



## Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

KEEPING OUR *Pride*, CELEBRATING OUR *Culture*, REMEMBERING OUR *Past*

### Program Notes for June 2012:

#### Introducing Honorary Members Carmen S. Paterniti and Sal Lazzaroti; Scholarship Awards Night

#### *Carmen S. Paterniti*



Carmen Paterniti has become more aware of his ethnicity and strives to know more about his roots. His father's family came from Tortorici, Sicily, a small town forty miles north of Mt. Etna in the middle of the Nebrodi Mountains. Carmen's grandfather, Gaetano, came to the US in 1909 to seek his fortune in the "new world". Carmen's grandmother, Maria Franchina, his father then 17 years of age also named Gaetano, and his aunt Sara, 13 years old, joined him in 1919. They settled in Perth Amboy, NJ where Carmen's grandfather was employed as assistant engineer for the Public Service Electric and Gas Company. Two days after arriving in the US, Carmen's father went to work at the Federal Seaboard Terra Cotta Factory located in Perth Amboy. Shortly thereafter, he went to work for one of his relatives who was a contractor in the Bronx, NY. Some years later, he started his own construction company in New Jersey.

Carmen's mother's family came from the province of Caserta, Italy. His maternal grandfather, Carmine Quintillion, was a Brigadier Carabinieri, stationed in Sicily for ten years to combat the Mafia. He and his wife Adriana and one son, Donato, came to the US in 1905 and settled in Perth Amboy, NJ. Their son Enrich, a law student, and their eldest daughter, also a student, remained in Italy with an aunt. Carmen's mother, Theresa, was born in Perth Amboy on January 1, 1907. Carmen's mother and father met and married in 1928, the year after she graduated from Perth Amboy High School, the school from which Carmen and his brother were also graduated. Education was very important in Carmen's family and going to college was expected. Carmen, his brother and sister went on to college, dental school and law school.

Carmen met his wife Nan through Nan's brother who was also Carmen's room mate in college. Nan's father, Alfred Antonio, was a prominent attorney in Perth Amboy and a member of the church Carmen attended. Every Sunday, Nan and her father would attend mass and it was there that Carmen first noticed and fell in love with Nan, the most important person in his life. They married in June of 1954 and raised three sons and a daughter.

Throughout their life together, Carmen and Nan enjoyed raising their children, their joint love of horses, and traveling to all parts of the world. Most importantly, they share a great love for each other. Carmen and Nan are now living in Florida and are members of Il Circolo, the Italian Heritage Club of Palm Beach County, where they participate in scholarship funding in addition, to providing scholarships for Hunterdon County students.

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## *Sal Lazzarotti*



Dolores Gray, Sal, Celeste Holm

Sal Lazzarotti was born in the dining room of his parent's home in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, NY, on April 23, 1932. Sal was the fourth son of five. Born in the depression of immigrant parents, money was tight, but love and the garden food were plentiful. Stickball, baseball, singing, and art were the loves of his life. Playing in the lots with cousins who lived a few blocks away filled the after-school schedule most days. As a left-handed first baseman for Lincoln High, Sal showed his prowess as an athlete.

After high school, Sal was drafted into the army. Destined for the infantry, on a ship bound for Korea, he volunteered to head up and design the ship's newspaper. That one event changed his direction and maybe saved his life. His funny cartoons, sketches and designs delighted the thousands on the ship. Sal had a talent for these things. As luck would have it, there was a rotation in the art department of the Command in Seoul. The department head was being sent home and Sal was put in his position answering to General Taylor. The First Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company in Korea was Sal's home for the next two years. From infantry bound to running an art department, God was watching over him. You cannot make this stuff up.

When Sal returned home, he was a seasoned professional art director. Competition for jobs was fierce because so many veterans were returning home. Among his job interviews was a little magazine founded by Norman Vincent Peale, called *Guideposts*. Sal worked for *Guideposts* for 22 years garnering many awards for the magazine from the Society of Illustrators and the New York Art Directors Club. Famous illustrators were drawn to Sal to work with him on stories for the magazine. Among them - Bob MacGinnis, Herb Tauss, Tony Kokinos, and Norman Rockwell. Rockwell used Sal's two sons, Peter and Jim, in his illustration, "The Choirboys", in 1970. In 1981, Sal left *Guideposts* to start his own business - The New York Editors and Artists Group - with his good friends and editors, Ben Patterson and Fred Bauer.

Sal's first wife, June, passed on in July of 1970 after a long battle with breast cancer. The following year, Sal met Sheryl King, a budding opera singer. Dr. Peale married them in 1973. That same year he family moved from Manhattan to Montclair, New Jersey. In 1983, Sal realized the dream of his life - singing the songs he loved so much to live audiences. He and Sheryl would scoot to the Catskills most weekends to perform. In 1987, he recorded his album of love songs, "Through the Eyes of Love".



Sal, Sheryl, Doris and Tom Hurban, Calabria, 2008

Sal had purchased seven acres of land in Hunterdon County in the late 60s with the hope of moving "to the country". That dream had to wait until 1995 when he and Sheryl designed and built their home in Pittstown. In 1997, Sal and Sheryl joined the Italian American Heritage Club of Hunterdon County. Sal served as president of the club in the year 2000. Sal and Sheryl are blessed with three children, Peter, Jim and Laura and five grandchildren, Amanda, Alexa, Brandon, Carly, and Haley. Sal and Sheryl now split their time between New Jersey and Lakewood Ranch, Florida.



*(WebAdmin note: During Sal's tenure as President of the IAHC, he skillfully created our Club logo. If you look closely, not only does it contain the Italian and American flag colors, it also contains the letters "I" and "A" further denoting pride for our Italian and American heritages.)*

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### **Scholarship Awards Night**

Eight High School Seniors will be awarded Scholarships from the Scholarship Committee. Please join us in congratulating these deserving young men and women.