NUTLEY UNICO

(*nutleyunico.org)*

P.O. Box 43, Nutley

JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Next Dinner Meeting – THURSDAY, FEB. 6 at 7:00 pm at NANINAS IN THE PARK

Raffle Winners will be drawn this night.

**(Members attending will be requested to pay $20 at their table to satisfy the additional cost of the dinners at this venue. Guests will be $50.)**

Only dues paying members should be attending our dinner meetings.

**January Meeting:**

* New members sworn in were; Robert Divilio, Carmen Spina and Erin Battaglia.
* It was reported that the Christmas Party earned a net profit of approximately $1,500. Thanks again to Debbie Bellucci for her work with this event.
* Dan Marucci did a presentation on the Roman Gladiators. Here’s some things you may not have been aware of:

**-**The Roman Empire encompassed 42 countries and had over 400 amphitheaters.

**-**Gladiators were not all salves. Many were ex-soldiers and politicians.

**-**These battles were not always “to the death”.

**-**Fighters were matched by experience, size and weight.

-Fights could end in a draw.

-Most gladiators only lived into their mid-twenties.

-A closed fist from the Roman official meant “mercy” and thumbs up meant “die”.

-The true gladiators did not fight animals. That was saved for the slaves and others low on the social ladder.

-There were women gladiators.

-Some of the emperors, Caligula specifically, participated in the battles. (They always won)

-The gladiators were on the top of the list for “groupies”.

Danny also signed copies of his book, Fifty Six, for interested members.

* Scholarships – Committee Chair, The Honorable Alan Genitempo, announced that we would be awarding 24 scholarships worth $43,300 this year. The sequence of the presentations will change this year.

-The top three academic scholarships will be awarded in April with the Unico of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards.

-The other Chapter sponsored scholarships (Italian Language (2), Vocational, Music will be presented at the May dinner meeting.

-The two Piccolo Scholarships, the Cocchiola Scholarship and the Piro Scholarships (2) will be among those presented at the Piccolo Breakfast on May 18.

-The remaining donor scholarships will be awarded at a special event on Monday, June 9, at a cost of $35 for member attendees. We will still be having a regular monthly dinner meeting on June 5.

* National Scholarships – Michele Fleitell announced that only one application need be completed for the four national scholarships. The applications can be accessed on-line at Nutleyunico.org/scholarships.

**Good & Welfare:**

\*\*Our condolences to John Brown and his family on the passing of his wife, Joanne, this past week.

\*\*Congratulations to Angela Solimo on earning her Doctorate Degree of Philosophy in Psychology with Emphasis in Clinical Psychology from Fielder University. Angela is a former Nutley Unico Scholarship winner.

\*\*The Grand Marshall for the Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade will be Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Jr.

\*\*The Chapter will be nominating Carl Graziano, a frequent guest honoree at our annual November Veterans’ dinner meeting, for the UNICO National Anthony Fornelli American War Veteran Award.

\*\*Three members, Joanne Cocchiola, Steve Picciano and Past President Anthony Malfitano will receive pins in recognition of their 25 years of membership in our Chapter at the February meeting.

**Activities/Events:**

* Our annual raffle drawing will be at our Feb. 6 meeting. 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****) or Sal Ferraro** **salferraro@msn.com****) so that they can be redistributed.** Our speaker for that meeting will be Lindsay Berra, granddaughter of the great Yogi Berra, and producer of the 2022 documentary film “It Ain’t Over”.
* I will be sending nomination forms out soon for the 2025 Chapter Awards, Unican of the Year and Lifetime Achievement (need not be a member for this). Members are asked to respond in a timely manner as the winners will be announced at our March 6 meeting.

**National Business:**

* The 2025 National Convention will be July 30 – Aug. 3 at the Westin, Ft. Lauderdale.
* Scholarships are available on the national website (www.unico.org)

**District VII Business:**

* The most important District announcement in regard 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 to follow.

**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 J March 6 meeting and the Piccolo Breakfast on May18. If you have a recommendation, please notify me.

**Executive Committee Meeting –**

* We are still considering Community Service projects
* We now have 176 members
* Ads will be purchased for the Nutley Irish American Assoc. Journal, 2025 National Convention Journal, Nutley East LL and the 2025 Carnevale event.
* We will be participating in the Nutley St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 1. Line-up will be 12:30.

**Upcoming Calendar of Events -**

(All dinner meetings will be on Thursdays at Mama Vittoria with noted exceptions)

Feb. 6 - Dinner Meeting (Nanina’s)

March 1 – St. Patrick’s Day Parade

March 6 – Dinner Meeting

April 3 – Dinner Meeting

April 8 – Dist. VII Piccolo Awards Dinner (Greyciffe, Moonachie)

May 1 – Dinner Meeting

May 18 – Chapter Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast (Chandelier)

June 5 – Dinner Meeting

June 9 – Special Scholarship event

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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*.

F. Cocchiola