

# **NUTLEY UNICO**

## **November 2019**

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### **Dinner Meeting**

**Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, 7:00 pm**  
**at**  
**Mama Vittoria (BYOB)**

**(Please remember to address your 2019-20 dues asap.)**

#### **October Meeting**

- The Chapter celebrated its 60 year anniversary at the Oct. 10, 2019 dinner meeting. It was 60 years to the day that the chapter held its charter dinner, chaired by Frank Cocchiola Sr. Its first president as a Unico chapter was Larry Varrone. Unico National President, Dr. Frank De Frank and Past National President, Joe Agresti, joined the over 90 members in attendance. Chapter President, Lorraine Kucinski, gave a summary of the history of the Chapter since its inception. Past President, Anthony Malfitano, handled the chapter business at the meeting and Culture & Heritage Chair, Dan Marucci, coordinated the special dinner that consisted of Burrata salad, a bucatini pasta dish, Ceasar salad and surf & turf. As the Chapter enters its 61<sup>st</sup> year the focus remains on celebrating and promoting Italian culture and heritage. This manifests itself through our community activities, annual scholarships in excess of \$32,000, participating in Unico National activities, donations to local and national initiatives and our monthly diner meetings featuring speakers from a variety of different areas. The chapter's past has been noteworthy and its future bright.
- The 2019-20 annual budget was presented and approved.

#### **Activities**

The Nutley-Belleville Columbus Day Parade was well attended by members. Members honored were Honoring Marie Solimo, Italian Woman of the Year and Renaissance Man, Salvatore Scarpelli. Alan Genitempo' son, Matthew also received that recognition.

Thank you to all involved in the Columbus Wreath Laying Ceremony. It was well attended and beautifully coordinated by Anthony Malfitano and Lorraine Kucinski.

Italian Movie Night was held on Oct. 8. Phyllis Coldebella reported that it was an enjoyable night for all who attended.

## Upcoming Activities

**October 29** - Meet the President @ the Venetian in Garfield For Tickets call Lorraine Kucinski 201-618-3201

**Nov. 7** - -- November dinner meeting honoring veterans of the U.S. Military. Members who will be recognized are Peter Ardito, Anthony Biondi, Ralph Bruno, Mario Cocchiola, Dominick Cucciniello, Bob Montanino, Joe Zarra and Charlie Kucinski, with a few surprises. Our guest speaker will be an active Colonel in the military arranged by Don Russeniello.

**Dec. 3** – Chapter Christmas Party at Nanina’s

**Dec.14** – Christmas with Santa event. Site and cost per person to be determined.

## Good & Welfare

Member Dan Geltrude will be inducted into the Nutley Hall of Fame on Nov. 17 from 2-5 at the Nutley Public Library. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased at the library.

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## Halloween special

### LEGENDS OF ITALY: THE WEREWOLVES OF PUGLIA

While not as trendy as their broody, ultra-dark mates, the vampires, werewolves are enjoying a bout of popularity. They are also known as lycanthropes, a fancy word coming from the Greek words *lycos* (wolf) and *Anthropos* (man). This is exactly what the mythical creatures are, half-man, half-wolf. Their lineage goes back to ancient Greece, however, there is a region in Italy where werewolves are part of traditional lore more than in other: That region is beautiful Puglia. What was the genesis of this?

Lycaon, son of Pelasgus, the father of 50 sons and 3 daughters once offered the flesh of one of his own children to a beggar who turned out to be Zeus, who was known to turn himself into a beggar to run after mortal women and nymphs without his wife Hera finding out. Zeus did not take to Lycaon’s treatment of his son well and punished him by turning him into a wolf, forced to roam forever in the lands of Arcadia. The connection between Lycaon, the man wolf, and Puglia happens in the person of one of his sons, Peucetius, whom mythology names as the first Greek to sail to and settle in Italy – in the region we know today as Puglia.

Greek legend or not, werewolves were known and feared in Puglia as early as the Middle Ages, when they were considered the embodiment of demons. People believed that male babies born between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of December would be punished for the audacity of coming into this world the same day as Christ.

The medieval Pugliesi developed a series of rituals to free the unlucky newborn from the four-legged curse. If the parents did not act in a timely manner and the child grew to be a true werewolf, Pugliese traditions say he could still be saved if a fearless hand managed to wound and draw blood from his forehead during an lycanthropy episode: through the blood, vessel of the demonic infection, evil would leave the boy.

In the Bitonto area, in the province of Bari, werewolves' legends and tales are particularly abundant, with many locals reminiscing about the terrifying stories their grandparents used to tell them and with some, especially among the elderly, who swear that, when they were young, you could hear werewolves howling and growling at the full moon almost every month.

Please forward any changes in email addresses, good & welfare items, or questions concerning the newsletter to me at [fcoch@aol.com](mailto:fcoch@aol.com) (Frank Cocchiola)