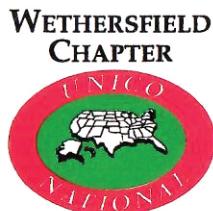


44TH
ANNUAL



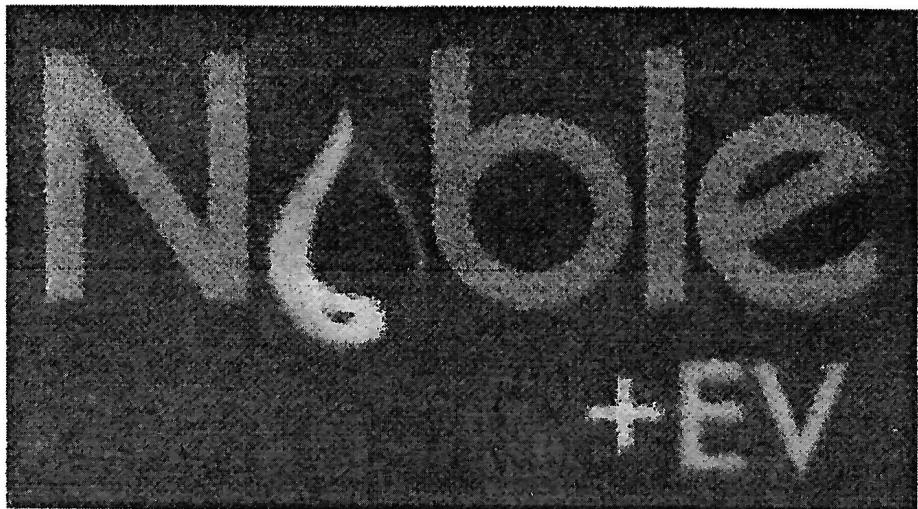
Famous Macaroni Dinner



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About Wethersfield UNICO

The Wethersfield Chapter of UNICO was founded in 1977. Our chapter consists of roughly 100 women and men that enjoy supporting our community and our Italian heritage. Since its founding, the chapter has provided close to **\$1 Million dollars in scholarships to Wethersfield residents!**

Our Annual Macaroni Dinner brings together hundreds of people to enjoy a traditional Italian Sunday dinner. This event is our prime fundraiser in support of our scholarship program. UNICO Wethersfield also sponsors an annual Golf Tournament, Bocce Tournament, Comedy Night and various other events.

During COVID our members raised over \$10,000.00 to feed Essential Workers/Frontline Workers. Our members raised thousands of dollars to provide \$25 gift certificates from local restaurants that were given to local needy residents. This initiative helped support local restaurants as the recipients used their gift cards. Through our “UNICO Eats” initiative, Wethersfield UNICO organized take out nights for local restaurants which resulted in over 150 extra meals being sold to keep our local restaurants in business.

The History of UNICO National

October 10, 1922 is a significant date in the history of the Italian-Americans as well as in the annals of American civic organizations. It was on that day, in Waterbury, Connecticut, that Dr. Anthony Vastola met with a group of business and professional citizens to form an organization that was to be different from the business, social, athletic, and mutual aid groups found in every city.

This organization would be different from others in that, for the first time, it would ask its members to make great sacrifices, not for personal material gain, but simply for the happiness found in service to others. That is why Dr. Vastola called the organization UNICO—unique—the only one of its kind in America, and its motto would be SERVICE ABOVE SELF. The initials were later to stand for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity and Opportunity.

UNICO supports annual programs to commemorate and observe Columbus Day and to single out outstanding individuals with awards for community activity that have been a source of commendable accomplishment. National awards scholarships of \$2500 four-year grants are given annually on a national scale to worthy students. UNICO National is the only service organization to support the Mental Health Program.

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Thank You!
From the Wethersfield UNICO Chapter President
UNICO 44th Annual Macaroni Dinner

February 16, 2025

Dear UNICO Members & Friends:

I'd like to welcome everyone to the 44th Wethersfield UNICO Macaroni Dinner. First, I'd like to thank our Chair, Al Marino and his committee for all of their hard work putting this year's dinner together. It's a lot of work, but I'm sure you'll enjoy the results. I have returned as Chapter President after having served 20 years ago! I am enjoying my term, made easier by the help of my fellow members. Much has changed since my last term in the early 2000s but what hasn't is the dedication of the men and women of our chapter to make things better for those less fortunate than ourselves. We will miss our members who we lost in the last year: we won't see Chef Nick Follacchio doling out meatballs and John Pascone carrying trays of food for our customers, but we will never forget them.

Please remember to patronize our sponsors, they are a key component in our ability to raise funds for charities and scholarships. The Macaroni Dinner is more than a fundraiser, it is a community event and we're happy you have decided to join us once again.
Bon Appetito!

Tom Vaughan

Wethersfield UNICO President

The UNICO Wethersfield Student Awards Program

Wethersfield and Rocky Hill residents that will be graduating high school in 2025 and going on to college have an opportunity to apply for one of our Book Awards. The funds help the student pay for books and college supplies and is open to anyone no matter their heritage. Criteria for selecting winners is academics, financial need and outside activities.

We also offer two Sports Awards, The Brian Piccolo Award and Tony DiCicco Award. Both awards are for students graduating high school in June 2025. The Brian Piccolo Award is for a student in any sport but portrays the qualities of Brian Piccolo. The Tony DiCicco Award is for a student that played soccer and portrays the qualities of Tony DiCicco. The Tony DiCicco award is for a student of any heritage, but because of our national rules the Brian Piccolo winner must have an Italian ancestry.

Scholarship Applications available at your specific school guidance office.

You may also use the following QR Codes –

Piccolo Award:



DiCicco Award:



Book Award:





WETHERSFIELD-ROCKY HILL
CHAPTER of UNICO National

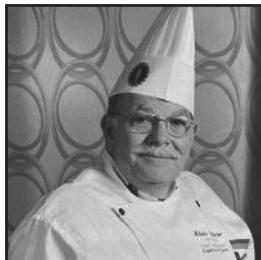
Deceased Member List

Michael Albino
Joseph M. Balzo
Rick Bonelli
Salvatore Brunetti
Daniel A. Camilliere
John Casey
Myles Connolly
Dominic Curcio
Nicholas D'Amato Sr.
Vinnie D' Angelo
Francis A. DeRobertis
John Desimone
George Dursi
Salvatore T. Farinella
Peter J. Forgetta Jr.
Nicholas F. Follacchio
Dominic Fusco
Sebastian Golino
John Herz
Salvatore Julian
Donald S. Kuzoian
Peter Lucca
John Mangiafico
Antonio Marzano

Ralph Mastrangelo
James Nanni
Charles L. Nardi
Neil O'Connor
Carmen Pace
Ernest Page
John Papa
John Pascone
Frank Patti
Buddy Patrizzi
Carmelo Privitera
Frederick Petrelli
James Pezzulo
Frank Plona
Dr. Reynold Pola
Paul Pricone
Corrado Pugliese
Michael Rizzo
James Rossini
Frank Russo
Fred Sara
Anthony Tarascio
Salvatore Vasques

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ROBERT ENSIGN JR.	1978-1979
RAY GORINSKI	1980-1981
ANTHONY TARASCIO	1981-1982
PAUL ANGELICO	1982-1983
JOHN DOMBROWSKI	1983-1984
RICHARD DEROSA	1984-1985
RICHARD ABBRUZESE	1985-1986
JOHN PINCHERA	1986-1987
CHARLES VIANI	1987-1988
PETER FORGETTA	1988-1989
DAVE BOCCACCIO	1989-1990
ROBERT PETERS	1990-1992
JOSEPH BALZO	1992-1993
CHARLES VARCA	1993-1994
GARY SANTORO	1994-1995
MATT DeANGELO	1995-1996
ROBERT DONATELLI	1996-1997
FRED ODELL	1997-1998
JIM CIVITILLO	1998-1999
ANTHONY SANTUCCI	1999-2000
GERALD LETTIERI	2000-2001
TONY MARTINO	2001-2002
MORRIS BOREA	2002-2003
TOM VAUGHAN	2003-2004
MIKE FORTUNATO	2004-2005
JOE HART	2005-2006
JOE MASSARO	2006-2007
MIKE MILARDO	2007-2008
AL MARINO	2008-2009
TOM MISENTI	2009-2010
EMIDIO PIZZOFERRATO	2010-2011
PELINO SILVESTRI	2012-2013
PHIL CIVITELLO	2013-2014
MARK CONSOLE	2014-2015
EMIDIO PIZZOFERRATO	2015-2016
JOE SPINOSO	2016-2017
CHARLES VARCA	2017-2018
JOHN ROSSI	2018-2019
MORRIS BOREA	2019-2020
AUDREY SAHAREK	2020-2021
DAVE LANCIANO	2022-2023
EMIDIO PIZZOFERRATO	2023-2024



Nick Follacchio

Nick Follacchio, “Our Chef” passed away last December. He was born in Italy and came to the US when he was ten years old. Nick had an interest in the restaurant industry as a career. He went to the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) to learn the trade. The CIA was originally in New Haven and later became the CIA in Hyde Park, NY. He worked as executive chef for many restaurants and clubs in the Central CT area. Nick also taught the culinary arts for the CT Vocational Schools for many years. He was honored and inducted in the American Academy of Chef’s Hall of Fame in 2016.

Nick was a member of UNICO since 1981. Today we are having our 44th Annual Famous Macaroni Dinner. This is our major fundraising event. Our chapter members prepare all the food for this dinner. On Friday evening we prepared today’s meal at the Wethersfield High School cafeteria. In previous dinners Nick was always there with his professional advice. He showed us how to run a chef’s kitchen and allow us to enjoy this event as we do today. Nick was the leader in cooking 1000’s of meatballs for the UNICO dinner. He was there in guidance and spirit last Friday as we prepared for today’s event. Nick was always on the dinner serving line with a happy greeting for all those who passed through.

One of our chapters pre-covid event was our Annual Carol Sing. Nick was a regular participant. We visited local rehab facilities and sang to the residents; many were of Italian descent. Nick would stop and speak their native language to residents during these carol sings. It was a special treat to many.

We are enjoying this dinner today. With Nick’s leadership through the years, this has become a happy and successful event. Nick is with us today in spirit. We miss “Our Chef”.



John Pascone

John Pascone was born and raised in Hartford. He was an accomplished saxophone player and spent years playing in various jazz and pop groups. As a barber, John owned and operated several area hair salons and worked until the very end. John was a member for several years and would serve as a waiter at the Macaroni dinner, chatting up the patrons he took care of and having a good time.

Throughout his long career, John forged many friendships with his loyal clients that lasted a lifetime. Going to get your hair cut by John was like visiting the “old neighborhood”. It was always fun getting into a discussion with him as he was very informed, tolerant, and funny. John made many friends, not customers, over the years. Friends that followed him no matter where he set up shop, friends that will miss him terribly. John loved cooking, the beach, his Yankees, Giants, and Knicks, but most importantly, his family. Our deepest condolences to the Pascone family.

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Michael & Christine Fortunato
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In Memory of Donna Hart
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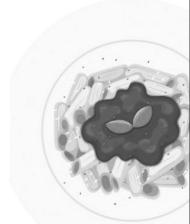
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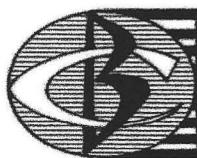
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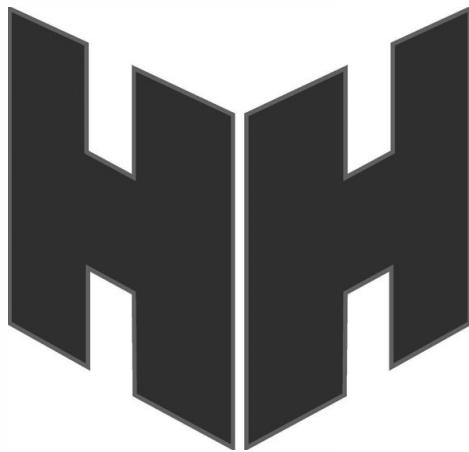


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for your service to our
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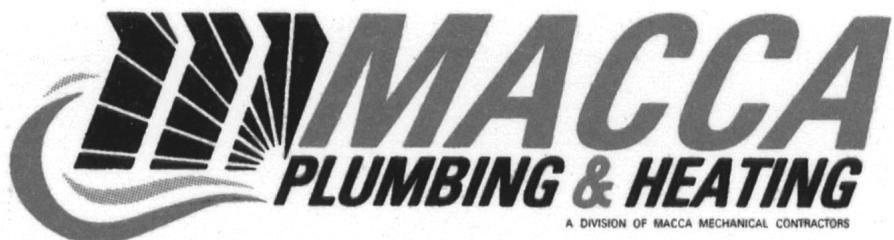
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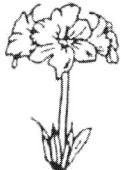
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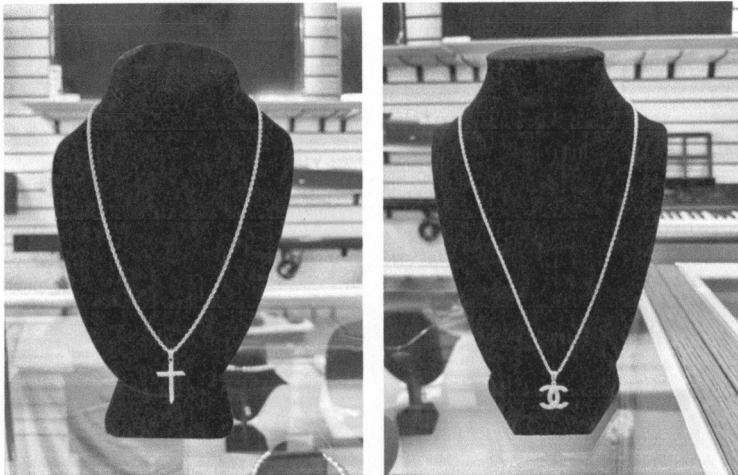
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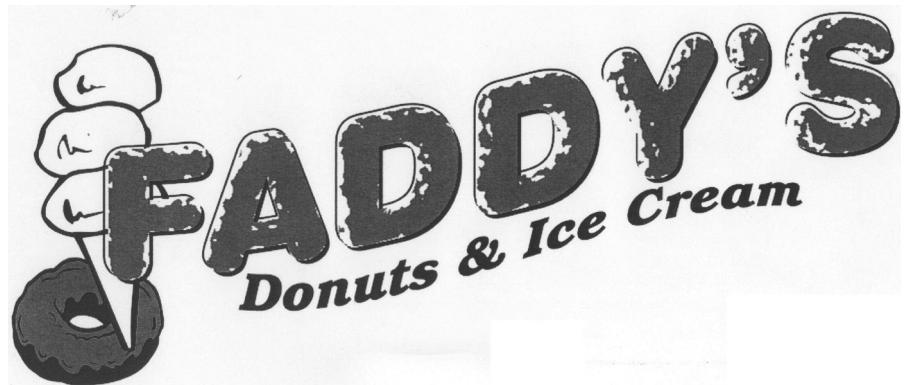
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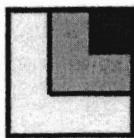
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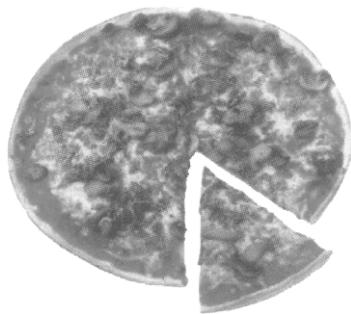
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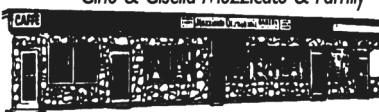
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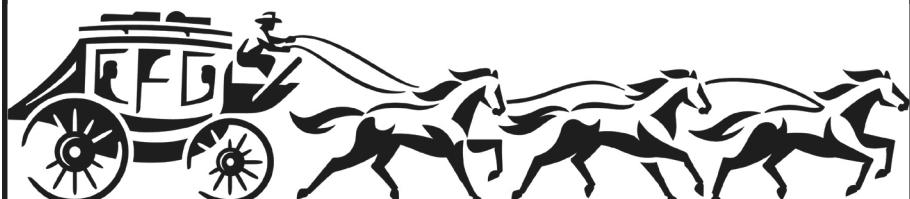
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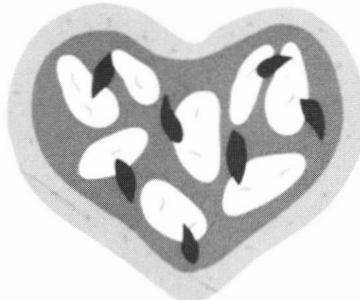
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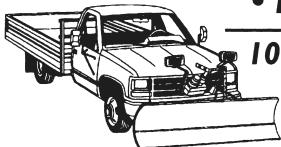
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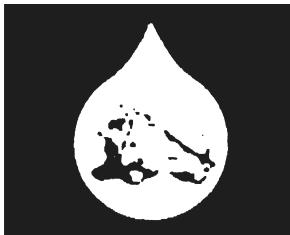
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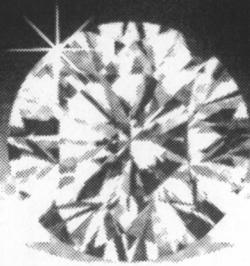
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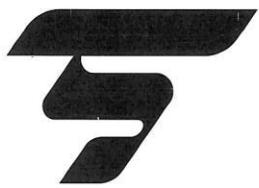
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