needing support in growing their membership. Currently, 25 chapters have under 25 members. Together, we will be working closely with these chapters, offering assistance and strategies for them to grow. Some of the strategies are simple, others more involved; all to help them increase their members.

In September, I had the pleasure of attending and speaking at several chapter meetings. These included:

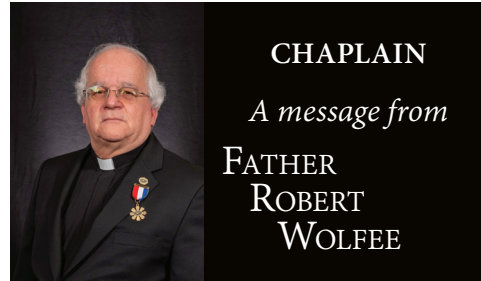
- Bayonne Chapter's monthly meeting
- Highland Beach Chapter's monthly dinner meeting
- Florida 1 District Meeting
- Fort Lauderdale Chapter's monthly meeting

At the Ft. Lauderdale September meeting, I discussed the importance of having a dedicated Membership and Retention Chair. This new chapter nominated Frank D'Agostino, and he accepted the responsibility as their Membership and Retention Chair.

Looking ahead, October is shaping up to be a busy month filled with heritage celebrations, meetings, parades, and a bit of vacation time as well. Share our heritage as much as you can during this special month.

To all Chapter Presidents and Secretaries: please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you or your chapter needs any support. I am here to help in any way I can.

There is an old proverb: "Be not afraid of growing slowly; be afraid only of standing still."



CHAPLAIN

A message from

FATHER ROBERT WOLF

We can be sure that heaven will surpass all our hopes and expectations. There will be love, joy and peace far greater than any we can experience here on earth. Since heaven will be more wonderful than we can possibly imagine, God uses images that we are familiar with to give us some idea about it. Those images include among other things: a great banquet, a wedding feast, the elimination of suffering and death. We might say that heaven will be the party to end all parties.

This month we celebrate Thanksgiving, which is much like a feast. Feasts recall times of joy in our lives, of families gathered together eating in celebration. Isaiah wrote about the "day of the Lord," which will occur at the end of time. It will be a period of reward for the righteous but punishment for unrepentant sinners. Isaiah foresaw Zion, a "mountain" near Jerusalem, where righteous people of all nations will live forever in perfect union with God, enjoying a great feast. So, how do we get an invitation to this feast?

It is easier than you might think, but we must remain open and ready. No one is excluded; all are invited and are welcome to the Lord's banquet. In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus tells us how we should respond to the invitation that he extends to us. Several people who were invited to a wedding ignored the invitation due to what appeared to be valid reasons. One man went to his estate, another to his business, a third to fulfill domestic obligations. The parable is a reminder that, at times, we can become so preoccupied with things of this world, even legitimate things, that we neglect spiritual things. We might be listening so intently to what society tells us that we fail to hear Jesus' invitation to share in his salvation.

In Jesus' time, to refuse an invitation from a king, whether by intention or negligence, was an act of rebellion. Refusing God's invitation reflects a serious lack of faith and generosity. In the parable, those who were gathered in from the byways had no claim on the king. Likewise, we have no claim on God. We do not earn his invitation; it is a gift, something that he lovingly offers to us. He does not make a daunting obstacle course for us to master before he will allow us into heaven. He does not make it difficult for us to accept his invitation, but we must accept it properly. Our response cannot be half-hearted and/or unenthusiastic. All he wants us to do is to believe that Jesus has saved us and to try our best to obey the commandments and to follow Jesus' example to the best of our ability. If we do that, we will have a place at the eternal banquet in heaven, the greatest feast of all time!

God bless,
Fr. Bob

Don't forget

The Deadline for the
January 2026 issue is
December 15th, 2025

Please send all
submissions to
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*Refer to "Guidelines" on
Page 7 for more
information on
submitting your
articles.*



EXPANSION DIRECTOR

A message from

**NICOLINA
CARPINELLI**

Ciao a Tutti!

Since our National Convention this past July, Expansion is off to great start. It is with great pleasure that I announce the chartering of the Naples, FL Chapter within the next month. They presently have 20 members, comfortably exceeding the 15 required to start a new UNICO National Chapter! Melanie Della has initiated the startup, she is a friend of San Diego member Valerie Orsini, and the San Diego Chapter will be sponsoring the Naples, FL Chapter that Melanie will eventually preside over. My committee members are very enthusiastic and have great desires to keep moving our membership forward. Working with the new marketing company through John Marino has helped us achieve this. This is not a one-person show. It takes teamwork to achieve success. Since my term as Chair of the Expansion Committee, this will be our committee's sixth startup. I am hoping for your future ideas, help and interest in starting new chapters, and continue to build our National membership. Please reach out to me if you know of any potential new chapters!

Although there is a trend in all of society for so many organizations in general to witness decreased membership, I feel that for us, we need to stress the importance of the uniqueness of UNICO as a service organization. Our membership is not only community service, specifically "Service Above Self"; it is also our deep-rooted interest for our Italian Heritage and Culture that deserves our continuance! I know, and you all know, that we all have much pride in our ancestry. UNICO helps keep that all alive, something we cherish, along with what our parents' and grandparents' loved during all their struggles to succeed in this great United States of America!



**THE
COOPER
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We need your involvement to spread the word! Work on having heritage nights or setting up tables at an Italian fairs or events. Try more membership drives at your meetings, something the North Shore Chapter L.I. has done several times in the last couple of years, and with great success, increasing their membership from an average of 34 to 52 members at present. Kudos to Joe Vessio and Mauro Caputi for co-chairing the events. In fact, at this writing, I will be attending another one of their membership drives for their October 2025 meeting!

We all need to be ambassadors in keeping our Italian heritage going!!! Again, you can always reach out to me with any suggestions, i.e. maybe you have a former chapter member who has moved away and would be a great person to get back and involved? At a time when people are looking for something to believe in, what is better than an organization that captures their rich Italian roots and their desire to serve?

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Eastern Regional Meeting on Saturday, November 15th in Parsippany, NJ.

As always, contact me at
ncarpinelli06@gmail.com



CANCER RESEARCH & PREVENTION

A message from

**JERRY
TAYLOR**

Bongiorno!

It is a great honor to be chair of this wonderful committee for Cancer Research and Prevention. I would again like to thank everyone for their donations to this important cause.

Please do not forget, for every thousand-dollar donation, your Chapter will receive a patch for your banner.

If you know any organization that could possibly use a grant, they can go on our website and fill out the application.

We are in the process of setting up our second fundraiser for Cancer Research. It will be a Texas Holdem' poker tournament on January 15 at the Saddle Brook New Jersey VFW Hall on Market Street. All are welcome to attend, so please view the National calendar for the flyer and more information.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Eastern Regional Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Parsippany New Jersey!



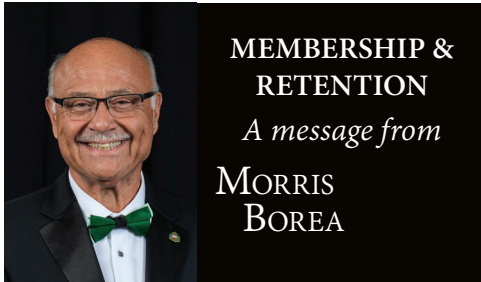
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Save The Date

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Monday, March 23**

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MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION

A message from

MORRIS BOREA

It has been an intense two months of activity since I wrote my last column in August. At the very beginning, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude for the warm reception and welcome that I have received at all the events that I have attended since becoming National M&R Director. One of my favorite things about UNICO is that we are all Italian, we are all family whenever we gather together.

We had an M&R training session at the home office in Fairfield on September 27th which was attended by about 30 members remotely and a few at the office, (thank you Ed for the pastry, you know who you are). Thank you also to Melanie Naro for staying late and coming in early to assist with the meeting. I did the initial training session at the District II meeting in New Jersey on September 18th and it was well received. We had a remote M&R National Committee meeting on October 21st, where we shared information on how we can help smaller Chapters increase membership and work with larger, more established Chapters. Some Chapters will be contacted directly by Committee members to talk about ways to increase their membership.

Some of the events that I have attended as National M&R Director include the LaFayette Festa organized by the Sparta Chapter, the Stamford Festa organized in part by the Stamford Chapter, the North Shore Long Island Heritage Night and the Torrington UNICO 100th Anniversary Celebration. We signed up new members at the Festas and the Heritage night using many of the methods we discussed during the training. Using a Map of Italy as part of your table draws our target audience that you can then ask: "Are you Italian?" and sign them up!

I will be doing the M&R Training again remotely on November 3rd or 4th at 7:30pm and at the Eastern Regional Meeting on November 15th in the morning in person. Anyone that wants a link to the remote training, please email me at borealaw@outlook.com, and we will forward a link. The final thing is scheduling Heritage Nights or Events at the Chapter or District level.

Now is the time to schedule an event so that you can have it before the summer break next year. Also, if you know of a Festa in your area worth attending, tell your DG and let me or any National Officer know about it and we will be there to help.

I look forward to seeing many of you on my travels for UNICO as we work together to retain and increase membership and continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve our communities.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)		
1. Publication Title mUNICO	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
4. Issue Frequency B-Monthly	5. Number of Issues Published Annually 5	6. Annual Subscription Price \$25.00
Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) 1 US Hwy 40 W, F-103 Fairfield, NJ 07004		Contact Person Ed B. Borea Telephone (include area code) 973-805-0035
Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) me		
Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Name (Name and complete mailing address) ICO National		
for (Name and complete mailing address) P. Borea 1 US Hwy 40 W, F-103, Fairfield, NJ 07004		
Mailing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Avatore Borea		
Owner (Do not leave blank. If this publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.) Name ICO National Inc. Complete Mailing Address 271 US Hwy 40 W, F-103 Fairfield, NJ 07004		
Is-Profit Organization		
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Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: ☐ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months ☒ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)		

Publication Title mUNICO		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below September 2025
Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		5250
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		0
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		0
(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		5250
d. Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0
e. Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		0
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)		0
(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		160
a. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4))		160
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		5410
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page 83))		65
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		5475
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		96.69%

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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation		
Electronic Copies		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months
All Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a)		0
All Paid Distribution (Line 15b) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 15a)		0
Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (15b divided by 15c + 15a)		0

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- Each Chapter is limited to **300 words per issue**. This includes the number of words in a column & captions
- The only titles to be included in captions are National Officers & Chapter Presidents. Do not identify other Chapter Officers by title.
- If more than 10 people appear in a picture, do not identify each of them.
- Abbreviations are not to be used.** The only title to be abbreviated is Vice President (VP).
- All articles & captions are to be submitted in a **WORD DOCUMENT**.
- All photos are to be sent as a **JPG**, pdfs and other formats may not be accepted
- Please remember to capitalize **UNICO** in your captions.
- Photo File Name** should be identifiable to the corresponding caption.
- A Chapter is allowed a maximum of **6 - 8 images** per issue for a regular event.
- 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.
- Only pictures attached to an e-mail will be accepted. Pictures embedded in an e-mail will be returned to the Chapter & not included.
- All submissions should be sent to comunico@unico.org. Submissions sent to any other office e-mail address will not be included.
- The deadline for submissions is 5:00pm on the designated day.
- 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.
- Articles cannot contain copyrighted material. *All articles must be original.* An article compiled from information that was cut & pasted from other sources is considered plagiarism.

Additional Guidelines to follow:

- Photos should be sent in landscape, not portrait form.
- Do not send in blurry pictures.
- Review all submissions prior to sending for grammar & punctuation.

CLARK UNICO ANNUAL ITALIAN FEAST

Clark UNICO held its 18th Annual Italian American Feast Columbus Day Weekend. Despite a surprise Nor'easter that hit the east coast, the organization had three great fun days!



LA FESTA ITALIANA

Thousands of people, including many UNICO members, flocked to Scranton, Pa. over Labor Day weekend for the 49th annual La Festa Italiana. With perfect weather for four days, they enjoyed great food and lively entertainment served up in the Italian culture and spirit. In between bites of the many culinary delights, festival patrons were treated to Italian vocalists, artists and local bands as well as crafts, Italian-themed clothing and novelties, a Heritage Exhibit, bocce games and bounce rides for kids.



The festival featured a Heritage Exhibit that showcased the history of the event as well as information on how Italians of every era have made positive contributions to all aspects of society.



At the conclusion of Mass, members of The Italian Colony of Saint Lucy processed out with the statue of Saint Lucy onto the festival grounds to the Heritage Piazza.



Italian vocalist, T.J. Capobianco from The Met in New York City, takes the stage.



Nikki Rasmus delivered a heart-warming tribute to Connie Francis.



The Mass in Italian is a treasured La Festa tradition that drew a capacity crowd to the Cathedral of Saint Peter. As the Mass began, participants processed in bearing items signifying Italian culture. In foreground is PNP Chris DiMattio, who also serves as President of the La Festa Italiana Board of Directors, followed by PNP Cav. Ralph Contini.



Piles of porketta – more than 4,500 pounds – were prepared by the Scranton Chapter, which annually offers the delicious sandwiches to La Festa patrons, with proceeds benefitting local charities and UNICO National programs.



Among the many entertainment highlights, the crowd was treated to a tribute show featuring, from left: "Frank Sinatra" (PNP Chris DiMattio), "Marilyn Monroe" (Susan Griffiths from Las Vegas) and "Dean Martin" (Andy DiMino from Las Vegas).



Very Reverend David P. Cappelloni, V.F., La Festa Chaplain, was principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass. Seated at right is Monsignor Constantine V. Siconolfi, La Festa Chaplain Emeritus.



The 13th Annual Cpt. James R. Minicozzi Memorial Race, through the Scranton Chapter, takes place every year on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend during LaFesta Italiana. This year's race had a record 200-plus participants. Proceeds benefit The Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA for their children's annual Christmas party and college scholarships for students at West Scranton High School.



The New York Serenaders offered musical background as people strolled around the festival.

Celebrating Italian Heritage Month



Hackensack Chapter of UNICO National proudly celebrated its 54th Annual Christopher Columbus Day Celebration



Scotch Plains-Fanwood annual Columbus Day ceremony on The Green



Recognizing Belleville UNICO for their generous contribution to Columbus Day; and National President, Joseph Nasello celebrating the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade.



Passaic Valley UNICO celebrated their annual Flag Raising Ceremony in honor of Italian Heritage Month!



Celebrating Italian Heritage Month



Simona Rodano, the Italian Fairy, marching along in the parade.

The San Gennaro parade on Mulberry Street in New York City!



Membership & Retention Director, Morris Borea, Antoinette Millozi and Dr. Fusco at Stamford Festa.

COLUMBUS DAY - Thank you, Your Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, for hosting the 48th Annual Columbus Day Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Although the 81st Columbus Day Parade was canceled due to the state of emergency, neither rain nor a nor'easter could stop this beautiful celebration. It was truly an honor to be in your company on Columbus Day, along with several Columbus Citizens Foundation (CCF) Honorees. National 2nd Vice President Frank LoRe, and Columbus Day Chair, PNP Cav. Ralph Contini joined Madeline LoRe, Maria-Rose Contini, CCF Board member Angelo Vivolo, CCF Parade Grand Marshal Joseph H. Moglia, Honorees John Catsimatidis, and Margo Catsimatidis in the special event.



Columbus is Back: City of Garfield Restores Prominence of the Garfield UNICO Columbus Statue

GARFIELD, NJ — On Sunday, October 12, 2025, residents, civic leaders, and members of the Italian American community gathered at the entrance of Columbus Park for a historic moment—the rededication of the Garfield UNICO Christopher Columbus statue, restored to a place of honor at the park's gateway.

The Columbus statue was originally unveiled by the Garfield Chapter of UNICO National on October 15, 1967, when the park was first dedicated as Columbus Park. For over five decades, the statue served as a symbol of Italian American pride, civic heritage, and community identity in Garfield. The site hosted annual Columbus Day wreath-laying ceremonies ever since becoming an enduring landmark in the city's history.



In 2024, finalization of major renovations altered the park's layout, and the statue was moved to the rear of the grounds near the train tracks, significantly diminishing its visibility and historic significance. Around the same time, the park's name—"Columbus Park"—was removed, sparking immediate concern among many residents and community leaders who viewed the changes as a dismissal of Garfield's Italian American history.

Public response was swift and determined. Mayor Everett E. Garnto, Jr., Deputy Mayors, and the Garfield City Council worked closely with Garfield UNICO Chairman, Allan B. Focarino, heritage advocates, and residents to restore both the park's identity and the statue location. On January 10, 2025, the Council passed a resolution officially reinstating the park's original and historic name: Columbus Park.

On October 6, 2025, the statue itself was relocated to the park's main entrance at Midland Avenue and Outwater Lane — near its original

position. The effort was made possible through the generosity of Zuccaro & Sons, Inc., whose owner Salvatore Zuccaro and his family provided equipment and support for the move at no cost to the city. Community members applauded

as the monument once again greeted visitors as a dignified symbol of Garfield's cultural heritage.

The official rededication took place on October 12, 2025, when state and county officials, community leaders, and residents gathered for a celebratory ceremony.

Garfield UNCO Columbus Chairman Allan Focarino opened the ceremony with comments that included: "What Christopher Columbus accomplished in the 15th century may have been a greater achievement than landing on the moon in the 20th century. His journey represents courage, exploration, and the pursuit of opportunity—values that continue to inspire us today."

Assemblyman Abdelaziz presented a New Jersey State Senate and Assembly Joint Proclamation recognizing the work of Garfield UNICO and its Columbus Committee. County Executive Tedesco followed with a county proclamation honoring Columbus Day and preservation of Italian American heritage. County Administrator Tom Duch presented remarks and a proclamation on behalf of the Bergen County Board of Commissioners. Mayor Garnto then issued a City of Garfield Proclamation honoring the dedication of Garfield UNICO and



Allan B. Focarino, a long-standing advocate for cultural history and preservation in Garfield.

Mayor Garnto addressed the crowd, stating: "This statue is more than stone—it is a tribute to faith, family, and the immigrant journey that contributed to this city. Today we honor those who stood up to protect history and community pride. I proudly recognize the steadfast commitment of Allan B. Focarino, Garfield UNICO, and our city leadership, whose dedication made this historic restoration possible."



Garfield UNICO President Louise Gerardi and Garfield's Columbus Chairman Allan B. Focarino presented plaques of appreciation to Mayor Garnto and Salvatore Zuccaro for their leadership and generous support. Gerardi stated: "We are honored by the overwhelming support of the community. The relocation of the Columbus statue and the restoration of Columbus Park reflect a deep respect for history and tradition. Columbus continues to stand proud in Garfield"

Frank LoRé, Ralph Contini, and Dominick Nicastro also addressed the large group of supporters acknowledging the efforts of Garfield's Columbus Chair and committee in spearheading the statue relocation and park name restoration by the city.

51st Annual Labor Day Italian Festival



Once again, the annual Labor Day Festival held at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church entertained thousands of visitors near and far over the span of four evenings. The sights, sounds, smells, and smiles were out in full force from opening night until the festival's closing moments on Labor Day.



Festival patrons enjoyed the beautiful weather as they feasted on sausage and pepper sandwiches, pizza, pastries, and zeppoles and walked the festival grounds with family and friends. Along the way, they were sure to purchase their Super 50/50 tickets for a chance at this year's jackpot, which reached over \$76,000. Festival volunteers donated their time and talents to work the games and rarely had a lull in the action. Children of all ages had their choice of rides such as the teacup ride and the Ferris Wheel. Visitors were also treated to a variety of entertainers: Wolf Creek, Anthony Liguori as Elvis, The Broadcasters, and Jimmy and the Parrots.



As is festival tradition, the Saturday 5 pm Italian mass was celebrated by Father Matthew Gonzalez and assisted by Father Frank Rose and Deacon Bob Gurske, who read the Gospel in both Italian and English. Bishop Elias Lorenzo and Deacons Don Hessemer, Cesar Monge, and German Gonzalez were also in attendance. Following the mass, a procession with the two festival patron saints, St. Bartholomew and St. Nicholas of Bari, was led through the festival grounds. Visitors then sang both the American and Italian national anthems to conclude the ceremony, and the festival continued throughout the evening.



When all was said and done, the festival co-sponsors - St. Bart's Church, Scotch Plains Fanwood UNICO, and St. Bartholomew Academy - celebrated yet another memorable festival weekend. All festival proceeds will benefit the three co-sponsors and will help with parish and school programs and UNICO scholarships. St. Bart's and Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO would like to extend a special thank you to the festival committee and the festival volunteers, all of whom helped make this year's festival a huge success.



Rick DiLiberto

Candidate for UNICO National 2nd Vice President

Distinguished Service & Professional Excellence

- Attorney (1986-present) – Member of the U.S. Supreme Court, Delaware, Pennsylvania & New Jersey Bars
- Delaware House of Representatives (1992-2002)
(Author and sponsor of Delaware's Freedom of Speech Constitutional Amendment)
- American Bar Association Edmund S. Muskie Pro Bono Service Award Recipient
- Outstanding Service Award, Delaware Law School, Widener University
- Delaware State Bar Association Professional Conduct Award

Leadership, Community Impact, & Cultural Engagement

- Chairman, Delaware Commission on Italian Heritage & Culture (2006-present)
- Trustee, UNICO Foundation
- President, UNICO's Rehoboth Beach Chapter
- Christopher Columbus Monument Committee Man of the Year
- UNICO National Philip Mazzei Americanism Award Recipient
- Rehoboth Beach UNICO Master of Ceremonies (Opera at the Beach, Kentucky Derby, Brian Piccolo Awards)
- Guest Speaker: Columbus Day Ceremony – Delaware County, PA
- Speaker: UNICO Italian Festival – Hazleton, PA
- International Speaker: Greve in Chianti & Olevano Sul Tusciano, Italy (Sister Cities events)

Education & Youth Advocacy

- MMI Preparatory School Board of Directors (2013-present) & Chairman (2022-present) – Freeland, PA
- Member of Wall of Fame, MMI Preparatory School – Freeland, PA
- Young Alumnus of the Year, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania
- Co-founder & Board Member: Italian Language Camp for Children – Wilmington, DE



Rick with U.S. Supreme Court
Justice Antonin Scalia



Rick's Family



Rick with current UNICO
Rehoboth District Governor
& past NJ 4 District
Governor Sal Ingallina

***Please vote Rick DiLiberto for UNICO National
2nd Vice President. Thank you!***

BELLEVILLE, NJ UNICO ANNUAL ALS WALK-A-THON



Allison Depasquale and Belleville Chapter Treasurer Patricia Yuksel with Mario and Luigi at the ALS Walkathon.



Sal Barbera, Belleville Chapter President Peter Caggiano, and Anthony Sessa



Italian Fairy Simona Rodano, UNICO National's Expansion Director Nicki Carpinelli, ALS Committee Chairperson Stephen Zirpoli, Belleville Chapter President Peter Caggiano and National President Joe Nasello.



VP Pat Meola with the Ice cream cart

NEW JERSEY DISTRICT X



NJ District X officers and members with National officers with the UNICO float at the annual John Basilone parade in Raritan NJ on Sept 21, 2025.



UNICO 2024-2025 Immediate Past National President Anthony Bengivenga and NJ District X Governor Joe Arancio are escorted by U.S. Marine officers to lay the wreath at the John Basilone Monument after the Basilone Parade on Sept 21.

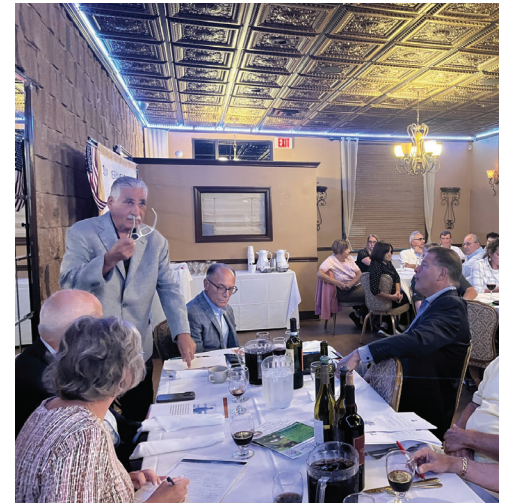


Union County NJ issued celebrated Columbus weekend with a flag raising ceremony at the County Seat in Elizabeth NJ and issued proclamations by the Union County Commissioners to the UNICO NJ District X officers and chapters.
L-R: Kenilworth Chapter President Ed Palmieri; Immediate PNP, Anthony Bengivenga; Elizabeth Chapter President Nino Quaglia; NJ X Deputy DG Laura Morana; UNICO Foundation Trustee Robert Tarte of the Greater Westfield Chapter.



At the Union County, NJ Italian Heritage Ceremony and flag raising on Oct 11, Immediate Past National President Anthony Bengivenga and NJ District X Deputy Governor Laura Morano spoke on behalf of UNICO National and NJ District X.

Photos from our September District X Meeting, with special guests: First VP, Steven Calantone, ERDG, Dominick Lucenti, and ISHECU Chair, Al D'Agosto.



UNICO FOUNDATION



John Chiaia, General Counsel of the UNICO Foundation, recently was honored with the 2025 St. Thomas More Medal of Honor; for his professional, charitable and religious honor, recognizing dedication to Seton Hall Law School, the Catholic Church, and the law profession.

“Principals of UNICO have shaped me throughout my professional career. I have gotten back more from UNICO and am grateful for the organization and their motto of Service Above Self” – John Chiaia

The Red Mass – named from red vestments used to celebrate the Mass and from red robes judges had worn in the Middle Ages, celebrated at the beginning of the judicial year to invoke God’s blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. This year’s event was held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey.

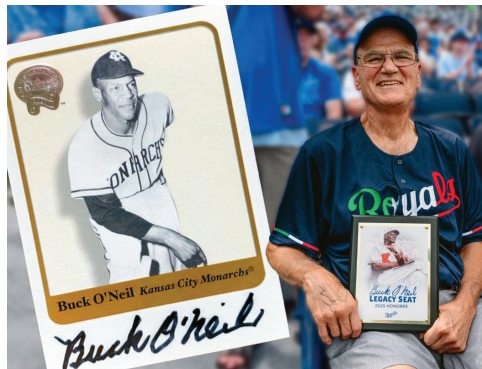


KANSAS CITY, MO

Kansas City Royals Celebrate Italian Heritage Day 2025 with UNICO KC and Buck O’Neil Honoree Jerry Viviano



The Kansas City Royals proudly celebrated Italian Heritage Day 2025, honoring the city’s vibrant Italian American community in partnership with UNICO Kansas City. The day was filled with pride, tradition, and recognition of community service—highlighted by a special tribute to Jerry Viviano, long time member of UNICO KC and this year’s recipient of the Buck O’Neil 2025 Honoree Award and Seat.



The celebration began with a stirring pregame ceremony at Kauffman Stadium, where the Italian and American national anthems echoed through the stands. Fans cheered as Jerry Viviano, surrounded by UNICO KC members and his family, was recognized for his years of participation and unrivaled dedication to promoting Italian heritage, education, and charitable outreach in the Kansas City area. His selection as the 2025 Buck O’Neil Honoree symbolized his lifelong commitment to community, service, and unity—the same values championed by baseball legend Buck O’Neil.



UNICO KC, a nonprofit devoted to “Service Above Self,” joined the Royals in bringing the event to life, while fans of all backgrounds joined in celebrating the shared values of family, hard work, and community pride that unite both Italian Americans and baseball fans. As Jerry Viviano took his seat of honor, his presence reminded the crowd that heritage is not just about where we come from, but how we give back. The 2025 Italian Heritage Day with the Kansas City Royals and UNICO KC was more than a game—it was a heartfelt celebration of legacy, leadership, and the enduring spirit of Kansas City’s Italian American community.

MARIN, CA

Our quarterly meeting at our new location, Marin Joe's, a long-time restaurant of ours, has sold.



A general view of our attendance.



Vicki Masseria (Sec/Treas), Ron Benjamin (President), Bob Ravasio (Vice President)



Vicki Masseria and longtime member Giovanna Kampmeyer.



Ron Benjamin and wife Janet Benjamin.

UNICO Merchandise



CONTACT UNICO NATIONAL AT 973-808-0035
AND PLACE YOUR ORDERS TODAY

MONTVILLE, NJ



Montville UNICO Foundation members placed a wreath on the bust of Christopher Columbus, located in the foyer of Montville Township's Municipal Building. The statue was originally dedicated by the Montville UNICO Chapter on October 12, 1992, with a time capsule to be opened in 2042.

Pictured: Joan Bunda, Jessica Bunda, Loretta Cannito, Angie and Russ Pisano, and Eileen Boos.

Photo Credit: Michael Boos



Montville UNICO Chapter President Joan Bunda installs our newest member, Arthur Maggio, during the September chapter meeting at Top of the Park Restaurant. We look forward to Arthur's active participation and contributions to our chapter.

KEYSTONE, PA

Keystone UNICO manned the Sunday Bake Sale Tent at Saint Joseph's Annual Festival for the 14th year in a row. The Baked Goods have been prepared, donated and sold for this annual Festival by UNICO Members and Friends of Keystone. This year over \$1,850 was donated to St. Joseph's Center by Keystone UNICO. Some of our Bakers are Toni DiVizio, Sylvia Tagert, Nancy Malone, Mark McDade, Mary Ann Coviello, JoAnn Martarano, Michaelene Merrill, and Louise Ligi.



First Shift front from left are Co-Chair Michele McDade; Sister Maryalice Jaquinot, President Saint Joseph's Center; Co-chair Mary Lou Karliak and PA II District Governor Nan Gramigna.



Second Shift front are Co-Chairs Cesira Berardelli and Mary Lou Karliak. Back Row from left are Karen Sadowski, Michele McDade, Anne Martino, Diane Beckage, and Tina Haas.



Third Shift front are Cesira Berardelli and Mary Lou Karliak. Back from left are Hailey Rocco, Sallie Noto, Mary DePalma, Cathy Bianchi, Terese Pellegrino, Michele McDade and Cathy Gerard.



Keystone Chapter, as part of their "Random Act of Kindness" program co-chaired by Frank and Mary Ann Coviello, has donated \$500 to the Gino Merli Veteran's Center for use in their Residents Activities Program. Also donated were 100 pairs of Bomba's famous socks thru the Wright Center and represented by Keystone Member Mary Marrara.



Presenters of the Italian Organizations at the Italian Flag Raising included from left Mike Linko, President of Scranton UNICO; Dr. Stephanie Longo, local Author and Italian Historian; James Mack Jr., President of Keystone UNICO; Carlo Pisa, of Saint Rocco's Church, Bunker Hill; Alfredo Pisa, President of the San Cataldo Society; Gene Barrett Member of the Victor Alfieri Society; Mark McDade, Keystone UNICO Charter President and flag raising coordinator; and James Colangelo, Past President of the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County.

Keystone UNICO hosted the First Quarter PA II District Meeting at Colarusso's Coal Fire Pizza. Reports were given for the four PA II Chapters, Binghamton, Carbondale, Keystone and Sayre. Jim Mack is President of Keystone Chapter and Nan Gramigna is serving her second term as District Governor of District PA II UNICO National.



Past District Governors join with PA II District Governor Nanine Gramigna and Chapter President Jim Mack. From left are Past D.G. Tom Gatto, PNP Dr. Peter Pettinato, Past D.G. Cathy Bianchi, Keystone President Jim Mack, current PA II D.G. Nanine Gramigna, Past D.G. Terri Pettinato, PNP Glenn Pettinato and Past D.G. Mark McDade.



At the September Chapter Meeting of Keystone UNICO, Joyce Lomma was Inducted. At the induction ceremony from left are Membership Director Ann Summa, Sponsor Mary Marrara, new member Joyce Lomma, Co-sponsor Michele McDade, Chapter President Jim Mack, and Inducting Officer Mark McDade.

Keystone Chapter conducted the 14th Annual Italian Flag Raising in downtown Scranton at the Lackawanna County Courthouse. Seven Lackawanna County Italian American organizations were present, and their representatives had the opportunity to speak on what they are all about. The Italian Flag was then raised.



KEARNY, NJ



At its meeting in October, Kearny Mayor Carol Jean Doyle (2nd from left) presented Kearny Chapter President Annamarie Latushko (ctr) with a proclamation from the Kearny Town Council proclaiming the month of October as Italian Heritage Month in the Town of Kearny. Also pictured are Council members Marytrine DeCastro (left), Stathis Theodoropoulos (2nd from right) and Fred Esteves (right).



At the Kearny Chapter's September meeting, Chapter President Annamarie Latushko and her husband Dennis celebrated their Thirty-fifth wedding anniversary. Chapter members enjoyed the cake and refreshments and wished Annamarie and Dennis many more years together.



Members of the Kearny Chapter: Lou Pandolfi (l), Chapter President Annamarie Latushko (2nd from right) and Celeste Pandolfi (r) pose with Mr. Alvin Cox, Executive Director of Pathways to Independence (2nd from left) and Kearny Mayor Carol Jean Doyle (3rd from left) at Pathways' Annual Walk-A-Thon. Pathways to Independence is a social service organization in Kearny that provides program support services, pre-vocational and vocational opportunities to adults with disabilities. The Kearny Chapter sponsored a Water Station and supported the Tricky-Tray and fifty-fifty raffle.



At its September meeting, members of the Kearny Chapter welcomed their newest member: Kim Madalena. Chapter President Annamarie Latushko (r) administers the membership oath to Kim (l).



The 35th Wedding Anniversary cake. It was delicious.



The Kearny Chapter was invited to hold its October Chapter meeting in the Kearny Museum. Kearny Chapter members enjoyed a "light" dinner with coffee and dessert provided by the museum's staff.



Following the conclusion of the meeting, chapter members and members of the Kearny Museum staff gathered together for a "photo op."



Kearny Chapter President Annamarie Latushko swore in Lyla Lawdanski DeCastro as the chapter's newest member.

GREATER RAMSEY, NJ

The Greater Ramsey chapter of UNICO actively supports the needs of our local Ramsey community organizations who, like UNICO, meet the various needs of Ramsey residents. Recently, donation checks from Ramsey UNICO were presented to the Ramsey Ambulance Corps, Ramsey Responds, Ramsey Rescue and Ramsey Is for Everyone (RIFE). The Ramsey UNICO Chapter values the service these organizations provide to our community, and we thank them for their commitment to serve.



Jackie Gersht, Vice President, Ramsey Rescue, Dave Brown, Deputy Chief, Ramsey Rescue, Ron Muzzillo, President, Greater Ramsey UNICO



Maria Arrabito, District IX Governor, Ralph Hirtler, Ramsey Ambulance Corps



Maria Arrabito, District IX Governor, Erin Ramiza, Vice President, Ramsey Responds



Maria Arrabito, District IX Governor, Harry Weber, President, RIFE, Ron Muzzillo, President, Greater Ramsey UNICO

BAYONNE, NJ

A successful event of raising the Italian flag at Bayonne NJ City Hall, with participation from the Italian American community in Bayonne NJ and the Bayonne leadership including Mayor Jimmy Davis.



GREATER BINGHAMTON, NY

The Greater Binghamton Chapter braved the damp conditions for the Columbus Day parade in Binghamton, NY on Monday, October 13th. Chapter member NYS assemblywoman Donna Lupardo was the grand Marshall for this year's parade. Post parade activities included a group picture at the Columbus statue located in downtown Binghamton.



PASSAIC VALLEY, NJ



The UNICO National Passaic Valley chapter at our Annual Italian Flag Raising Ceremony which celebrates October as Italian Heritage Month. A thank you to the Little Falls town council for supporting our efforts in all that we do, along with a Proclamation from Little Falls Mayor James Damiano noting that October is again Italian Heritage month in Little Falls. Also a thank you to our UNICO National President Joseph Nasello for attending and speaking, along with Steven Calantone our UNICO National 1st VP and our UNICO New Jersey District IV Governor Anthony DeGennaro.

Italian Children's Market

Give the Gift of Heritage



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WAYNE, NJ

As the leaves begin to change and the warm days of summer are done the Wayne Chapter is heading into one of our busiest times of the year. Our newly installed slate of officers has transitioned nicely into their positions, and we are excited for their new ideas. We have installed two new members since August. The Access Network came during our September meeting and did an informative presentation. We have been including more heritage at our monthly meetings and each month we are encouraging a member to present information about their Italian background. Wayne is continuing our monthly collections and donations to one of our favorite local charities, The Wayne Interfaith Network (our local food pantry). In September we raised the Italian flag to celebrate our heritage during our annual Classic Car Show which was held at the Wayne Town Hall. We had upwards of 150 cars, a lot of happy winners and a great day all around. In September we also donated our cooking skills and cooked pasta for the Found Abilities Pasta Dinner as well as made a monetary donation. Found Abilities is another of our favorite local organizations. Dr Jeff Fossati donated his time and was the DJ for the Sparta Italian Festival at Lafayette Village. Before you know it, the holidays will be upon us, our chapter is very active with the District IV Special Needs Christmas party and the Holiday Bus Trip into the city. Our 80's Night dinner dance has been rescheduled for February 21, 2026. There are several more events being planned - stay tuned. If you are interested in any of our events or activities, please contact any chapter member.



2nd Vice President Shauna Ferrato, Chapter President Steve Simonetti and PCP Pete Leva present a check to the Wayne Food bank



PCP Pete Leva, Chapter President Steve Simonetti, 1st Vice President Jerry Frederick and 2nd Vice President Shauna Ferrato present a check to Found Abilities



Our volunteers for the Car Show



Italian Flag Raising with National President Joe Nasello and Senator Kristin Corrado



Booth at the car show l-r Joey Zisa, Todd Stidik, PCP Jeff Fossati, National 1st Vice President Steve Calantone and PCP Joe Zisa



Sergeant at Arms George Serventi and Lou Coviello



Our one and only ever chapter secretary Brian Rasa working hard tallying votes at the car show



Cooking at the Found Abilities Pasta Night

CLARK, NJ

Clark UNICO participated in the Annual 911 Ceremony in James Nelson Park placing a wreath in front of the monument – In attendance were Clark Unicans Carmen Brocato, Bill Smith, Jimmy Minnitti, Pres. Joe Arancio, Jackie Venezio, VP Ralph Bernardo



Clark Chapter President Joe Arancio held his first District Meeting as the newly assigned District Governor of District X. Over 40 members from all chapters and 3 National executives attended the dinner meeting.



Clark President Joe Arancio attended the Annual John Basilone parade along with other dignitaries on September 21st.



Clark UNICO held their annual Kickoff fall meeting with 45 members in attendance. Sunday dinner on a Wednesday night was served complete with macaroni, meatballs, sausage, salad and bread!! Our invited guest was Immediate PNP Anthony Bengivenga who swore in 9 new members into the organization. President Joe Arancio welcomed everyone back and reported on the plan for the upcoming year.



WETHERSFIELD, CT

The Wethersfield Chapter hosted a Wine Tasting Class in October, led by the Tenuta Torciano Vineyard from San Gimignano, Italy, as part of the Chapter's commitment to share our chapter's cultural history and love of wines. Net proceeds benefited the Chapter's charities.



Instructor, Sabrina Mlouki, niece of the vineyard's owner, provided insights on how each wine is produced and the history of the vineyard.



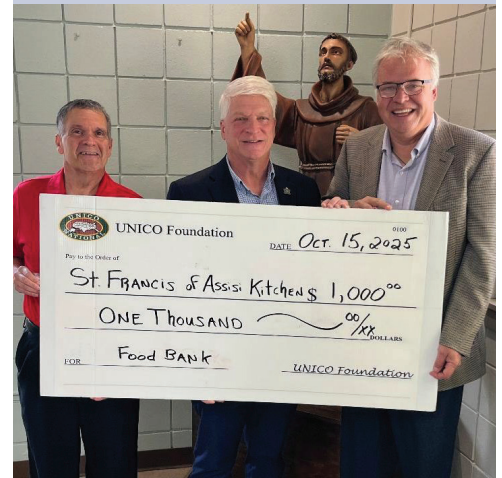
The Wethersfield Chapter hosted their 19th Annual Bocce Palooza in October. The Crusaders were the ultimate champions. The event is part of the chapter's commitment to share our chapter's cultural history and love of sports. Several new members have been recruited to the Chapter, after first being introduced to our Chapter's members. The Wethersfield Chapter manages the town's Bocce league which is run from June through October. Net proceeds benefited the chapter's charities.



TORRACO FOOD BANK/SHELTER



August 31, 2025, after the 11 am mass at St. Francis Church in Hackensack, N.J. PDG Guy Di Napoli presented two UNICANS Lona Padovano and Elide Marino with a check from the Torraco Food Bank and Shelter Fund in the amount of \$1000 for their Food Pantry. Lona and Elide have been running this Food Pantry for 30 plus years. L – R: Lona Padovano, PDG Guy Di Napoli, Elide Marino and Father Meena O.F.M. Cap. pastor.



The UNICO Foundation recently presented a check in support of St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen in Scranton, PA. The funds were granted from the Torraco Food Bank/Shelter Fund set up by member Ralph Torraco in an effort to assist those in need of food and shelter. With the motto of "Service Above Self", the endowment was established so families and children will be given a safe haven and never go hungry. Making the presentation from left to right is Mike Rescigno, Chair of the Torraco Fund, Chris DiMattio, Chair of the UNICO Foundation and Rob Williams, Executive Director of St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen.

NORTH SHORE, L.I.

On September 19th, 2025, The Long Island North Shore chapter hosted a "Christmas Carol" performed by the great-great grandson of Charles Dickens himself! This captivating one-man performance, along with a great dinner brought in much worthwhile proceeds. Proceeds from this event will benefit: St Jude Children's Hospital, Association of Italian American Educators, and Tunnel to Towers Foundation (Operation Warrior Shield)



President Tania Broschart and guest with Gerald Dickens



Costumes for the times with Gerald Dickens



President Tania Broschart and the Long Island North Shore Chapter

HACKENSACK, NJ

The Hackensack Chapter of UNICO National proudly celebrated its 54th Annual Christopher Columbus Day Celebration on Saturday, October 11th, at Columbus Park in Hackensack. We were honored to recognize Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III, the first Italian American County Executive in the history of Bergen County, as our Distinguished Community Service Award recipient.



L to R - City of Hackensack Mayor Caseen Gaines, UNICO National President Joseph Nasello, Sr., Columbus Day Chair & PNP Cav. Ralph Contini, Bergen County Executive & Distinguished Community Service Award recipient James J. Tedesco, III, Chapter President Maria-Rose Contini, District Governor NJ VII Daniel Carnicella.



District Governor NJ VII Daniel Carnicella, Columbus Day Chair & PNP Cav. Ralph Contini, Bergen County Executive & Distinguished Community Service Award recipient James J. Tedesco, III; Chapter President Maria-Rose Contini, National President Joseph Nasello, Sr.



National President Joseph Nasello, Sr.; Chapter President Maria-Rose Contini, Columbus Day Chair & PNP Cav. Ralph Contini.



The Hackensack High School Band proudly returned after a seven-year absence.



National President Joseph Nasello, Sr.; Bergen County Executive & Distinguished Community Service Award recipient James J. Tedesco, III; Chapter President Maria-Rose Contini, Columbus Day Chair & PNP Cav. Ralph Contini.



Welcome New Members: September & October 2025

Congratulations and Welcome to UNICO!

Belleville

Mary Fletcher
Michael Melham

Bloomfield

Carolyn Nephew
William Nephew

Brookhaven

James Anson
Vito Russo

Clark

Vita Amadeo
Michelle Brocato
Damian Buccine
Maria Capitummino
Mario Capitummino
Donna Genlot
Michael J. Perrotta
Lisa Perrotta
Emily Senatore Pingor

DMV (formerly McLean)

Gregory Ferrara

Garfield

Johnny Feragola
Christie Tsigounis-Feragola

Greater Orlando

Josephine Rotondo

Greater Ramsey

Mariline A. Tomasulo

Greater Tampa

Theresa Buzzitta

Greater Westfield

Charles P. Lombardo

Hazleton

Dante Paul Chirico
Lucille Martonick
Margaret Neiswender
Gianluca Sacco
Corrine Wilson

Highland Beach

Robert Ceparano
Denise Ceparano
John Librie
Joanne Librie

Kearny

Kimberley Madalena

Kenilworth

Francis Pollard

Keystone

John D Elia

Livingston

Marylou Genovino
Kristen Hartley

Memphis

Dana Capocaccia
Joe Grimoldi
Nicole Werkhoven
John Werkhoven

National

Dale Giovengo
Joseph Marquette
Rosemaria Pontoriero

Nutley

Kathie Battaglia
Anthony Benenato
Anna Carina Benenato
Joseph Benenato, Jr.
Jude Biondi-Belas
Julianna Biondi-Belas
Jessica Bok
Stefanie A. Ferrara
Raymond J. Metzger
Joseph T. Savoia

Passaic Valley

Anthony Sabatino

Pittsfield

Dylan Bencivenga
Susan Langenheim

Pt Pleasant Beach

Elvira Petrillo
Stephanie Viscuso

Rehoboth Area

Mary Ellen Cortese
Paul Gatti, Jr.
Paul Gordon
Tina Gordon

Roseto

Tom Heard
Jack D. Spadoni

San Diego

Paul Caccamise
Margarette Caccamise
Clarke
Carmen Reed
Barbara Truglio

Secaucus

Christina De Bari
Marc Anthony Gizzi
Patricia Martinelli
Guido Martinelli
Gina Millevoi
Joan Millevoi
Danielle Rivera
Jeanne Spirito
John Spirito
Anna Torino

Stamford

James Dignoti
Colleen Sharkey

Torrington

Anne Marie Filippini
Catherine Angela Pezze

Wethersfield

Angela Aiello
Amalia Attardo
Diane York

Wilkes Barre

Paula Minichello

PEQUANNOCK, NJ



Pequannock UNICO past President Chuck Cavadini embraces granddaughter Hannah Laura Porcella, who arrived on 7/25/25. The UNICO family is very happy to welcome its newest member.



Pequannock UNICO at their Annual 9/11 Memorial Ceremonies. Executive VP, Steve Calantone, DG, Anthony DeGennaro, and National President, Joe Nasello joined Chapter President, Ed Lamoureux.

CARBONDALE, PA

The Carbondale Chapter of UNICO National recently donated school uniforms to both Carbondale Elementary School and Carbondale Jr./Sr. High School, along with yoga mats to support the Elementary's yoga program. Members of UNICO, along with school staff and administrators, gathered to celebrate the generous contributions.



L-R: Assistant Principal Mr. Lawrance Gabriel, III, UNICO members Angel Masco, Ann Boyle, Chapter President Bob Tomaine, and Rich Ruggerio. Row 2 L-R: UNICO member and Carbondale Area HS faculty Dr. Samantha Masco, UNICO members Nathan Masco, Bill Boyle, Joe Masco, and Carbondale Area Director of Guidance, Mrs. Megan Ruggerio



L-R: Yoga instructor Ms. Kelly Mellen, UNICO Member and CA staff Yvonne Gatto, UNICO member Bill Boyle, and Ms. Meg Duffy, Carbondale Elementary Principal



Hackensack
Meridian Health



L-R: Carbondale UNICO Chapter President Bob Tomaine and Yoga instructor Ms. Kelly Mellen

HAZELTON, PA

Hazleton UNICO Chapter hosts their Annual Bell'Italia Festival

Chairman of our Bocce Tournament, Nick Rossi and Stepan Clabia, host our Bell'Italia kick off at Eagle Rock Resort.



Our Veteran's Ceremony was hosted by Lauren Sacco and Tony Colombo. Pictured with Lauren is our oldest member/Veteran's Benny Tranguch and his daughter Florence.



Nick Pane and Anna Shawinski host the adult and kids Spaghetti Eating Contest.



Our secretary, Elana Timko and her team sold over 700 pounds of Fried Dough!



Pictured is Mike DeCosmo, who hosted our Fingers Tournament. A favorite event at our Festival.



Cheri Yannuzzi, our treasurer, hosted our tricky tray stand. She had over 150 gift baskets! Pictured are Donna Delehanty, Cheri Yannuzzi and Mary Malino.



Second picture is Judy Mason who hosted Nanies Playground and over 2,000 children got to play games and make crafts for free.

FARMINGTON, CT



Farmington UNICO President Bill Coscarelli (center) welcomes newly installed members Patty Lathrop and John Russo



Madelyn and Tom Filomeno with photo of Joe Filomeno at Farmington UNICO's annual Joe Filomeno Memorial Golf Tournament



Paul Pedemonti, Jim Mugavero, Alycia, Allison, Jaime Coffed and Madelyn are ready to welcome golfers to Wethersfield Country Club for our sold-out golf tournament



Paul Pedemonti, Mary Alexander and President Bill Coscarelli served on the Golf Tournament Committee



Alicia Derose-Lin and Allison Bourne volunteered at the golf tournament



Tom Filomeno sending off Chris Andrews and Cate Reynolds for 18 holes on a picture-perfect day

GREATER WESTFIELD, NJ



Greater Westfield UNICO celebrated an evening with Frank Sinatra on Oct 1 at the Crossroads in Garwood, NJ. In the photo the renowned Frank Sinatra impersonator, Jesse Posa, and Chapter President Gene Janotti get an ovation by the crowd of attendees.



At Greater Westfield Chapter's fundraiser "An Evening with Frank Sinatra". Immediate Past National President Anthony Bengivenga and Chapter President Gene Janotti join on stage with Frank Sinatra (Jesse Posa) on Oct 1 at the Crossroads in Garwood, NJ.



Ladies of NJ District X dancing to the sounds of Frank Sinatra as impersonator Jesse Posa sings New York, New York at the Greater Westfield fundraiser "An Evening with Frank Sinatra". Dancing in the photo 1 to r: Jacki Venezio (Clark Chapter); April Bengivenga (Plainfields Chapter); Rosemary Scardaville, President Hillsborough Chapter.

SCRANTON, PA



The Scranton Chapter earned the Columbus Day patch for making a contribution to preserve Columbus Day. From left: UNICO National President Joseph Nasello Sr., Scranton Chapter President Mike Linko, PNP Cav. Ralph Contini.



The Scranton Chapter Ladies Auxiliary held a Fun Day of Bocce in loving memory of their dear friend and Ladies Auxiliary member, Alice Vanston, who truly epitomized "Service Above Self." Proceeds from the event will benefit Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, a facility in Scranton that provides free meals, a food pantry, and free clothing for people in need. Pictured are, front row from left: Lois Mallick, Barbara Roberts, Jo Ann Verduce, Lynda Cook, Sally Henry, Julie Yando, Deb Germano, Joni DeNapoli, Lisa Balcerzak. Back row from left: Barb DiRienzo, Gail Cicerini, Doreen Salt, Ann Genett, Patti Montalbano, Diane Alberigi



The Scranton Chapter hosted "La Radunata," its annual social meeting that gathers members of surrounding chapters for an evening of shared culture and camaraderie. The event was held at Arcaro and Genell in Old Forge. L-R: PNP Chris DiMattio; Mark McDade, Keystone Chapter; Chapter President Mike Linko; Neil Trama, whose father was instrumental in establishing Columbus Day as a holiday; Nanine Gramigna, PA II DG; Atty. Frank Blasi, National Legal Counsel; Keystone Chapter President James Mack.



At a Scranton Chapter meeting, Sandie LaManna and Patty Hein of the Lackawanna County Literacy Association provided a presentation on county literacy statistics as well as information regarding local literacy initiatives. The Chapter also conducted a book collection to support these efforts. From left: Chapter member Sandie LaManna, PNP Chris DiMattio, Chapter President Mike Linko, Patty Hein.



The Wilkes-Barre Chapter joined the Scranton Chapter project to collect coats for Friends of the Poor and Catherine McAuley Center. From left: Wilkes-Barre members Paula Minichello, Atty. Angela Sperraza holding Carmella Sperraza Homza, Palma Gallo, Chapter President Anna Gallo and Ann Sperraza, with Diana Giovannini, Scranton Chapter, coat drive chairperson.



A contingent from the Scranton Chapter attended the Wilkes-Barre Chapter Pig Roast. Seated from left are Mary Ann Capone, Bob Montalbano, Mike Rescigno, Jack Trapani. Standing: Dino Darbenzio, Dr. Peter Cognetti, Atty. Frank Castellano, Scranton Chapter President Mike Linko.



In this photo of Scranton Chapter members at the Wilkes-Barre Chapter Pig Roast are, seated from left: Frank Gervasi, Gail Cicerini, Maggie Prudente, Ann DiMattio, Karen Clifford. Standing: Diana Giovannini. Bob Montalbano, Sal Benvenuti (UNICO National), Francene Pisano.

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT



UNICO National President Joseph Nasello shares a moment with longtime Past National President, Paul Alongi.

CLIFFSIDE PARK, NJ

On Saturday, September 13th, 2025, the Cliffside Park UNICO Chapter volunteered to help clean-up the Hudson River Walkway in Edgewater, NJ.



KENILWORTH, NJ



The Kenilworth Chapter continues to demonstrate its support for individuals entering the world of work. We are delighted to partner with Dress for Success of Central Jersey.



Kenilworth Chapter sponsored a trip to Little Italy in the Bronx, NY. Past National President, Anthony Bengivenga, and his family enjoyed shopping, music, and a scrumptious meal.

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP, NJ

Our Chapter has been involved in many activities since the last ComUNICO issue. In September, we participated in a Back-to-School Donation Drive to collect school items to give to local students to help them start their school year.



Our Chapter also participated in the San Gennaro Festival in Mine Hill and distributed information to attendees about Unico. This resulted in several people expressing interest in joining our Chapter. (see picture 1).



Then in October, many members placed Italian American Heritage signs on their front lawns to celebrate the occasion. (See picture 2).

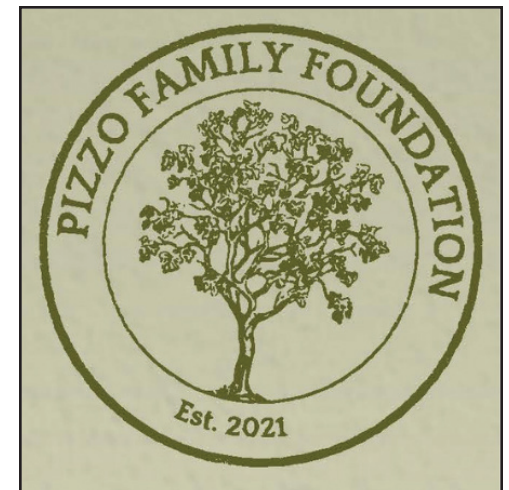
Our Chapter members then conducted a food drive at the Shop-Rite in Rockaway and collected 130 large bags of food which we donated to the Care Center of New Jersey in Rockaway Township that day. In addition, we donated a check from donations we that we received at that event for \$1,200 which we donated to the Pastor of that church/food pantry at the Town Council Meeting to help feed many of the over 200 local needy families. (see pictures 3, 4, and 5).



In addition, we donated a check for \$150 to the New Jersey Blue Knights (who helped us with our August Charity Motorcycle Run) to support their Celebrate Life Organ Donor Awareness Event (see pictures 6 and 7).



Finally, Tom Trepasso, our Chapter member and local Fire Marshal, was honored at the Morris County Columbus Day Dinner as Man of the Year for all he has done to help people in our neighborhood. (see picture 8 showing Tom and our Chapter President Susanne Jackson)



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NUTLEY, NJ



Nutley Unico members marching in the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade with national president, Joe Nasello, and Grand Marshal, Frank Cocchiola Jr.



Nutley Unicans, Andy Garruto (Italian Man of the Year) and Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr. (Grand Marshal) with the many Nutley Chapter members in attendance at the Nutley-Belleville Parade Committee's honoree dinner.



Ladies of UNICO - Nutley Golf Outing lady golfers Phyllis Coldebella (PP), Danielle Manganello (President), Kathy Flaherty and Marie Solimo (PP).



Nutley Unicans enjoying the annual Christmas Eve in August "Feast of the Fishes" event.



Chapter President, Danielle Manganello (left) and Membership Chair, Cathy Marucci (right), with new members sworn in at the September meeting.



Danielle Manganello presents checks of \$250 each to representatives of local programs and charities. L-R; Phyllis Coldebella, Michele Fleitell, Dr. Joe Scarpelli, Angela Kircher, Kathy Battaglia, Tom Sposato and Bob Montanino.



Chapter President, Danielle Manganello, with Dan Marucci, "Christmas Eve in August" coordinator, Buddy Fortunato, Italian Tribune Publisher and National President Joe Nasello at the annual Nutley event.



Jerry Del Tufo (left) with his partner at the Nutley Chapter's annual golf outing.



Nutley Golf Outing Chair, Tom Sposato (center), with NJ Essex County Executive, Joe DiVincenzo, Jr. and National President, Joe Nasello, at this year's event.

HIGHLAND BEACH, FL



Saint Joan of Arc Mercy Hall. Over 110 in attendance. The photo of Frank LoRé is with our Florida Atlantic Italian study students who volunteer every year to help serve. Music food and fellowship was the topic of the night.



Second Vice President Frank, LoRé, Highland Beach secretary Joseph Quoto, Joanne Moeller, Vice President Highland Beach Madeleine LoRé, Michael Ka Frank D Agostino Fort Lauderdale Lisa Marie Browne Highland Beach Chapter at your Uffizzi museum



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GARFIELD, NJ

President Louise Gerardi swearing in new members Christie and John Feragola



WATERBURY, CT



In October the Town of Middlebury had a groundbreaking ceremony in Meadowbrook Park for a statue of the French General Rochambeau who aided George Washington at the Battle of Yorktown and who marched with his troops through the town. Our Chapter helped fund the statue. Present at the ceremony were Joanne D'Angelo, Kathy Conti, Pat Varanelli and Marie Vitarelli.



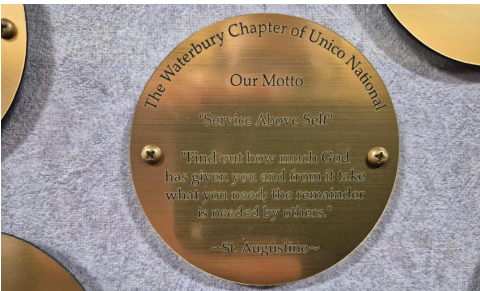
L-R: Lou Gelada, President Nicki Maiorano, Doreen Rinaldi and Vice President Bob Rinaldi pose in front of the "Pasta Cart" that was decorated specially for The Gathering Parade.



On Friday October 10th our Chapter held its annual Columbus Day celebration. L-R: Chapter President Nicki Maiorano, Mayor for the Day's husband Nicola Ricciardi, Italian Mayor for the Day Diana Zappone Ricciardi, and Waterbury Mayor Paul Pernerewski standing in front of the Columbus statue which is in front of Waterbury City Hall.



Diana raising the Italian flag in front of City Hall while the woman at the podium sings the Italian National Anthem.



The Harold Leever Regional Cancer Center in Waterbury decided to honor our Chapter for the generous monetary donations we have made to them over the years. We were able to put any quote(s) we wanted on the plaque which hangs inside the entrance to the Center. Standing next to the display pointing to the plaque are left to right, Unican Frank Travisano, Executive Director of the Center Deborah Parkinson, and Unican Louis Gelada. The quote was chosen after much research and decided by a small committee vote.

The Italian contingent in the parade, led by the Chapter of Waterbury, lines up for the parade. Our Chapter has coordinated the Italian presence in the parade and at the fair for as long as the Fair has been on. This year we had the most marchers ever, 59 people recruited by organizers Lou Gelada and Frank Travisano. In addition to Waterbury Unico there were members from the Bridgeport Chapter, the local Sons and Daughters of Italy Lodge and representatives from local Italian social clubs. We carried the American and Italian flags as well as all the flags from the Regions of Italy.



Official Mayor of Waterbury making a presentation to Diana in the same Hall.

BELLEVILLE, NJ



Belleville Summer Picnic at Skylands Stadium in front of the Christopher Columbus statue with Belleville UNICO members.



Mayor Michael Melham being sworn in by New National President Joe Nasello alongside his mother and Belleville UNICO member Joyce Melham, VP Pasquale Meola, Belleville Chapter President Peter Caggiano and VP Joe Gencarelli



Columbus Day Parade Committee with Dignitaries in front of Belleville Town Hall during the Italian Flag Raise.



Belleville UNICAN of the month Luigi Tulipani holding his UNICO apron alongside Belleville Chapter President Peter Caggiano.

MERRIMACK VALLEY, MA

UNICO Merrimack Valley Golf Event Raises \$30,000+ for local charities



First Place Team

L-R: Mike Keenan, Nick Ardagna III, Mark Kissel, and Jack Gillette & Pres, Enrico Caruso

UNICO of Merrimack Valley celebrating its 37th year as a Chapter of UNICO National recently announced that it has raised and distributed over \$1,000,000 to local charities.

A charity golf tournament was held at the Haverhill County Club on Sept. 22nd as the club's annual and only fundraiser. The event raised another \$30,000+.

According to club president Enrico Caruso, "we distributed over \$35,000 to organizations and individuals this past year alone." Some of the local charities include: Aarons Presents, Essex Arts Center, Northeast YMCA, St. Joseph's Home, Heaven's Kitchen, Northeast Independent Living, just to name a few.

While we do have a great time playing golf, especially on such a beautiful day, it's only through the generosity, dedication and hard work from the golfers, members, volunteers and sponsors that really make the difference between success and failure. This is our only fundraiser, and it's very important to our club and to the benefactors of our efforts, that this event continues to raise the money we need to support the community."

To continue to support area organizations caring for the needs of others, UNICO Merrimack Valley conducts its annual golf outing to raise money. All the money raised goes to scholarships and community service projects within the Merrimack Valley. We look forward to the continuation of this mission and to the impact that this effort has on the lives of others.

JDM

PARTNERS

SPARTA, NJ

On October 6th, 2025, Sparta UNICO hosted the 27th Annual Jack Schaaf Charity Memorial Golf Outing at Lake Mohawk Golf Country Club. Fifty-two golfers enjoyed a day of camaraderie and competition in support of The Karen Ann Quinlan Foundation, which provides bereavement and grief support for children who have lost a parent to drug overdose. The event honored Jack Schaaf's legacy while fostering fellowship and community engagement.



On Saturday, September 27th, 2025, Sparta UNICO proudly hosted its inaugural Viva Italia! Italian Festival at The Shoppes at Lafayette. The event was a tremendous success, drawing over 5,500 attendees from Sussex County and beyond to celebrate Italian heritage and culture. Guests of all ages enjoyed a variety of experiences, including a live performance by The Bloomfield Mandolin Orchestra, a stunning Italian Car Display, and a lively cannoli eating contest. Families explored lawn games, food trucks, local vendors, and the interactive "Tour of Italy", where children visited stops around the village representing different regions of Italy, engaging with educational boards highlighting each region's history, culture, cuisine, and traditions. Viva Italia! was also a celebration of community. Members from across the region, including National President Joseph Nasello Sr., honoring Italian traditions and sharing stories, food, and music. The festival reflected the pride, warmth, and connection that define Sparta UNICO and the Italian American experience. Building on this success, next year's festival will be held on Saturday, September 26th, 2026.



Sparta UNICO also commemorated Columbus Day 2025 with two wreath-laying ceremonies celebrating Italian heritage and unity. The first, at Skylands Stadium, included Italian Tribune owner Buddy Fortunato and stadium owner Al Durso, and featured a saxophone performance by Dr. David Demsey, retired Music Director at William Paterson University. The second, held at Monument Park in Sparta, was hosted by Sparta UNICO leadership and featured the Knights of Columbus Dominick Calabrese Assembly. Both gatherings highlighted the chapter's ongoing commitment to honoring heritage, fostering community, and celebrating Italian American traditions.



GREATER TAMPA, FL

Greater Tampa Chapter's September meeting and annual sausage making at Casa Benvenuti

ITALIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE & CULTURE COMMITTEE

On October 15, 2025, for the first time, a proclamation was obtained in the Town of Simsbury, Connecticut, declaring October as Italian American Heritage Month, marking a meaningful milestone for the community. It was the result of a local effort led by members of UNICO who sought to recognize the many contributions of Italian Americans to the town, state, and nation. The proclamation was formally presented by the First Selectman, Wendy Mackstutis, acknowledging the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and accomplishments of Italian Americans. This inaugural proclamation marked a proud moment of celebration and unity, promoting awareness and appreciation of Italian American history within Simsbury.



ORANGE/WEST ORANGE, NJ

O/WO UNICO Italian Heritage Month Ceremony

The Orange/West Orange Chapter of UNICO National hosted a vibrant Italian Heritage Month ceremony at West Orange Town Hall, celebrating the contributions and culture of Italian Americans. The event opened with the American and Italian national anthems, performed by West Orange High School students, including Amelie Swayze and members of the Italian Club and Honor Society.



Student speakers Camila Rosario Taveras, Joey Palumbo, and Rhianna Giuliano shared personal reflections on their Italian heritage. Italian teacher Rosanna Zamloot and co-advisor Matthew Garcia presented winners of the Italian Heritage Poetry Contest, showcasing the strength of the school's Italian program.



Chapter President Frank Gonnella welcomed attendees including UNICO National 1st. VP Steven Calantone, local officials and departments and thanked them for their support. He emphasized the values of family, faith, and community, and UNICO's mission of "Service Above Self," highlighting the chapter's dedication to scholarships and cultural preservation.

PARAMUS, NJ



On October 11, 2025 Paramus UNICO members and UNICO officials celebrated the Christopher Columbus Holiday with the support of Paramus Mayor Christopher DiPiazza and council members.

LIVINGSTON, NJ



In August, Livingston UNICO held its membership meeting and installation of Chapter President and Board Officers. National President Joe Nasello swore in new Livingston Chapter President Pat Campanile by Protocol. Holding the Bible is Pat's wife and Sargent at Arms Mickey Campanile.



Joe Nasello swore in the Board Officers from L-R: Program Heritage Director Melissa DeAngelus, Chaplin Carol Branchi, Executive VP Kevin Francione, Treasurer Lauren Stolfi, Parliamentarian Mike Stolfi, Sargent at Arms Mickey Campanile, Secretary Michael Masiello, Anti-Bias Director Joe Genovino, and Secretary Matt Ladolcetta.



National President Joe Nasello, Expansion Director Nick Carpinelli, and PNP Dominick Nicastro, arranged the meeting of installations, with President Pat Campanile and Outgoing President Andy Cassese.



On Monday, October 13th Livingston UNICO had its annual Flag Raising on Columbus Day at The Livingston Town Hall, even with a State of Emergency in effect it didn't stop the flag from being raised. We also had children perform an Italian Folklore dance. The activities took place inside due to the inclement weather and Coffee, Espresso and Italian desserts were served to an attendance of over 40 Chapter member's, community members and Local, County and State Dignitaries.



At the Chapter of UNICO Flag Raising Ceremony, our Immediate Past President was awarded with a Surprise Proclamation by the 27th District Assemblywoman and Chapter Member Rosy Bagolie for his accomplishments and dedication to the Chapter of Livingston UNICO and the Community.



Livingston UNICO had a Bocce Bench Dedication in honor of a past member Fred Picini. He was an avid Bocce Player and a member of the Chapter. He was also a Member of The Livingston Knights of Columbus Council 3533 and The Livingston Old Guard. Fred was a Hero in the Navy when a bomb hit their ship. Instead of running away from the bomb that hit the ship he ran towards the bomb and saved many lives during the Korean Conflict.



We participated in the 2nd Annual Community Block Party at which the Livingston Police Department donated 165 pizzas. Each year Livingston UNICO supports the event by serving the pizzas free to the community. This year they served 1,320 slices.



We held our first Annual Nonna's Pasta Dinner, inviting Nonna's from within the Chapter and total outsiders to cook a pasta dish from their region of Italy and explain their dish and share their traditions with members and members of the community at large. Each Nonna was given an apron as a token of appreciation for their participation. The event was a huge success and a great fundraiser for local charities and scholarships.

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL



On October 12, 2025, several Italian American groups gathered in Port Everglades to place a wreath on the life-sized bronze statue of Christopher Columbus in Marinelli Park. This statue was designed by a local sculptor, Enzo Gallo, who was born in Padua. It was set in Genoa and arrived in Fort Lauderdale courtesy of Costa Cruise Line in 1992 for the celebration of the Quincentenary Jubilee. The Broward Council of Italian American Clubs is the curator of this monument.



The event was chaired by Domenico Capurso, from the Broward Council of Italian American Clubs, with Honor Guards from the Knights of Columbus. Guest speakers were Giacomo Montrasio, Deputy Consul General and Chip LaMarca, Florida Representative #93 and Joise L. Davis, Mayor of Dania Beach. The wreath was provided by the Italian American Civic League of Fort Lauderdale. Linda Civerchia Balent, Secretary of UNICO Fort Lauderdale Chapter attended.



Italian Cooking Class



SCOTCH PLAINS/FANWOOD, NJ



The Scotch Plains Chapter of UNICO recently organized a heartfelt food drive to support the pantry at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, aiming to provide essential items to families in need throughout the local community. Demonstrating the chapter's commitment to service and compassion, Daniela Sellinger, First Vice President, and Luciana Rodak, Board Member, personally delivered a truck bed full of generous donations to Father Andy Prachar, Pastor of St. Bartholomew Church. Their efforts reflect UNICO's mission to uplift and unite communities through meaningful acts of kindness.



The chapter extends its deepest gratitude to all who contributed, recognizing that every donation—large or small—played a vital role in helping neighbors facing food insecurity. This initiative not only replenished pantry shelves but also strengthened the bonds of solidarity and care within Scotch Plains.



Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO and the Scotch Plains Italian American Club held their annual Columbus Day and Italian Heritage Celebration on October 11 at the Alan Augustine Village Green in Scotch Plains.



The event featured guest speaker Mary Lu Farrell, a resident and first-generation Italian American. SP-F UNICO board member Paul Raphael introduced Farrell as “someone who truly embodies the spirit of Scotch Plains.” In her talk, she discussed her family's story, starting with how her maternal grandfather, Pietro Antonio Pelosi, emigrated from the Italian village of Pescopagano to New Jersey in 1915. In 1920, he met his future wife, Carmela DiCillis, who was also from Pescopagano. They married in 1922 and settled in West Orange, where they grew their family. Farrell called her mother Josephine “a powerhouse and truly one of a kind”, saying that her mother never missed school and took great care of their family, especially in times of need. She also mentioned how her father, Lawrence (also born in Pescopagano), built their house in Scotch Plains in 1956, adding, “Italians don't hire contractors. They are the contractors.” She noted that she and her husband still visit Pescopagano every summer for six weeks in a small house they've owned for years. Farrell's recounting of her family history was equally humorous, amazing, and touching.



In addition to the featured speaker, audience members also heard remarks from Scotch Plains Mayor Josh Losardo; Union County Commissioner Alexander Mirabella; UNICO National Past President Anthony Bengivenga; Knights of Columbus representative Andy MacDonald; and Italian American Club President Gregg Di Francesco. Following the speakers, attendees enjoyed refreshments provided by SP-F UNICO and the Italian American Club.



SOUTHINGTON, CT



The UNICO Club of Southington hosted a cultural event in the fall in celebration of Italian traditions with a special nod to the region of Campania.



The evening included authentic Italian food, wine, and music and was a community-building gathering. Hosted by Southington UNICO's Italian Heritage Committee, the event was designed to create awareness about Italian culture and specifically those in the region of Campania in Southern Italy.



Guest speaker Dr. Rocco Mesiti presented remarks on the Italian region. Dr. Mesiti is the Executive Director of Operations at Global Cultures Institute in Boston and an Italian language and heritage educator.



Southington UNICO Italian Heritage Committee Co-Chair Michael Ferreri, right, led a presentation on the region of Campania in Southern Italy.

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.)

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Celebrating 50 years of the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF)

UNICO National was proudly represented at this milestone occasion. Both UNICO National and NIAF are among the founding members of the Italian American Leadership Forum (IALF) — united in preserving and promoting our shared heritage.

It was an unforgettable evening at NIAF's 50th Anniversary Gala, honoring Italian American heritage, achievement, and community. The night reached new heights with a breathtaking performance by the legendary Andrea Bocelli.

We were grateful and proud to be part of this remarkable milestone celebration.



The UNICO National contingent included: UNICO National PNP, Cav. Ralph Contini; PNP, Kathi Strozza; PNFL, Maria-Rose Contini; UNICO Foundation Executive Director Sal Benvenuti; Debbie Benvenuti; PNFL, Linda-Gail Alati; and National Member, Mary Ann Re.



A breathtaking performance by the legendary Andrea Bocelli.



PNP, Kathi Strozza, PNFL Maria-Rose Contini, Debbie Benvenuti, PNFL Linda-Gail Alati, and Mary Ann Re at the post-Gala reception.



L to R - IALF Board Member and Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America (OSDIA) President Thom Lupo; IALF Board Member and UNICO National PNP, Cav. Ralph Contini; former Saturday Night Live star and radio personality Joe Piscopo; celebrated journalist and Fox News host Maria Bartiromo; and IALF Board Member and Columbus Heritage Coalition President Angelo Vivolo.



The UNICO National contingent at the post-Gala reception, joined by Anthony Julian Tamburri, Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.

IN MEMORIAM



MELINDO ANTHONY PERSI, II
BRICK, NJ

We bid farewell to Melindo Anthony Persi II, a true friend of UNICO National and the Brick NJ chapter. He passed away on August 30th, 2025, at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife Dr Maureen Persi, his daughter Melinda Persi Redling Shayeb, his son John Paul Persi, 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Mel had an illustrious career in the NJ public education system for 69 years, retiring from his interim superintendence in July 2024. His military service included being crew chief in the US Airforce NJ air guard stationed in Charmont France during the Vietnam war.

Mel was a past UNICO National treasurer and past President and treasurer of the Brick chapter of UNICO. Mel was devoted to his Italian heritage and was active in the Brick UNICO Chapter. He started the Flag raising ceremony in Brick NJ ahead of the Columbus Day parade and Italian festival in Seaside NJ. The tradition still stands in Brick NJ. He and his wife Maureen were also past Grand Marshals in the Columbus Day parade in Seaside Heights.

UNICO and the Brick chapter are grateful for his service to the organization. He truly embodied "Service Above Self"

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