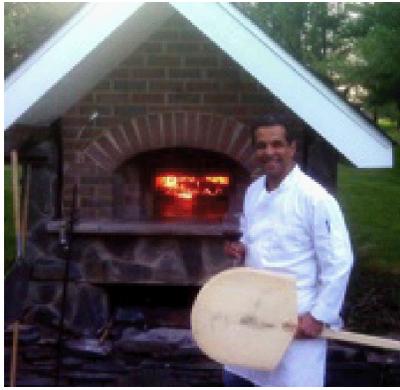


Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

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

Program Notes for March, 2013

Meet Al Notabartolo



Al Notabartolo was born December, 1960 on Staten Island NY. He was blessed to be able to live in a neighborhood filled with Italian immigrants. He attended New York Institute Of Technology, Old Westbury NY, where he graduated with a Bachelors degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering.

His 27 year professional career in the field of Information Technology has given him the opportunity to live in such places as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oahu Hawaii, Milano Italy and London England. Al has also studied professional bread techniques under Master Baker Jeffery Hamelman, in Norwich, VT. Al moved to Alexandria Township 17 years ago, has never married and has no children.

Al built his first brick oven over ten years ago with fond childhood memories, of family gathered around the brick oven his grandfather made, fresh in his mind.

While Al's first oven, built into the terrace behind his Alexandria Township home, produced by far the best pizza he ever tasted (including his grandfathers!), he was most taken by its pull on family and friends: Everyone, of every age, couldn't get enough; invitations to Al's home for dinner are still rarely declined.

Al's second oven rides comfortably on a trailer he designed and built that allows him to take his show on the road. From festivals to wineries to private parties, he makes artisan pizzas by hand, from only the freshest ingredients, one at a time. He also now consults with home and commercial bakers on the design, construction and operation of brick ovens suitable for pizza, bread and other delicious treats.

Al's paternal grandparents, Notabartolo, immigrated to the US in the early 1900s from the Corleone province of Palermo Sicily. They first settled in New York City where they opened a butcher shop. As they approached ten children, nine boys and one girl, they moved to Stapleton on Staten Island NY. All nine boys became butchers.

Al's maternal grandparents, Lupoli, immigrated to the US in the early 1900s from the Castellammare di Stabia Province of Naples. They settled in Rosebank on Staten Island, NY. It was Al's maternal grandfather that inspired his passion for wood fired ovens and baking. Al's traditional pizza still uses the recipes handed down from his grandfather.

You will find additional information about Al at pureandsimplehearth.com. A partial list of up coming festivals include: La Festa Italiana in August, Asbury Park; Oyster Fest in September, Mercer County Italian American Festival in September.