

# JCCIA Journal

## Officers

*President* **JO ANN SERPICO**  
*1st Vice President* **ANTONIO ROMANUCCI**  
*2nd Vice President* **ROSEMARIE ANDOLINO**  
*3rd Vice President* **JOSEPH RAGO**  
*Treasurer* **EUGENE RENDA**  
*Secretary* **JACQUELYN MAZZA**  
*Sergeant-at-Arms* **JAMES CERAMI**  
*President Emeritus* **DOMINIC DIFRISCO**  
*Past President* **JOANNE SPATA**  
*Chaplain* **THE REV. CLAUDIO HOLZER, C.S.**  
*Legal Advisor* **JOSEPH M. GAGLIARDO**

## Divisions

*Women's Division*  
**Rosemary Ranallo, President**

*West Suburban Women's Division*  
**Naomi Serpico, President**

*Young Professionals Division*  
**John Galluzzi, President**

## 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. • 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 • 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 Association • Società Beato Giovanni Liccio • Società Culturale di Baharia in Chicago • Società San Biagio Platani • Società San Francesco di Paola • Società San Giovanni Bosco di Ciminna • Società San Leoluca da Corleone • Società SS Crocifisso di Ciminna • Società SS Crocifisso di Rutigliano, Bari • Society of Santa Fara di Cinisi • Sons and Daughters of Italy in America • St. John Brebuef Italian American Club • St. Joseph di Bagheria Society • UNICO, Chicago Amerital Chapter • 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](http://www.jccia.com)  
~ Organized in 1952 ~



## JCCIA honors a dynamic duo in Benedetti, Fragomeni

by Jo Ann Serpico, President

This is the introductory speech given by Jo Ann Serpico at the Cardinal Bernardin Humanitarian Award Dinner in front of 400 guests in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton on June 13.

Father Fragomeni, Father Holzer, elected official, ladies and gentlemen: Your presence here generates considerable positive unity. Thank you!

My undying gratitude goes to our chairmen, Nick Vangel and Antonio Romanucci, for the success of this evening — one, a prominent businessman and the other a prominent attorney. Each gave many hours of their time to ensure a glorious tribute to our honoree, Dr. Enrico Benedetti, Professor and Head, Department of Surgery College of Medicine — University of Illinois at Chicago. Also the dynamic duo co-chairs Dominic DiFrisco and Domemico Gambino. Thank you!

Nothing is accomplished without the matriarch of the Joint Civic Committee of Italian Americans office, Marie Palello, the West Suburban Women's Division of the JCCIA and all of our volunteers. Thank you!

This is a very special moment for the JCCIA as we forge the enthusiasm with a wave of excitement over our selection. Our recipient is particularly deserving of this award. This highly valued quiet man who through his innovation and ingenuity has made his mark at an early age. His success has become a legend in the medical field. Dr. Benedetti is established as one of the most effective surgeons. He is responsible for the first living donor kidney-pancreas in Illinois, the first robotic donor nephrectomy for living donor kidney transplant in the world, the first combined living donor liver-bowel transplant in the world and the first robotic combined donor nephrectomy and pancreatectomy for living donor.

The doctor has peerless standing among his peers. He focuses on medical advances that better the prospect of the patient. He displays a fluency with an overpowering goodwill that captures the confidence of his patients and retains the trust of others. What is most appealing is that he has never lost touch with his roots.

The Italian community is totally enamored with Dr. Benedetti. He has a seriousness and freshness

of purpose. It is as though the doctor was born to merit this award. Accolades to you Doctor Enrico Benedetti!

The presentation of the Peacemaker Award by Jo Ann Serpico to Father Richard Fragomeni:

Our powerhouse peacemaker became apparent when he arrived at Our Lady of Pompeii. The Shrine gave father a platform for his passion. As the cornerstone he had to change rhetoric into action and that he did. He mastered the management of Pompeii and that is critical for a rector. His decisiveness, intelligence and his personal sense of duty became his hallmark.

We are mesmerized by Father as he uses his influence to prevent precisely the sort of things for which peacemakers are needed. He repairs and rests relationships. He shows he understands their problems and perspectives. His proposed approaches are the best choices. Father shifts the direction of the tones. His single voice carries extraordinary weight. Our peacemaker has an infectious optimism. He is hailed at the helm. He is a guiding impulse. It is in his blood. He has proven himself as a clear peacemaker.

## BUON COMPLEANNO, MARIE!



On June 18, the JCCIA held a surprise party for Marie Palello, our lifetime secretary, in celebration of her 80th birthday. One hundred and ten well-wishers gathered at Quartino's Restaurant to wish her the best. Marie was overwhelmed and totally surprised to see her family and friends. Happy Birthday, Marie!