

NUTLEY UNICO

(nutleyunico.org)

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

OUR NEXT DINNER MEETING IS THURSDAY, MAY 4, AT 7:00 pm at MAMA VITTORIA

April Dinner Meeting

Danielle Manganello filled in very capably for our president, Dan Carnicella, and did a great job. The meeting featured Awards Night. Three major Unico Academic Scholarships were awarded to Marcello Blancato (\$4,000), Sofia Snoha (\$3,000 – Pride in Achievement) and Michael Thompson (\$2,000). Chairperson Alan Genitempo and his committee are to be commended for these excellent selections.

The awardee of this year's Unican of the Year will be Cathy Marucci. The presentation will take place in May. The Lifetime Achievement Awardee will be announced and presented in the fall.

Twenty-Five Year pins were presented to Lenny Guglielmello and Joe Cervasio, and a 40-year certificate was presented to Mike Moscara. Those twenty-five year recipients who were unable to attend are Barry Maurilli, Tom Sposato, Tom Tucci, Mark DiMaggio, Mario Cocchiola, Joe Zarra and Gerard Tolve, a 30-year member. They will receive their pins at the May 4 meeting if in attendance.

Marie Solimo announced the slate of officers for 2023-24; Dan Carnicella (Pres), Danielle Manganello (1st VP), Pasquale Pisani (2nd VP), Frank Russo (3rd VP), Tom Sposato (Treas), Cathy Marucci (Sec), Sal Ferraro (Corr Sec) and JR Mascolo (Sgt.-at-Arms). Members at Large will be Lenny Guglielmello and Anthony Biondi, Jr.

Phrase of the Day: *Chi Trova Un Amico, Trova Un Tesoro.* (One who finds a friend, finds a treasure.)

Good & Welfare

- President Dan Carnicella accepted a promotion and is officially a NJ General Partner for NY Life.
- The Chapter lost a long-time member, Alan De Fabbio who passed away recently. Thank you to the committee who performed the UNICO ceremony at the wake and all who attended the services.
- Marie Solimo has been nominated for Eastern Regional District Governor.

- Equitable Advisors announced the renaming of their Gold Mentor Leadership award to the Salvatore Cocco, Jr. Gold Mentor Leadership Award for the leadership and mentorship he has demonstrated for the firm.
- Dominick Cuccinello is recovering from knee replacement surgery. We wish him well.

Upcoming Events

May 4 – Dinner meeting. The Unican of the Year Award will be awarded, and additional scholarships will be presented.

May 21 – **Chapter Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast**, 9:00 am at the Chandelier, Belleville. We are soliciting baskets and gifts for our event tricky tray. Please notify me if you intend on attending this event. We are requesting payment in advance (\$35).

May 23 - District VII Recognition Dinner will be hosted by our chapter on May 23. It will be held at Nanina's. Tickets are \$80. Past President and 2022 District Governor, Marie Solimo, will be recognized at this dinner. If interested you can bring your money to the May meeting or send to Nutley Unico, PO Box 43, Nutley. No walk-ins.

May 29 – Nutley Memorial Day Parade.

June 1 – Dinner Meeting. Additional scholarships will be presented at this meeting.

June 16 – Corn Hole Competition (Pizza & Beer) – Details to follow.

August 23 - **Annual Golf Outing**. Details to follow.

Executive Committee

- National Business

Annual meeting is scheduled for July 26-30. Registration is now open.

- District VII Business

-Saddle Brook Unico Bingo Night – Friday, April 21. Doors open at 6:00 with first game at 7:00. American Legion Post 147, 1 Legion Pl., Elmwood Park. If interested contact Jerry Taylor (201-522-3790)

-District Meeting April 25 at Al Di La, East Rutherford.

-Garfield Unico “Pocket Book” Tricky Tray. Friday, May 12, doors open at 6:30 pm. At Boys & Girls Club of Clifton, 822 Clinton Ave., Clifton. \$35 per person.

- Chapter Business

- **Our next dinner meeting is Thursday, May 4, at 7:00 pm at Mama Vittoria's.**

- **BRIAN PICCOLO SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST -**

Our annual Brian Piccolo Scholarship Breakfast will be held at the Chandelier, Belleville, at 9:00 am on Sunday, May 21. Our guest speaker will be Channel 5 Sports personality, Tina Cervasio. Tickets to this event will be \$35. Seven to eight scholarships will be awarded that morning. Members are encouraged to attend. We are requesting payment prior to the event.

We need baskets or individual items for our **“Tricky Tray”** that morning. You can contact me or Marie Solimo, or bring items to the May meeting.

- A Cornhole Tournament is planned for June 16.
- \$300 in donations have been made to the Chapter in the name of the late Alan DeFabbio. Disbursement of these funds will be discussed with the family.
- The Chapter donated \$250 to the annual Student Government Day. This went to fund 25 \$10 gift cards for Ralph's Pizzeria.
- The committee discussed a special procedure for members who have been with us for at least 5 years and move out of state. If they would like to remain members their dues would be reduced to \$75 and they would pay as a guest if they were to attend a meeting while returning to the area.

CULTURE & HERITAGE (The story of Dr. Virginius Mattia's grandfather's recorded exploits in settling in Newark will continue this year.

As noted in previous newsletters, I recently came into possession of a manuscript titled, *The Early Italian Settlers in Newark*. This is a compilation of the writings of the grandfather of Dr. Virginius Mattia, Jr., who resided in Nutley and was the former President/CEO of Hoffman La Roche. Dr. Mattia's grandfather, Peter/Petrino Mattia, came to this country from Calabritto, a province of Avellino, with his family as a little boy and settled in Newark in 1873. He began to write about his experiences, and those of the other early Italian immigrants who came to Newark in the 1880's. His papers were passed on to his granddaughter, Jessie Mattia Rosa, Dr. Mattia's sister, in 1953 upon his passing. They laid dormant for the next 32 years until Senora Rosa's husband transcribed them into a 91 page manuscript in 1985 describing Petrino's recollections, experiences, the problems facing the Italian immigrants, the “firsts” (first school, first macaroni factory, first wedding, first dance in a public hall, first hotel, etc.), problems with the Irish, politics, development of the “colonies” (wards), Branch Brook Park, and many more vignettes.....

I want to continue to provide you with some interesting sections of the manuscript.

INTRODUCTION

“I am writing this, my second history of the early Italian settlers of Newark, NJ.....I had no thought of writing a history – I did it to make it easy for me to answer questions. As we came from the different towns and provinces of Italy, people would ask me, ‘ Who is he and where did he come from’. So, I got it down in the best way I could to give their names. Later I made memorandums of happenings in the ‘colonies’. I felt sorry for the single men and those that left their families back home. I could see them with tin pails go to get food and take it to their lodgings to eat.

Chapter Thirty-Six **“Back to Broad Street”**

On the northeast corner of Commerce St was the first A & P in Newark. From Broad to Mulberry St most of the businesses were wholesale commission houses for vegetables and fruits. On the southeast corner of Broad and Commerce was Lehman’s Grocery Store. The Dime Savings Bank was on the southwest corner of Academy St, and the Newark National Bank was on the corner of Clinton St. Between Clinton and Market St. was the law office of Charles Fieck; James Trimble (the office where Ernest Belfatto, the first Italian lawyer in NJ, and Gaetano, his brother worked); and the office of the Essex County State Fair.

At 771-73 Broad St was a three-story building. On the first floor was an ice cream store occupied by William Cummings, the owner of the building. He retired and the store was occupied as the Boston Dry Goods Store. On the second floor was the living quarters of the owner, and the Mattia Brothers Photo Studios, the first Italian studio of its kind in NJ.

“Real Estate Prices on Broad St.”

In 1989 Mr. Cummings offered to sell us the building at 771-73 Broad St for \$7,500. We did not buy. A few years later the property that was offered to us for \$7,500 was sold for \$90,000!

“The First Skyscraper in Newark”

That was the Heath Building built in about 1889 at 775 Broad St. A six-story brick building built on a single lot. The first floor was occupied by Matthias Plum as a stationary store. The other floors were used as offices.

“What was on the Four Corners”

On the northwest corner was Holzhauer Drug Store. On the Market St side of the drug store was the first outside fruit stand in 1875 by Pietro Zazxali. It remained there until after the new century. On the northeast corner was the old Iron Fireman Building. There was a statue of a fireman that could be seen from four sides.

On the southeast corner was a three-story brick building. In the basement was the printing presses of the old Newark Journal, the only daily paper in Newark until the Newark Evening News started in 1883 with offices at 215 Market St. The Evening News put the Journal out of business. In the basement under the news office was a barber shop owned by Perry Gross. I was an apprentice barber there. Over the Newark Journal was a store on the second floor. It was the office of State Senator Michael T. Barrett. The Kinney building is now on that site.

On the southwest corner was a cigar store. Sometimes in the old days they were called tobacco shops. On the sidewalk was a life-size statue of an Indian, with a bunch of tobacco leaves in his left hand and a tomahawk in his right.

“The Use of Different Symbols for Stores, Businesses or Professions”

Besides the familiar barber pole were different things used to designate what was done or sold. The dentist would have a large gold tooth hanging out of his window. Cigar store, a statue of an Indian, or some comic figure of a man. A saw maker or filer would have a large saw. A locksmith would have a large key. Many stores in Newark had up-right show cases made fast to the sidewalk in front of their stores. They were an obstruction for pedestrians and in the new century all were removed.

“Back to Broad St on the West Side of the Street”

South of the Cigar Store was ‘Tailors’ Row’. Here were the large tailor stores of Stoutenberg Co. and Marshall and Ball. Circus parades passed by these stores. The circus parades of the 80’s to about 1906 did not consist only of a few elephants with a brass band and a lot of closed circus trucks, but had all the animal trucks with wild animals open to view for all to see.

Next to ‘Tailors’ Row’ were two fire houses, one on each side of a stone arch, in the rear was a cometary, with a crosswalk to Halsey St (now all of that is Branford Pl.). IN the 90’s the Newark Board of Health moved to Broad St opposite the NJ Central Railroad Station.

On the northwest corner of William St was the old City Hall. Around the corner on William St was the First Precinct Police Station. The old City Hall served for many of the Newark mayors and aldermen, but what is more, many presidential candidates spoke from the old steps of that building.

“Political Campaigns”

The two major parties would vie for superiority in making a show. It was a rivalry as to the largest number in a torch-light parade. Brass bands and fife and drums, men on horseback, hundreds of small American flags, men with torches and box-like transparencies with the name of a ward and names of candidates, men with lanterns, others with brooms, boys in bright colored costumes, sometimes a parade lasted more than two hours to pass. Meetings were held in halls and at time on a street corner with sap-box orator.

“Back to Broad Street”

On William St were the well-known doctors, Dr. Jacobson and Dr. O’Gorman. Adjacent to the church at Lincoln Park was the home of Franklin Murphy, former Governor of NJ and the owner of the Murphy Varnish Works. He has his own art gallery in a long large room. Every picture as a work of art.

The famous equestrian statue of Colleoni in the Lincoln Park triangle was cast in Italy and presented to the city by Christian Feigenspan. The original was erected in Venice in 1493. Two other monuments were in Lincoln Park. One is an old lady pleading with her daughter to leave an Indian and go home with her. The daughter refused to leave the Indian. The other is a patriotic one, ‘The Planting of the Standard of Democracy’, a memorial to the heroes of WW I. From the park to the end of Broad St were

all homes. The last house on the west side of Broad was the home of Frank Casale, a brother of John Casale, Sr. and brother of Mrs. Antoinette Casale Bianchi, wife of Dr. A.R Bianchi of this city.

Chapter Thirty-Seven
“On the East Side of Broad St.”

On the northeast corner of Mechanic St. (now Edison Pl.) was the Newark Board of Trade (now Chamber of Commerce). Mechanic St was well-named, for most anything was made or sold there. The saying went, ‘If you can’t find what you want, try Mechanic St.’. On the southeast corner of Broad was the Franklin Savings Institution. In the basement was the office of the Prudential Ins. Company.

Nearby was the law offices of the firm of Keasby and Mattison. The Keasby’s are an old Newark family. They came to Newark from Salem, NJ in 1695 and lived on Statford Pl. The honorable Anthony Q. Keasby was a US Federal Attorney. The church opposite Branford Pl is the oldest church in Newark.

The present Central Railroad station was built after an old dilapidated one was razed. One of the best eating places was Achelsettlers over the station.

The first printing presses of the Newark Evening News were at 844 Broad St. On Green St on the site of the present City Hall annex was the Green St. Hall. The last to occupy it was the Newark Lodge # 21 B.P.O Elks.

To be continued.....

F. Cocchiola

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