



## Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

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

### Program Notes for May: John Paolini, Paolini Cast Stone, Inc.



Paolini Cast Stone, Inc. was started in the late 1950's by Americo Paolini, father of the current owner, John Paolini. Americo is of Italian descent, as his mother and father were from Fano, a small town in northeast Italy along the coast of the Adriatic Sea. They emigrated to the US in the early 1900's. Americo was one of six children, and grew up in New Village, New Jersey.

Business has grown over the years, as they continue to add specialty products to their manufacturing line. They now have a plethora of molds, concrete statues and other copyrighted pieces. The custom architectural phase of the business began with simple columns and has evolved into a business all its own including products such as balustrades and rails, pier cap, finials (balls and bases), corner quoins, keystones, wall coping, window surrounds, and fireplace surrounds.



In 1941 Americo married a wonderful polish girl, named Judy, with whom he had three children; Marie, Joann, and John. He worked at the Edison Cement Plant until it closed, then the Lehigh Foundry for 32 years, which became Victaulic of America and finally retired in 1974. While working full-time, Americo started Paolini's Concrete Lawn Ornaments, producing items such as park benches, flower pots, and just one birdbath.



In the early 1960's Paolini's purchased a competitor located in the Delaware Water Gap and added to their production line, more bird baths, ducks, roosters, chickens, peeps, donkeys, carts, deer, and many other ornamental items.

John Paolini graduated from Warren County Vocational-Technical School in 1971 and immediately began his career at Sonoco Paper Products in Phillipsburg as a machinist-millwright. After the paper plant closed, John began working for Taylor-Wharton as a machinist-welder. Then in 1982, John started working for Koh-i-noor as a machinist, until 1986, when he decided it was time to enter the family business full-time. He is married to Marie and they have two boys, John and James.

