

NUTLEY UNICO  
(*nutleyunico.org*)  
P.O. Box 43, Nutley

## JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

2023 annual dues are **way past due**. Please remit ASAP if not done so already! No one should be attending dinner meetings who has not paid their dues.

OUR NEXT DINNER MEETING IS **THURSDAY, FEB. 1, AT 7:00 pm at NANINA'S IN THE PARK.**

### Activities:

- December:

Thanks to Alan Genitempo and his committee for their hard work coordinating the Breakfast with Santa event. It was well attended, and the kids all enjoyed meeting Mr. & Mrs. Santa and their gifts. Thanks also to our sponsors Beacon Wealth Partners (The Cocco's), Geltrude & Company, Scarpelli Civic Assoc., Gaccione Pomacco, P.C., Biondi Funeral Home.

The annual Christmas Party at Nanina's was a huge success. Over 185 people attended and all had a good time. In attendance were Unico National Executive VP, Anthony Bengivenga, and Past National President, Ann Walko. The food was excellent and John Cafone provided the evening's music. Great work by Debbie Bellucci and her committee.

- January Meeting:

- New member Frank Penna was sworn in.
- Alan Genitempo, **Scholarship** Committee Chair, announced that we will be awarding over \$40,000 in scholarships this year. **Applications are now available through the high school and on our website (see above).** If you have any family or friends of

Italian heritage who are Nutley residents and who have a high school graduate this year, please encourage them to complete an application. Michelle Fleitell also discussed the availability of UNICO National scholarships. If interested, you can get that information at "unico.org".

- Frank Russo presented the history of lasagna and the many different ways that it is prepared. It appears that lasagna originated in Greece and made its way to regions of Italy where some prepared it with eggplant, eggs and meat (Sicily), others with a Bolognese sauce and others with cheese, eggs, meatballs and even artichokes. It is the second leading Italian food preference, behind only pizza.
  - To make sure we were paying attention lasagna was one of the foods on the menu for the evening. First, appetizers (rice balls, potatoes and hot peppers, risotto with a meat sauce, tomatoes and mozzarella), then the lasagna, followed by chicken with roasted potatoes and salmon. The final touch was a light "Happy New Year" sheet cake with coffee. Nice!
- February 1 Meeting:
    - The Feb. 1 meeting will again be at Nanina's. This meeting includes the drawing of the winners of the annual \$100 ticket raffle. **All members** are expected to participate in this raffle. **If anyone has a problem with not getting tickets or selling them, please contact Tom Sposato ([tspit41@aol.com](mailto:tspit41@aol.com)), Sal Ferrara ([salferraro@msn.com](mailto:salferraro@msn.com)) or Mark DiMaggio ([mna1073@verizon.net](mailto:mna1073@verizon.net)) immediately.** All tickets must be sold. Ticket money can be sent to our P.O Box or dropped off at J & N Service Center, 29 Franklin Ave., Nutley. **Members attending the Feb. meeting will be asked to pay an additional \$20 due to the cost of the change in venue, and guests will be assessed \$55.**

## Good & Welfare:

- Bob Vangieri has recovered from a recent medical procedure.
- Tom Evans reports that he is feeling better after a prolonged illness.
- Several members are recently over covid.
- Frank & Sue Cocchiola welcomed their fourth grandchild, Carmine Anthony Alessio (8 lbs, 2 oz), on Dec. 26. The parents are Anthony & Nicole Alessio.

## National Business:

- We continue to be active in challenging a recent procedure endorsed by the National President concerning the addition of DNA as a **criterion for membership in UNICO, as little as 1%!! – a position we oppose.**
- Unico National is sponsoring a "Hockey Night" at Prudential Center on Feb. 8.

## **District VII Business:**

- District VII meeting is Jan. 23 at Bistro 107, Moonachie.
- Carnevale is scheduled for Feb. 13 at Michael's Riverside, Lyndhurst, from 7:00 – 10:30 pm. Tickets are \$65.
- The District Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner is April 9 at the Graycliff, Moonachie. Tickets are \$60. Our recipient is yet to be selected.

## **Executive Committee Meeting:**

- A discussion was held re: the 20+ members who have not yet paid their dues. This is a financial strain on the chapter since we have to pay the Unico National Tax. Please address asap.
- Help is needed with the chapter's Brian Piccolo breakfast on Sunday, May 19. We are beginning to collect items for gift baskets. Contact me or Marie Solimo. We are also considering several persons as a guest speaker. If you have a contact that we should consider please let me know.
- Several members have reached milestone anniversaries. They will be notified and recognized at the April 4 meeting.
- Forms will be distributed soon for you to nominate someone for the UNICAN of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. The Lifetime Achievement nominee need not be a member of Unico. We do not consider elected officials. These awards will also be presented at the April 4 meeting.

## **Upcoming Events/Activities:**

- Feb. 1 – Monthly Dinner Meeting (Nanina's in the Park)**
- Feb. 20 - Executive Committee Meeting**
- March 7 - Monthly Dinner Meeting**
- April 4 - " "**
- April 9 – District VII Brian Piccolo Awards Dinner at the Graycliff, Monachie**
- May 2 – Monthly Dinner Meeting**
- May 19 – Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast, 9:00 am at the Chandelier**
- May 28 – District VII dinner meeting with Nutley as host.**
- June 6 – Final dinner meeting of the year.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## SPORTING OBSERVATIONS AND QUOTES:

Don Meredith, Dallas Cowboy quarterback once said, *“Coach Tom Landry is such a perfectionist that if he was married to Raquel Welch, he would expect her to cook.”*

Harry Neale, professional hockey coach: *“Last year we couldn’t win at home and we were losing on the road. My failure as a coach was that I couldn’t think of anywhere else to play.”*

Reggie Jackson commenting on Tom Seaver: *“Blind people come to the stadium to listen to him pitch.”*

Mickey Lolich, Detroit Tigers pitcher: *All the fat guys watch me pitch and say to their wives, ‘See, there’s a fat guy doing okay. Bring me a beer.’*

Max McGee, Green Bay Packers receiver: *“When it’s third and ten you can have the milk drinkers; I’ll take the whiskey drinkers every time.”*

Tommy John, NY Yankees recalling his 1974 arm surgery: *“When they operated, I told them to add in a Koufax fast ball. They did, but unfortunately it was Mrs. Koufax’s.”*

Walt Garrison, Dallas Cowboy fullback when asked if coach Tom Landry ever smiles, *“I don’t know. I only played there for seven years.”*

John Breen, Houston Oilers: *“We were tipping our plays. When we broke the huddle three backs were laughing and one was a pale as a ghost.”*

Famous Notre Dame coach, Knute Rockne when asked why Notre Dame lost a game: *“I won’t know until my barber tells me on Monday.”*

Bum Phillips, Houston Oilers coach, on why he always takes his wife on road trips: *“She’s too ugly to kiss goodbye.”* Ouch!

Bill Walton, NBA center: *“I learned a long time ago that ‘minor surgery’ is when they do the operation on someone else, not you.”*

Vince Lombardi: *“The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.”*

Joe Theisman, NFL Quarterback: *“Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.”*

Boxing Promoter Lou Duva: *“You can sum up this sport in two words, ‘You never know’.”*

Tampa Bay football coach, John McKay, whose team was 0-14 when asked what he thought about his team’s execution. *“I’m in favor of it.”*

Mohammed Ali when asked about his upcoming fight with George Foreman: *“I’ve seen George Foreman shadow boxing, and the shadow won.”*

NBA Center Chuck Nevitt: *“My sister is expecting a baby and I don’t know if I’m going to be an aunt or uncle.”*

And of course, Yogi: *“Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.”*

Please forward any changes in email addresses, good & welfare items, questions for the Executive Committee or questions concerning the newsletter to me at [fcoch1212@gmail.com](mailto:fcoch1212@gmail.com).