NUTLEY UNICO

(*nutleyunico.org)*

P.O. Box 43, Nutley

DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Next Dinner Meeting – THURSDAY, JAN. 9, at 7:00 pm at Mama Vittoria

(Please note that this is the second Thursday of the month.)

Only dues paying members should be attending our dinner meetings.

**November Meeting:**

* As we have done every year, the November meeting was dedicated to recognizing members and guests who are US military veterans. Jim Mauro beautifully played the National Anthem on his sax to open up that part of the meeting. John Monaco (Personal Touch Florist) donated the boutonnaires for the vets. I introduced member vets first; Dominick Cucciniello (US Navy), Joe Zarra (US Army Reserves), Mayor John Kelly (National Guard JAG Major) and Dave Ingrassia (US Navy Submariner). Bob Montanino ((US Army) and Charlie Kucinski (US Navy) were unable to attend due to illness. Past National President, Joe Agresti (US Army), was also recognized. The program also focused on several guests who are Viet Nam vets; Norman De Sordi (Army), Ralph Colombino (Marines), Rich DeLorenzo (Army) and Carl Graziano (Army). Of all the veterans of all the US wars, it is the Viet Nam vets who were never properly recognized for their service as that war ended, and in subsequent years.
* New members sworn in were; Angelo Guglielmello, Nick Ritacco, Jacqueline Rubino, Dona Pena and Santino Gabriele.
* Dan Marucci did a presentation on the personal and military history of New Jersey’s John Basilone.

**Good & Welfare:**

* The Chapter offers its condolences to:

-Brian Intindola on the passing of his mom, Mary O’Brien.

-Adrianna Argenziano, who lost her brother, Carmine Louis Argenziano.

* On the good side, it was announced that Tom Sposato’s team (Tommy, Bob Solimo, Carlo Vitale and Jeff Tiwari)) won the Nutley UNiCO Bocce Tournament. The Bocce Day earned just under $5,000 for chapter activities and donations. Thanks to Frank Russo for putting this event together and to all those who helped organize it and prepare the food.

**Activities/Events:**

* Our Dec. 7 Breakfast with Santa event was well a big success. Thanks to Alan Genitempo and his committee for their hard work in putting this together, and Sal Ferraro and Marie Solimo for purchasing/wrapping the gifts. A special thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Santa Clause.
* A big crowd was on hand for the Dec. 10 Christmas Party. Debbie Bellucci and her committee again coordinated this party. John Cafone provided the music and Lenny Guglielmello the humor with the annual “grab bag” swiap.
* Our annual raffle is underway as raffle tickets were distributed to members attending the Christmas Party. Others will be delivered or mailed to members. For our newer members this is our largest fundraiser in support of our scholarships/donations. 350 tickets are distributed and **always** sold. There will be five prizes; $9,000, $3,000, $2,500, $2,000 and $1,000. If you cannot sell one or more of your tickets, or if you lose your tickets, please contact Tom Sposato ([tspit41@aol.com](mailto:tspit41@aol.com)) or Sal Ferraro [salferraro@msn.com](mailto:salferraro@msn.com)) so that they can be redistributed. Winners will be selected at the Feb. 6 dinner meeting. Out guest speaker for that meeting will be Lindsay Berra.

**National Business:**

* National President, Anthony Bengivenga, was awarded the 2024 Long Island Ambasciatore Award by the Italian American Museum.
* PNP Dr. Anne Walko's committee is working on a new Strategic 5-Year Plan to make UNICO National stronger as we move forward.
* The 2025 National Convention will be July 30 – Aug. 3 at the Westin, Ft. Lauderdale

**District VII Business:**

* The most important District announcement in regards to our Chapter is that Dan Carnicella will be sworn in as NJ District VII Governor at a dinner on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. Details will be provided once final arrangements are made.

**Chapter Business:**

* If you plan on sponsoring a new member please remember that he/she must attend one of our diner meetings or events before the application is reviewed by the Executive Committee. Applications are available on our website (nutleyunico.org) or at our dinner meeting.
* The Chapter is still considering recommendations for speakers at our Jan. 9, Feb. 6 and March 6 meetings. If you have a recommendation please notify me and I will pass it on to the Executive Committee.

**Executive Committee Meeting –**

* We are looking for recommendations for a Community Service project.
* A decision has been made in discussion with the Scholarship Chair, Alan Genitempo, to revise the schedule for presenting our annual scholarships. We will present the three major academic scholarships ($4,000, $3,000 and $2,000) at the same meeting as the Chapter Awards (Unican of the Year and Lifetime Achievement). The other six Unico funded scholarships will be awarded at the Piccolo Breakfast in May and the remaining donor scholarships will be presented at a special meeting in June (light refreshments). Details will follow.

**2024-25 Dinner Meetings:**

**(All Thursdays at Mama Vittoria with noted exceptions)**

**Jan. 9**

**Feb. 6 (Nanina’s)**

**March 6**

**April 3**

**May 1**

**June 5**

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A FUNNY FOOD QUIZ (Italian Tribune, Nov. 14, 2005)

(Answers below)

True or False:

1. Spaghetti-0’s are the second most popular pasta shape in Puglia after orecchiette.
2. Most Italians drizzle olive oil on their bread.
3. Cappuccino is the flavored coffee following dinner.
4. Cappuccino is named after a monk’s robe.
5. There are no restaurants in Bologna that serve Spaghetti Bolognese.
6. Ketchup is a ready substitute for marinara when serving pasta.
7. Oil should be added to water when boiling pasta.
8. A Margherita pizza uses the colors of the Italian flag.
9. Pizza Hut is Italian.

10.Caesar Salad has been a staple of Roman cuisine for almost 2,000 yrs.

11.You can order Hawaiian Pizza in Naples, Florida and Italy.

12.Chicken Parm is more popular than Eggplant Parm.

13.Red checkered tablecloths are popular in most restaurants in Italy.

14.Other than with Ossobucco alla Milanese, risotto is usually served as its own dish.

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).

F. Cocchiola

Answers: 1. False (seriously?), 2. False, 3. False (Cappuccino is enjoyed for Breakfast in Italy), 4. True (Named after the color of the robes of Capuchin Monks), 5. True (Bolognese is served with tagliatelle, not spaghetti), 6. False (Duh!), 7. False (Oil is added after draining the pasta), 8. True (Green basil, white mozzarella and red tomato sauce), 9. False (Originated in Wichita, Kansas – and is should stay out there!), 10. False (Ceasar Salad was created 100 yrs ago 1n 1924), 11. True (Why??), 12. False (Chicken Parm does not even exist in Italy), 13. False (If you see them in a restaurant in Italy, run away), 14. True