

JCCIA Journal

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West Suburban Women's Division
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Young Professionals Division
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Affiliated Organizations

AIDA • Alpine Country Club • Amici d'Italia • Amici Naperville Area Italian American Club • ARPA • Associazione Veneti nel Mondo — USA • Calabresi in America Organization • Casa Italia • Casa San Carlo • CIACO • Columbian Club of Chicago • Elk Grove Village Italian Sister Cities Inc. • Elmwood Park Neighborhood Civic Organization • FIERI-Chicago • Flowers of Italy Club • Fra Noi • IANU Foundation, ISDA Midwest District • IANU, James E. Coli Chapter #15 • IANU, Club Calascibetta Chapter #75 • IANU, St. Anthony Chapter #10 • IANU, St. Joseph Chapter #319 • Italian American Chamber of Commerce • Italian American Civic Organization of Berwyn • I-A Executives of Transportation • I-A Human Relations Found. of Chicago • Italian American Labor Council • Italian American Police Association • Italian American Political Coalition • Italian American Society (Springfield) • Italian American Women's Club of Chicagoland • Italian American Women's Organization • Italian Catholic Federation • Italian Catholic Federation #392 • Italian Cultural Center • Italiani Uniti • Italo-American Soccer Club "Maroons" • Italo-American "Maroons" Ladies Club • ITAM Vets, Illinois • ITAM, Illinois Ladies Auxiliary • ITAM, Filippo Mazzei Post #1 • ITAM, Filippo Mazzei Post #1 Ladies • ITAM, Joseph Gentile Post #2 • ITAM, Joseph Gentile Post #2 Ladies • ITAM James Cuzzone Post #5 • ITAM James Cuzzone Post #5 Ladies • ITAM, Guido Belmonte Post #4 Ladies • Justinian Society of Lawyers • Marchegiana Society of Chicago Heights • Maria SS Della Croce Di Triggiano • Maria SS Lauretana Society • Mazzini Verdi Club, Inc. • Mazzini Verdi Club, Ladies Social Club • Mola Foundation • Old Neighborhood Italian American Club • Panormus Club • San Rocco di Modugno Society • Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel • Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii • Sicilian American Cultural Assn. • Soc. Beato Giovanni Liccio • Soc. Culturale di Bagheria in Chicago • Soc. San Biagio Platani • Soc. San Francesco di Paola • Soc. San Giovanni Bosco di Ciminna • Soc. San Leoluca da Corleone • Soc. SS Crocifisso di Ciminna • Soc. SS Crocifisso di Rutigliano, Bari • Soc. of Santa Fara di Cinisi • Sons and Daughters of Italy in America • St. John Brebuef Italian American Club • St. Joseph di Bagheria Society • St. Joseph's Club of Italian Americans • UNICO, Chicago Amerital Chpt. • UNICO, Chicago West Suburban Chpt. • UNICO, Greater Chicago Chapter • Veneti del Nordamerica

The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans

3800 Division St. • Stone Park, IL 60165
708.450.9050 www.jccia.com

~ Organized in 1952 ~



The new year is a great time for reflection

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

At the start of a new year, our thoughts go back to the past year, reflecting on all the different programs and activities and making plans for the coming year.

My column this month is a repeat of "Who We Are and What We Do" because it reflects on the importance of our organization, and most importantly our strength with the support of over 70 Italian-American organizations that have felt the need to join together and become one of our affiliated organizations. When writing to the President of the United States, the Mayor of the City of Chicago and the Governor of the State of Illinois on issues of concern to the Italian-American community, our letterhead is very impressive and shows that we in the Chicago area are united in a common cause.

Thus I take this opportunity to thank the presidents of our affiliated organizations, past and present, who are under our "umbrella." I am proud to be president and to acknowledge the following organizations who in 2009 have joined under the banner of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans: Elmwood Park Neighborhood Civic Organization, Italiani Uniti, Italian American War Veterans, Joseph Cuzzone Post #5, Mola Foundation, St. John Brebuef Italian American Club, St. Joseph's Club of Italian Americans, St. Joseph di Bagheria Society, Società Culturale Di Bagheria in Chicago, and Sons and Daughters of Italy in America.

Our early leaders — Joseph Barbera, Anthony Paterno, Vincent E. Ferrara, Frank Annunzio, Joseph DeSerto and Anthony Sorrentino — had a dream of uniting the community, and now, as we enter our 60th year of continuous service to the Italian American community, we remember them.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans is an independent non-profit association dedicated to preserving Italian-American heritage and providing a unified voice for metropolitan Chicago's Italian-American community. Founded in 1952, the JCCIA serves as a congress for more than 70 Italian-American organizations, as well as a clearinghouse for information about the Chicago-area Italian-American community.

Working alongside the JCCIA are its three divisions: the Women's Division, West Suburban Women's Division and Young Professionals Division.

CIVIC EVENTS

The JCCIA'S Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian of the Year Award is presented annually to those whose lives exemplify the virtues of caring, humanity and good will that were the hallmark of Cardinal Bernardin's tenure as archbishop of Chicago. Past recipients (including Cardinal Bernardin) have been Phil Stefani, Senator Louis Viverito, Senatore Renato Turano, Lester Trilla, Nick Vangel, Oscar D'Angelo, the Rev. Richard Fragomeni, Theresa Petrone, Rose Farina Robert Mariano, Dr. Enrico Benedetti and past presidents Vito Cali, Anthony Fornelli, Stephen Fiorentino, Dominic DiFrisco, Louis H. Rago and Joanne Spata.

Every other year, the Women's Division holds an Impresa Award luncheon to honor Italian-American women who have made significant contributions to their communities.

CULTURAL EVENTS

For more than half a century, the JCCIA has sponsored

Chicago's Columbus Day celebration. The festivities begin with a Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, followed by a parade down Columbus Drive featuring more than 150 floats, bands and marching units.

Fiera Italia, a weeklong festival on Daley Plaza, is our newest expression projecting the best image of our culture and uniquely blending this festival with our parade to capture the influence of our heritage in America.

The Italian Heritage Ball and Cotillion is an elegant event sponsored for the last 40 years by the Women's Division. We are proud to say many of today's debutantes are daughters whose mothers and grandmothers made their debut years ago.

Our Camminata Del Biscotto (Cookie Walk) brings together home bakers to prepare their favorite Italian cookies. This program is a tremendous success and is now in its third year with more than 75 bakers bringing 100 of their favorite cookies, together with their recipes. Every baker receives a cookbook with their recipe and goes home with 100 assorted cookies from other bakers.

HUMAN RELATIONS

The Human Relations Committee of the JCCIA promotes a positive image of Italian Americans within the society at large, and fights defamation and discrimination against our community. In addition, each year this committee presents the coveted Dante Award to a member of the local news media who has answered Dante Alighieri's call to "be no timid friend to truth." Past awardees have been Joan Esposito, Allison Rosati, Emily Barr, Larry Wert, Frank Mathie, Vince Gerasole, Janet Davies and Greg Caputo.

SCHOLARSHIPS

More than \$200,000 has been awarded to students of Italian heritage over the years through the Human Relations Committee of the JCCIA. Primarily through the John Fischetti Scholarship and the Frank Vigilante Scholarship. In addition, more than \$185,000 has been awarded over the years to young Italian-American women through the Women's Division's annual scholarship luncheon and fashion show.

VITAL STATISTICS

Today, the JCCIA is guided by President Jo Ann Serpico, First Vice President, Antonio M. Romanucci, Second Vice President Rosemarie Andolino, Third Vice President Joseph L. Rago, Treasurer Eugene Renda, Secretary Jacqueline Mazza, Sergeant At Arms James Cerami, President Emeritus Dominic DiFrisco, Past President Joanne Spata, Legal Advisor Joseph M. Gagliardo and Chaplain the Reverend Claudio Holzer. The president of the Women's Division is Rose Mary Ranallo, president of the West Suburban Women's Division is LaVerne Marcheschi and President of the Young Professionals Division is John Galluzzi.

The staff of the JCCIA works out of offices at Casa Italia, 3800 Division Street, Stone Park, IL 60165. For more information, call 708-450-9050.

MEMBERSHIP

All affiliated organizations — which include any Italian-American clubs, religious society, veterans group and civic organization — contribute \$100 annually. All affiliated organizations are recognized on our letterhead. Annual dues for individual members are as follows: JCCIA, \$25; Women's Division, \$30; West Suburban Women's Division, \$30; and Professionals Division, \$25.