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Festa Italiana

June 2nd - 4th 2023 at Zona Rosa

Free Admission



Top Notch National & Local Acts

The Bronx Wanderers

From Italy: Ilaria Della Bidia

Disco Dick & The Mirrorballs

Flashback

Four Fried Chickens & a Coke

All Weekend Live Entertainment

Friday 5-11

Saturday 11-11

Sunday 11-5

Sunday Catholic Mass: 10 am

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SCIMECA'S HOMEMADE MARINARA SAUCE - (12) 26 oz jars

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UNICO Pride and Tradition

The all volunteer members of the Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National represent a group of collectively talented individuals who take extraordinary pride in their heritage, history and commitment to the UNICO motto: "Service Above Self." The Kansas City Chapter's impeccable reputation is built upon uncompromising principles while fulfilling its mission statement and striving to help make its community a better place to live. The chapter meets its goals through supporting charitable endeavors, assisting individuals in need, and the ongoing commitment toward funding its annual scholarship program. Every year thousands of dollars are donated to qualified local area high school graduates aspiring to attend college. Festa Italiana is the chapter's largest fundraiser, and all proceeds are designated to support the scholarship fund.

UNICO Membership Requirements

Requirements for UNICO membership include the virtues of honesty, integrity, responsible moral values, and overall good character. Unicans enjoy the satisfaction of common bond, camaraderie and the rewarding experience of achieving positive results as a contributing link on a winning team. For additional information visit the UNICO booth on the grounds at Festa Italiana. UNICO is not-for-profit and tax exempt under 501(c)3



la famiglia é tutto.....”The Family is Everything”



The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National welcome you to this outstanding celebration of Italian heritage. The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO has 155 members who live by the UNICO Code of “SERVICE ABOVE SELF”. These members volunteer their time and talents to build revenue that will fund our scholarship program. The money raised goes towards our scholarship program and to other not-for-profit organizations. This year, UNICO Kansas City has awarded \$46,000 in scholarships to local high school graduates that will be entering college. UNICO Kansas City also helps many organizations that are in need. Over the years we’ve given money to many organizations and we’ve helped several families in need during Christmas. We have implemented new ideas and fundraisers over the years to help fund all the good that we do. None of this would be possible without the hard work, commitment, and dedication of all our fine UNICO members. The future of UNICO Kansas City has never looked brighter.

The history of the Italian Festival in Kansas City has endured some ups and downs, and had gone several years with no event at all. UNICO Kansas City brought back Festa Italiana 18 years ago with the hope to celebrate our Italian American heritage. Several UNICO committee members spend countless hours to preserve this historic event and look for new and innovative ideas to improve it year after year for your enjoyment. This year you will experience more heritage than ever before. Our goal is to keep this festival going for the next 100 years so our children and grandchildren can celebrate their Italian heritage for one weekend out of the year. I’m very proud to be a part of this event and will continue to help see it grow. I want for my own children to know their roots and to be proud of their nationality. Years ago, every Sunday was family day where aunts, uncles, and cousins all came together to share a fine Italian meal. While some Italian-Americans still celebrate this weekly tradition, many do not. Whether it’s work, baseball games, or the thought of the busy week ahead, our lifestyles have forced us to put tradition on hold. This is why Festa Italiana is so important and provides us the opportunity to re-discover our great Italian customs.

Please come and enjoy all the wonderful food, wine, entertainment, and family fun we have in store for you. Do not miss our featured entertainers, “The Bronx Wanderers” who will perform both Friday and Saturday nights and Ilaria Della Bidia from Tuscany, Italy who performs Saturday night. You can also stop by the many exhibitor booths, the cannoli eating contest, the meatball eating contest, the heritage displays along with our old time photo booth, the children’s inflatable’s, the wine tasting tent, the Italian Motorsports Show on Sunday, and much, much more. We will also feature our scholarship presentation at 4pm on Sunday when we award \$46,000. Because our faith is the foundation for our tradition, please join us as we celebrate an outdoor mass on Sunday at 10:00 am.

I want to personally thank all of you for supporting our Festa Italiana. I also want to thank all of our generous sponsors, vendors, advertisers, Zona Rosa, volunteers, entertainers, the Festa committee, and our great UNICO Chapter and their families for all of the hard work that they have done to make this annual event possible. I would like to extend a special thank you to my wife and children; for your patience and understanding while I attend meeting after meeting for the volunteer work that I do. Even though I sometimes miss dinner, family events, and other family gatherings, I may not be present, but I’m never far away.

My wish for you during this year’s 2023 event is to leave your troubles and your worries behind. So come, sit back, relax and remember; you still have Life, Love, Health and Happiness. You’ll find it all at this year’s Festa!

Enjoy yourselves and thanks for being part of our family.

Ciao,
Frank J. Cherrito
President
Kansas City Chapter
UNICO National

Joe
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John
Vince
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Jack
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Andrew
John
Mike
Michael
Mike
Jasper
Matthew
Nick
Jimmy
Joe Mike
Tom
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Sal
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Joe
Victor
John
Pete
Thomas
Frank
Joseph
John
Tony
Gino
Melchior
Michael
John P.
Joe
John
Carl J.
John David
Joe
Anthony (Tony)
Marc
Vince
Angelo
Nick
Anthony
Joseph
Gerald
David
James
Frank
Michael
Carl
Michael
"TJ" Thomas
Lucas
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Lawrence
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Chuck
Vince
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Phillip
Steve
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Salvatore
Charles
Joe
Ross
Frank
Frank
Leonard
Nick
Joe
Carl
Joe Mike
Jack
David
James "Nic"
Ann
John
Father Vincent
Andrew
Chuck
Pasquale
Mike
Rosemary
Mark
Brian
Frank
Chris
Salvatore (Sam)
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Frank
Joe
Tommy John
David (Vic)
Gino
Robert
Mike
Anthony
John
Vince
John
Sharon
Steve
Tommy
Thomas
Joey
David
Michael
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Vinnie

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Louie

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Viviano
Wright

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Frankie John
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Antonio
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Bonino
Cherrito
DeFeo
Enna
Inzenga
Ray

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President



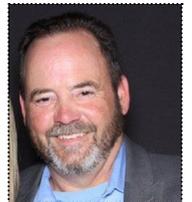
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Sergeant at Arms



Charlie Passantino
Presidential Advisor

The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National was founded in 1949 by Dr. D.M. Nigro. Over the years, UNICO has donated countless thousands of dollars to help support numerous charities and individuals and families in need. Festa Italiana is Kansas City UNICO's largest fundraiser. In 2023, UNICO will award \$46,000 in college scholarships to deserving local high school graduates.

The Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National is the third largest chapter within UNICO National.

UNICO Scholarships

by David Sullivan

The UNICO-KC Chapter class of 2023 is outstanding! We have 27 awardees that will receive \$46,500 due to their hard work and accomplishments. This class of graduating seniors are bright, funny, kind, athletic, talented, gifted, spiritual, and hardworking just to name a few of the adjectives that describe our scholarship awardees. They also thrived academically and socially through the COVID-19 pandemic, which is quite a feat considering the remote learning and many other obstacles they overcame. The UNICO scholarship selection team was thoroughly impressed with the caliber of all our applicants. The Philip R. Balano is UNICO's top scholarship worth \$3,000. Scholarships are awarded to graduates of Italian-American heritage who will be attending college next fall. With the collective exceptional skills possessed by this group, our future looks better than ever.

The community needs young scholars to reach their dreams and realize their potential. UNICO's goal is to be a financial and guiding support for young people to be the next generation of business and community leaders. Society needs a diverse, educated and working population to be vibrant and productive. Our past scholarship recipients have demonstrated the ability to complete four-year college educations, earn good paying jobs, and pursue the American dream. Investing in hard-working and capable young people gives us the best opportunity for success. Mentoring young people on how and why UNICO beliefs and values are the foundation of a healthy community is paramount. None of this can happen without your support. Monies raised during the 2023 Festa Italiana determine how much we can give away for scholarships in 2024. The more UNICO income can generate, the more scholarships we can award to deserving high school seniors next year. I look forward to seeing your family member on stage one day receiving their scholarship. Pay it forward really happens. countries throughout the world-wherever there is a need.

Dave Capuano Sullivan
UNICO-KC Chapter Scholarship Chairman

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Festa Italiana Scholarship Winners 2023



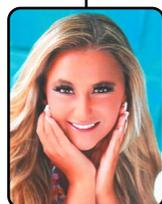
Arena, Joseph Salvatore
St. Pius X HS
**Annicc Cherrito Memorial Scholarship/
 Joseph M. Leggio Scholarship – \$2,000**
Funded by Cherrito & Leggio Family
 MO Boys State Scholarship; Football Varsity Letters,
 Principal's Honor Roll; Nominated for appointment to
 USMA;



Bonadonna, Mia
Blue Springs South HS
Jerry & Megan Viviano Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by The Viviano Family
 Honor Roll 2019-2023; National Honor Society;
 Softball



Calcara, Mia
St. Pius X HS
JoMarie Armilio Real Estate Team – \$1,000
Funded by JoMarie Armilio Real Estate Team
 A Honor Roll; SPX Citizenship Award; All State
 Volleyball Academic Award; All District Honorable
 Mention



Cascone, Isabella
Staley HS
The John V. Mesh Memorial Scholarship – \$1,500
Funded by The John V. Mesh Foundation
 Dean's List; National Honor Society; Staley Dance
 Team; Performed at Festa Italiana (15 years);
 Student Council



Chester, Kylie Jo
Liberty North HS
**Leonard C. Passantino
 Memorial Scholarship – \$1,500**
Funded by Passantino Bros. Funeral Home
 National Honor Society; Academic All-State 2021-22;
 All Conference Softball; State Qualifer 4x100 Relay



Davis, Charles Jefferson
St. Pius X HS
**Dr. Frank Totta Family
 /Amino Bros. Scholarship – \$2,000**
Funded by Frank Totta Family & Amino Bros.
 Eagle Scout; 4 years honor roll; Science Scholarship
 winner; Football Academic and Athletic All
 Conference 2019-2022



DeFeo, Annabella
St. Pius X HS
**Passantino Bros. Funeral
 Home Scholarship – \$1,500**
Funded by Passantino Bros. Funeral Home
 Academic Letter - 4 years; softball 2020-22;
 Community service @ Harvester's



DeFeo, John Charles
Staley HS
Twin Lakes Insurance Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Twin Lakes Insurance
 National Honor Society; Principal's Honor Roll;
 Baseball and Football - 4 yrs; student Council - 4 yrs



DiGirolamo, Rosie
St. Thomas Aquinas HS
The Caracci Family Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by The Caracci Family
 Honor Roll - 4 years; National Art Honors Society;
 United, not Dvidied" and Sign Language Clubs



Haggerty, Liliana
St. Michael the Archangel HS
CYR Foundation Scholarship – \$2,500
Funded by CYR Foundation
 National Honor Society; School Captian; Peer
 Mentor; Ambassador of Love



Huhmann, Adaline
St. Theresa's Academy
Falcone Famiglia Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by AJ Falcone
 Class President or Officier 4 years; Volunteer at
 Harvester's and KC Pet Rescue



Kopp, George
Shawnee Mission East HS
Landers Visions Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Landers Visions
 Honor Roll - 4 years; Team Football Captian and
 Quarterback; Sunflower Conference Honorable
 Mention

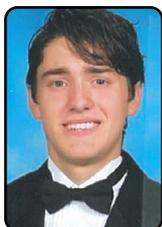


Lewis, Katherine Elizabeth
St. Pius HS
**DiPasquale Moore Scholarship for Education
 Scholarship – \$2,000**
Funded by DiPasquale - Moore LLC
 Principal's Honor Roll; National Honor Society;
 Volleyball & Soccer Athlete; Volleyball Captian 2023



Love, Bridget Abigail
Lincoln College Preparatory Academy
Philip R. Balano Scholarship – \$3,000
Funded by Balano Family & UNICO KC
 Honor Roll - 4 years; National Honor Society; Cross
 Country - Team Captian - 4 years; Swimming and
 Track and Field Athlete

Festa Italiana Scholarship Winners 2023



Mandacina III, Charles Joseph
Rockhurst HS
CYR Foundation Scholarship – \$2,500
Funded by CYR Foundation
 Lettered in Cross Country and Quiz Bowl; Magazine Editor-in-Chief; Spanish Club President 2019-23



Miceli, Rosalie Marcelina
St. Pius X HS
Pizzichino Family Scholarship – \$2,000
Funded by Pizzichino Family
 Academic Letter 2020-21; Honor Roll 2022-23



Milano, Annamarie Grace
Liberty HS
Dave & Bev White Scholarship – \$2,000
Funded by Dave and Bev White
 Student Council-2019-22; National Honor Society; Law Internship 2021



Palma, Pierce J.
St. Pius X HS
Cascone Family Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Cascone Family
 Played Soccer and Basketball



Pittala, Victor Joseph
St. Pius X HS
Mike Quarrato Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Roma Bakery
 Principal's Honor Roll - 3 years; Soccer 4 years; captain 2022 and All-State Honorable Mention



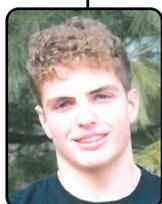
Ray, Caroline
Vincent & Nunie White Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Mike and Kim White
Staley HS
 Academic All-State Softball 4 years; 2022 Homecoming Queen; National Honors Society



Reed, Gabrielle Morgan
Blue Springs HS
William G. McGowan Charitable Foundation – \$2,500
Funded by William G. McGowan Charitable Foundation
 Academic Excellence - 4 years; Natinal Honors Society; Foreign Language Honors Society; A+ Tutor 2022-23; Tennis 2020



Rinaldi, Emma Lorraine
Belton HS
Zona Rosa Scholarship – \$1,500
Funded by Zona Rosa
 Academic Letter - 4 yrs; Cross Country All Conference Honorable Mention; Student Council Member



Rizzi, Joseph R
St. Michael the Archangel HS
Jim Murray Memorial Scholarship – \$3,000
Funded by Friends of UNICO
 Wrestling - 4 years; Student Ambassador; Faith Leadership Team 2021-23; Community Service - St. John Lelande Church



Romano, Angela Rose
St. Pius X HS
Joseph C. Accurso Memorial Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Cumpy's Sports & Apparel
 B Honor Role; Cheer and Golf 2022-23



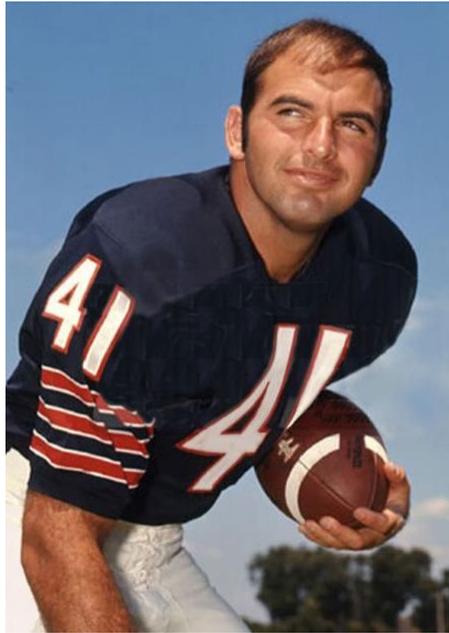
Romano, Antonia Marie
St. Pius X HS
Mesh/Leggio Scholarship – \$1,000
Funded by Cumpy's Sports & Apparel
 B Honor Role; Cheer 2022-23; Softball - 2 years



Swingle, Victoria
St. Michael the Archangel HS
Mike Leardi Family Scholarship – \$2,000
Funded by – Leardi Family
 National Honor Society; Guardian Ambassador - 4 years; Basketball and Soccer Team Captian 2020-23; tennis - EJC First Team; Basketball and Soccer-Missouri All State; Community Services League and St. John LeLande Volunteer



Witherow, John Michael
St. Pius X HS
Ross Cascio Memorial Scholarship – \$2,000
Funded by Cascio Family and UNICO KC
 A Honor Roll - 2021-23; Northland regional Chamber of commerce Youth Leadership Program; football - 4 yrs; Senior Class President



Brian Piccolo

Brian Piccolo was an All-American running back at Wake Forest University and played for the NFL Chicago Bears. He was stricken with cancer at the age of 26. His display of courage and humor in the face of death served as a source of inspiration to other cancer victims. The movie Brian's Song was filmed, and played in theatres and on TV across the country.

Consideration for UNICO's Brian Piccolo Award is based upon exceptional athletic, academic and extracurricular achievements. Candidate must be an exemplary senior student athlete of Italian American descent and display the integrity, courage and competitive spirit of the late Brian Piccolo. Italian American scholar athletes competing at any high school in the metro area are eligible candidates.

2023 Brian Piccolo Award Winner - Victoria Swingle

**2023
GUARDIAN
SOCCER**



Victoria Swingle, a senior at St. Michael the Archangel High School, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National Brian Piccolo Award. Victoria is one of 13 children of her parents Michael and Cynthia. Victoria's athletic accomplishments are remarkable and impressive, but it is not what defines her. Faith, family, and food provide the foundation for her Catholic beliefs and family traditions. Victoria credits her

parents and siblings for such a loving and nurturing home. She witnessed all these traits from her great Nonni and grandpa and learned that all the good things in life emanated from God and that she was put on earth to be an example of caring for others above self, just like Brian Piccolo.

Victoria was a three-sport star. She excelled in soccer, basketball, and tennis. Victoria is a very accomplished soccer. During her sophomore year, Victoria earned All-State First Team and was named Offensive Player of the Year. She was selected All-State Second Team her junior year. Victoria holds the school record for goals scored (37 goals), which she accomplished both her sophomore and junior years. Victoria scored 89 goals in her high school career.

In basketball, Victoria was all-state her junior and senior year as well as team captain the last three years of her career. She earned numerous accolades from the Examiner Newspaper, 4X Grain Valley All Tourney Team, 2023 DiRenna MO-KAN All Star selection, KSHB 41 Hy-Vee Athlete of the Week, only school player to score 1,000+, and numerous other basketball awards. Tennis was another sport she excelled in. She earned a varsity letter in tennis all four years, placed second in the Missouri District Championship, and qualified in doubles for Missouri Sectionals. Victoria appreciates all the wonderful Italian heritage traditions passed down from generation to generation. Her great Nonni was the first in her family to be born in America. Victoria is especially fond of the family Seven Fishes Christmas Eve feast where the whole extended family come together to celebrate our faith and enjoy the many special dishes that come from recipes handed down for generations. Victoria plans to pursue her athletic career with a soccer scholarship at Rockhurst University and study mechanical engineering.



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Vincelli's Deli

by Joseph Vincelli



My Anglo-Saxon friends have always gotten a kick out of my Italian name. Once when we were involved in a very jovial conversation about starting a new business, we came up with the name Vincelli's Deli for a small restaurant where I could also play jazz in the evenings for the patrons. It wasn't long before we shared this idea with a retired successful businessman friend. He reminded us of how much work a little restaurant can become. He plainly stated that, "the most fun you'll ever have is talking about it!"

Owning small businesses of my own, I know exactly what he was saying. So, time rolls on and every once in a while, we allow the idea to creep up in conversation, but one of us quickly extinguishes the idea before we get too serious. Nonetheless, here are some of those recipes:

The Definitive Meatball Recipe

I know, I know, everyone's mother or grandmother has the best meatball recipe in the whole universe, including the civilizations that existed before the Pompeian's....but this one is different! Why? It's Nanny's recipe or at least a close depiction of it.

Quite honestly, her recipe is probably more unique now than it was when she was alive which was during the depression. Simply stated, people were poor back then. Meat was expensive. How else are you going to feed a large family of Italian farmers and factory workers? Add lots of bread crumbs and garlic to the mixture and make it *strrrrrreeeeetch*. But boy, does it taste good.

Specifically, this recipe is a variation of my nanny's extra garlic and bread crumbs and my mom's omission of onions and sugar (which some people add) and my addition of red pepper for a little extra punch.

Ingredients:

- 6 or 7 garlic cloves (finely minced)
- 2 or 3 cups Italian flavored bread crumbs
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 bunch Italian parsley (finely chopped)
- 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
- 2 ½ lbs. ground meat (a combination of any of the following meats: *sirloin, chuck, pork, veal, or lamb*. The most common mixture is equal parts of chuck, pork, and veal)
- 4 cups frying oil (canola or safflower)

In a large mixing bowl, with a light touch, fold all of the ingredients together with your hands, keeping them moist with tap water. *(The secret to great tasting meatballs is not mixing it too much. Over mixing makes the meat tough. The concept is similar to mixing biscuit dough. The more it is touched, the tougher the dough will become. Try to mix the meat delicately.)* Pre-heat the oil in a frying pan. When the mixture is ready to roll into meatballs, roll them with your hands, keeping your hands moist with tap water. In order to get the meatballs extra fluffy, roll them just enough so that they hold together. They will feel soft, but firm enough to hold together. Fry the meatballs until they are crispy and golden brown on the outside and cooked through on the inside. This process goes quick so roll the meatballs first before starting the frying process. *(Consequently, this is the other secret to great meatballs: frying them for an extra level of flavor and texture).* You are now ready to eat them plain or add to a sauce. Anyone who has ever tried these meatballs has only given the highest praises. I guarantee success for you!

Fresh Ricotta

This recipe is quite simple. Unfortunately, I had never been introduced to its process. As an Italian from New Jersey, I grew up around many great stores that made this cheese for a fair price. We never thought of making it ourselves. I wish I had made it earlier in my life, so no wasting time now. I must make fresh ricotta.

Ingredients:

- 8 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Line colander with cheesecloth; set in sink. Bring milk and salt to simmer, in a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir lemon juice. Let simmer until curds form, 1 to 2 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, skim out the curds into the cheesecloth-lined colander. Let drain for a minute or so; curds can be a little wet. Transfer to a bowl and keep chilled and covered until ready to eat. It can be made up to 2 days in advance.

Cherries in Brandy

This after dinner treat was often served at the holidays when I was young. Simply, buy fresh cherries during the height of the summer when they are not only beautiful, but much, much cheaper. Add ½ cup of sugar to a 1/5 of your favorite brandy. Combine the mixture into little mason jars. Shake them up every so often (maybe once every two weeks). Within 2-3 months, the brandy will have mellowed adding the taste of cherry juice to its flavor and the cherries will become intoxicated by the brandy. You might try pitting the brandied cherries and adding them over a little vanilla ice cream with a few splashes of the brandy as a dessert.

Padre Pepe

Alright, I shouldn't even mention this one recipe as I don't know all of the ingredients, but the story might give you an idea of its taste. The time I tried this concoction was when I took my parents to Italy.

Vincelli's Deli

by **Joseph Vincelli** (...continued)

My family's first visit to the "homeland" was to find lost relatives, or maybe how they thought of it, for them to find us! When we reached my grandmother's small hometown of Ginosa on the eastern region near Bari, we were with only the best royal treatment possible. I do not say this lightly. I have only met one other person who has found lost family roots where "La Famiglia" treated you with such dignity and respect. After all, they looked to us as the Americani who flew from such far away places to come visit for Sunday dinner. Remember, this was 1998 (when internet was just beginning and Youtube, Facebook, and Google did not exist.) What a Sunday dinner!! Nine courses of food were served; I kid you not, nine courses. All of the food, of course, was made from scratch including the sausage and wine. The only way you could breathe from eating such a healthy meal was to drink this homemade brew they liked to call, Padre Pepe (Father Joe), named after an important holy figure that was part of their community or their family. We never did find out from where he came or his significance.

Nonetheless, it did the trick! The food (you know, the pasta, the sausage, the pastries, etc.) settled immediately and you could almost see yourself finding room for another pastry, or piece of braciola, or anything because it was just too good to leave on the table. This magic potion cleared paths to see again! My extended Italian family swore that we could take this back to America and make a fortune off of its recipe... and yet, we left only to America with a bottle of it and not the recipe itself. We were treated like royalty, but sure as hell weren't going to get the family secret! It's taste was very similar to Jagermeister, sweet and unique, but without the strong alcohol taste or pungency. I believe that because they used probably 20 – 40 herbs boiled down into this infusion of fermented matter, it had some incredible "digestive" qualities to it that allowed the body to enjoy the absorptive experience instead of working so hard at it.

Saluti, Amici e Amiche! I am sorry I can not perform at this year's Festa, but look forward to seeing you in the future.

Ciao, Joseph

Be Grateful for your Italian Grandparents who gave you this Life in America!

by **Tony Felich** (KC Chapter of UNICO)

I am a third generation Sicilian American who never got to meet his grandparents. They died twelve years before I was born. They made it possible for me to have the life I am now living. I suspect my story is similar to many of you reading this. I enjoy a very blessed life in the United States. I live in a suburb of Kansas City, on the Kansas side. My life would be nothing like this if it were not for my grandparents. My grandfather, Cataldo Feliccia was working in the sulfur mines of Sicily in the early 1900's when he heard stories of a promising new life in America. Barely above the poverty line in San Cataldo, Sicily and with World War I approaching, he imagined the potential of something better in the United States. Friends told him there were companies hiring immigrants in America, so he cobbled enough money together to board a rickety freight ship for the US in 1913. After passing through Ellis Island, he followed a job lead to Dunmore, Pennsylvania where he was hired to work in the coal mines. He could not speak or read English, but he was somehow certain a better life was in store, if not for him, for his children. A couple years later, a coworker told him about a sister who was back in Serridifalco, Sicily and my grandfather started writing her letters. She responded and they fell in love, not by phone or text, but through letter writing across an ocean! He made a trip across the Atlantic to Italy a second time to marry my grandmother who was barely eighteen. He was twenty-seven. The year was 1915 and after their wedding they made the trip back to the United States on "The America", an Italian made (1908) steam powered freight ship, once again arriving at Ellis Island. Cataldo and Sarafina took up married life in Scranton, PA for the next twenty years. During their time in Pennsylvania, they had twelve children of whom only nine lived past their teen years. Diphtheria took one child and tuberculosis took another. Still another, Anthony, died of an unknown illness as a baby. My father was actually named after that child. I am named after my father. My son is named after me. Life was so difficult in those days of poverty, disease, and war, especially if you could not read or speak your new country's language. Yet, my grandfather was sure of the prosperity that awaited his progeny, even if he himself would never realize such abundance personally. When the Great Depression broke out in 1929, times became desperately difficult for my grandfather and his large family. The coal mines were busy, but pay was not guaranteed. My father remembers his older brothers trying to get odd jobs to contribute to the family purse, so they could buy coal to burn and food to eat. In the early 1930's word of construction jobs in Buffalo, NY reached their Italian neighborhood in Pennsylvania.

Some of the older brothers made a scouting trip to see if these job rumors were true, and by 1939 the family relocated to Western New York. Shortly thereafter World War II broke out and three of the older brothers got drafted. The youngest of these brothers was killed in Italy during the Anzio assault in 1944.

He was only a couple weeks out of basic training. What an irony! Cataldo and Sarafina immigrated to the United States from Italy, only to give several sons to the U.S. war effort and lose one in their mother land during that war. My Uncle Christopher is buried in the Florence American Cemetery, not too far from where he died. I suspect many Italian Americans experienced the same thing during World War II. Eventually, three more brothers would be drafted with my father seeing heavy combat for the U.S. in 1952 during the Korean War.

My grandmother Sara died at the age of 52 in 1949. My father said she was never the same after Uncle Christopher died in WWII. They say she died of cancer, but she never went to the hospital her whole life and had all twelve of her children at home. My grandfather Cataldo retired from construction work and died at the age of 72 in 1959. You would be hard pressed to argue they had a better life in the U.S. than would have been had in Italy.

However, I do not think my grandparents made the trip across the Atlantic (several times) to improve their lives as such. They did it for grandchildren they would never personally meet. This kind of sacrifice blows me away. The point of my article is not only to recall a bit of personal history that is probably familiar to other Italian Americans reading, but also to call the reader to grateful reflection. If your story is like mine, I am sure you have thought about the kind of courage our grandparents displayed so that we could have the lives we enjoy in America. Think of the hardships our grandparents endured so that we could be well established in this land of plenty.

Although I never had the opportunity meet my grandparents Cataldo and Sarafina, not a week goes by when I do not thank God for what they did for me.

My Story

by **Silverio Pagano**

My father, Ugo Pagano, was born on the island of Ponza, which is part of the Lazio region of Rome. My mother, Esterina Insogna, was born in Jersey City, New Jersey and right after she was born, her family moved to Isernia, Italy in the Molise region where she grew up. She lost her American citizenship and became an Italian citizen. The family left for America after my parents got married and tried to make a go of it in Italy. There was no work available right after the war. Both of my parents had their dreams shattered. My father had a contract ready



to sign to play professional soccer as a goalie for the Italian Team. My mother was given the opportunity to sing professional opera at the Rome Conservatory for free. Both sides of my grandparents told my parents that they were going to be teachers and to not to pursue their dreams because their desired professions were not honorable.

My family left their life in Italy for America in the year 1954. I was born the following year in St. Louis, Mo. We lived on Chestnut Street in Crystal City, a small town south of St Louis with our grandparent and I grew up at that house.

When I was 6 years old my Mama Esterina taught me how to make tagliatelle by hand. I thought it was simply magic! I loved that she taught me and I will never forget it!

At the same time, I started working at my Uncle Tony and Aunt Marie's Pizzeria in Festus, Mo. It was the first pizzeria in the area and very successful.

I started folding pizza boxes for a penny a box. I had to stamp them with the pizzeria logo and then fold them. I used to fold 500 boxes for Saturday night. I graduated to washing dishes when I was 10 years old. I used to wash pots and pans in a one-compartment sink. I stood on a milk crate because I couldn't reach the bottom of the sink!

Finally, I graduated to making pizzas when I was in high school. I loved doing it because I got to throw the pizza dough up in the air and catch it. It was awesome! Once in the summer my Uncle Tony and Aunt Marie went back to Ponza, Italy for two months. They streamlined the menu and had one of the seniority workers open and close the restaurant.

I was too young to get a job anywhere else so my Mama and I decided to bake bread for sale to family and friends. She taught me how to bake the bread. We would get up at 4:30am in the morning and we would bake 30 loaves a day. After a little while started making the bread on my own. I took my Mama's laundry basket, tied it to my bike and filled the basket with bread. My first stop was a famous basketball player who lived close to us, a man who later became Senator and ran for President: Bill Bradley! He would buy 4 loaves at a time! That summer I made \$500.00. I knew then that I wanted to become a chef.

A good friend of mine was attending the Culinary Institute of New York and recommended the school to me. I graduated from CIA and started my journey as kitchen help, moving up until I became a Chef. I started working on my own recipes and perfecting them, for I knew at some point I would write my own cookbook. It took about 8 years gathering recipes. I focused more intently on the process during the last 3 years. My wife Debbie said, "You should write a cookbook." I came up with Home Party Cookbook because it teaches you how to throw your own party at home for family and friends. We needed that after the pandemic to get closer to what matters most: those we love. My cookbook takes you step-by-step on how to create a party and have more time for your family, friends, and guests!!

My Story

by **Silverio Pagano** (...continued)

Home Party Cookbook- It's a way to honor all the gifts of love and time from family in the past and focus on what is most important right now: time and great food with family and friends that creates excellent memories!

I will be at Festa Italiana on Saturday, June 2 at 11:00 AM on stage interviewed by my friend Jasper Mirable. And again at 1:30 PM, on the main stage, I will be demonstrating a favorite dish. Come by, visit, sample, and get a recipe.

Mile Grazie!

Northland Native Participates as Backup Dancer for Rihanna's Super Bowl Halftime Performance

by **Caroline Hogan - KSHB**



The Kansas City Chiefs may have gone home from the Super Bowl with the Lombardi Trophy, but one young woman from North Kansas City took home a memory of a lifetime: performing in Rihanna's halftime show.

"It was such a cool experience to like watch it all come together, even from practicing," said Sofia Cascone, a Staley High School alum.

Olathe company behind installation of NFL Draftlogos, graphics in Kansas City.

Cascone has been dancing since she was 2 years old, and now, at the age of 19, she was one of the youngest in the 200 dancer ensemble. She had the opportunity to audition through her dance team at Arizona State University. "It was, like, 'do I even do it?' Because I didn't know how many were they going to take. What were they looking for? What was their ideal dancer?" she said.

Cascone found out in mid-January she had made the crew and had about two weeks of over 11 hour rehearsal days every night. Add that to being a full-time college student and practicing for her college squad.

"I remember we heard Rihanna was coming and obviously no one wanted to freak out because we wanted to be cool about it," Cascone recalled. "She walked in in her stuff, normal, like we all forget she's a normal person. We were like, 'oh my gosh I can't believe I'm looking at Rihanna right now!'" While Cascone didn't get to meet Rihanna personally, the advice the GRAMMY winning singer gave to her ensemble stuck.

"She was like, 'we're all one team, we're on the same playing field here,'" she said. "[Sometimes] you kinda just, like, zone out and you do like muscle memory, and she was like, 'don't do that. Stop and like look around. Take advantage of this moment.'"

The icing on the cake of the whole thing were the Chiefs playing and then winning. "Being in a Super Bowl stadium that the Chiefs are playing in is already crazy, but I remember the first time I saw all the banners and stuff and the Chiefs everywhere, and I was like 'whoa this is crazy,'" Cascone said. And of all the moments during the show, she'll always remember looking out into the massive crowd while Rihanna was performing "Diamonds." "In a normal year, I'd be glued to the TV watching it and then this year I was in it," she said.

She says the experience is truly something she still can't wrap her head around but will never forget.



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Gone But Not Forgotten Angelo Donze “The Face of the City Market” 1961-2003

by Angelo Donze Jr.



Angelo Donze was an immigrant from Camporeale Sicily and came to the United States in 1960. Like other immigrants he wanted a better life for himself and his family and to live the American dream. He came here with a suitcase and a strong work ethic he developed as a young boy.

Upon arrival he worked different jobs Roma bakery being his first and followed by Lexington plumbing. During this time he started selling produce out of the back of his pick up. In 1961 he began selling at the city market and for the next 42 years he was a fixture at the market. Angelo And his wife Matilda and 4 children owned and operated several other businesses including a grocery store in northeast called Donze's supermarket. Angelo cemented himself in Kansas City and the city market to make his dream come to reality for himself and his family. He was well known in the community as a bigger than life personality and generous kind man. He had a passion for working with the public and loved his customers. He served everyone regardless where they came from, social or economic status. The city market was and still is a melting pot of people and being an immigrant himself he could relate to this. Above all he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Throughout the years Angelo was featured in magazines, articles, books, and the front cover of the yellow pages. Now 14 years after his passing you could find him on one of the murals at the new Kansas City international airport. Once again he will represent the city of Kansas City and the city market for years to come. Angelo Donze left a footprint and legacy that his family is proud of & honored to see memorialized on this mural. The talented artist who painted these murals wanted to make a collective statement. IT-RA. Icons are the artist who painted several murals and benches at the airport and their body of work encompasses different icons, figures, memories, and experiences in the lens of growing up and living in Kansas City.

A Legacy Worth Living

by Lucas Ingala

As I was leaving a networking event on a crisp Friday night in March, I peered across the highway toward the City Market and an image came to my mind. I was standing on the corner of 5th and Walnut seeing the hustle and bustle of the market 100 years ago. My Great-Grandfather, Jasper DeMaria, was wrapping up at his stall after a hard days work. He was wiping his hands off on his apron as he looked over the produce sitting before him, making sure not a single tomato was missing. I can imagine the mantle he felt as he was preparing for tomorrow's deliveries, ensuring the people of this great city were going to be fed by his produce. Going to bed by 6pm to get to the market by midnight in his suit and highly polished shoes, chasing a dream his homeland couldn't give him at the time. Coming to America and making something of yourself takes gusto and if any people group has gusto, it's the Italians. We have grit. We have faith. We have passion. We have enthusiasm. We have resolve. Running through our veins is the blood of overcomers. My Great-Grandfather came to America at the young age of thirteen with nothing but the shirt on his back by himself on a boat from Italy with the hope and dream of a better life. He lived in the North End, met a wife, had children, started a business and set roots down right here in KC. That is the reason I am here. If it were not for my Great-Grandfather DeMaria and my Grandfather Ingala with a similar story our family of 50+ would not be living in the great USA today. The American dream is still alive, don't you see? Both of my Grandfathers are a testament to that. We still living in the greatest country in the world. Yes, it has its issues, but the opportunity is still here for you to take if you just believe! So believe! Credere!

Ciao, Lucas



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Mother Francis Cabrini-One Determined Italian Woman *by Jerry Viviano*



The youngest of thirteen children, Maria Francesca (Frances) Cabrini was born on July 15, 1850 in a small village called S'Ant Angelo Lodigiano near the city of Milan, Italy. She was born three months premature and the youngest of 13 children. Sadly, only three of her siblings survived past adolescence. She grew up enthralled by the stories of missionaries and made up her mind to join a religious order. Because of her frail health, she was not permitted to join the Daughters of the Sacred Heart who had been

her teachers and under whose guidance she obtained her teaching certificate.

However, in 1880, with seven young women, Frances founded the Institute of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was as resourceful as prayerful, finding people who would donate what she needed in money, time, labor and support. She and her sisters wanted to be missionaries in China: she visited Rome to obtain an audience with Pope Leo XIII. The Pope told Frances to go "not to the East, but to the West" to New York rather than to China as she had anticipated. She was to help the thousands of Italian immigrants already in the United States.

In 1889, New York was filled with chaos and poverty, and into this new world stepped Mother Francis Cabrini and her sister companions. Cabrini organized catechism and education classes for the Italian immigrants and provided for the needs of the many orphans. She established schools and orphanages despite tremendous odds. She became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1909.

Filled with a deep trust in God and endowed with wonderful administrative ability and determination, she embarked on requests for her to open schools all over the world. She traveled to Europe, Central and South America and throughout the United States. She made 23 trans Atlantic crossings and established 67 institutions: schools, hospitals, and orphanages, including houses in Buenos Aires, Paris, Madrid, and Rio de Janeiro.

Her activity was relentless until her death. On December 22, 1917, in Chicago, she died. In 1946, she was canonized a saint by Pope Pius XII in recognition of her holiness and service to mankind and was named Patroness of immigrants in 1950. She is the first United States citizen to be canonized. Her feast day is celebrated on November 13.

Today the Missionary Sisters, their lay collaborators and volunteers work as teachers, nurses, social workers, administrators and members of institutional boards of trustees. They can be found on six continents and 17 countries throughout the world-wherever there is a need. This resolute, faith filled Italian nun listened to God's call and changed the world for countless others.



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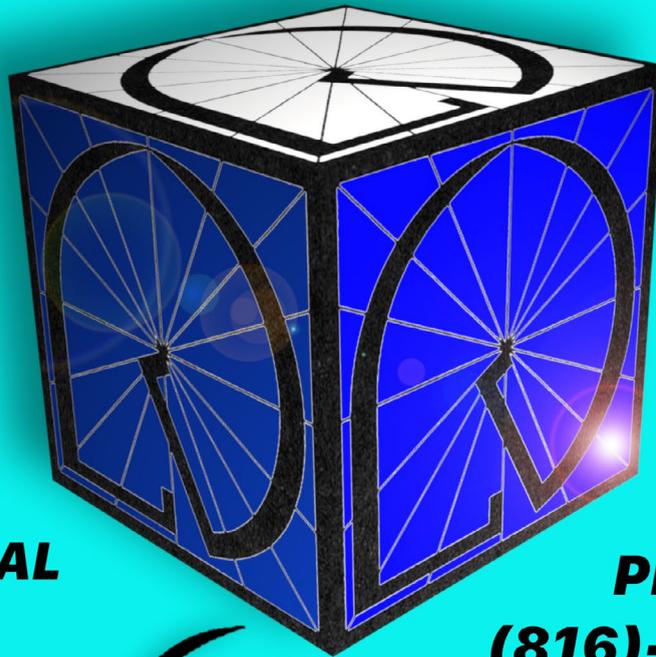
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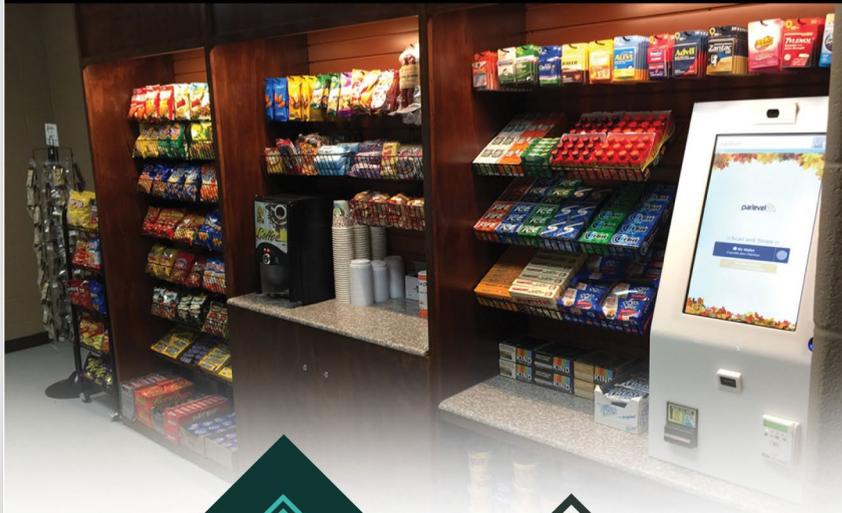
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Fans will have the rare opportunity to see many of them at Motori in Piazza, Kansas City's only all-Italian motorsports show held in connection with Festa Italiana. In its 12th year, the show is organized by the Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National and the Honorary Vice Consulate of Italy in Kansas City.

"The motorsports show is an entertaining and unique way to bring people out to Festa Italiana and to highlight and celebrate our Italian culture," said Gino Serra, Honorary Consul of Italy and one of the organizers of Motori in Piazza. "Italian motorsports marques are famous throughout the world."

Festa Italiana is the main fundraising event for the Kansas City Chapter of UNICO National and all proceeds fund the organization's annual scholarship awards. After enjoying the motorsports show, visitors can enjoy food, drinks and entertainment.

Motori in Piazza is free and will be held on Sunday, June 4, from Noon to 2pm in the heart of Festa Italiana at Zona Rosa. For more information, including information on exhibiting a vehicle, please visit UNICO KC's website (www.unicokc.com) or contact Gino Serra at ginoserra@gmail.com or (816) 522-3554.



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Vehicle exhibitors: Load-in between 11:30am and Noon, from N.W. 87th Ter. (the street in front of Dillard's.) No registration/entrance fee to show vehicles. Space is first come/first serve. Event is rain or shine.

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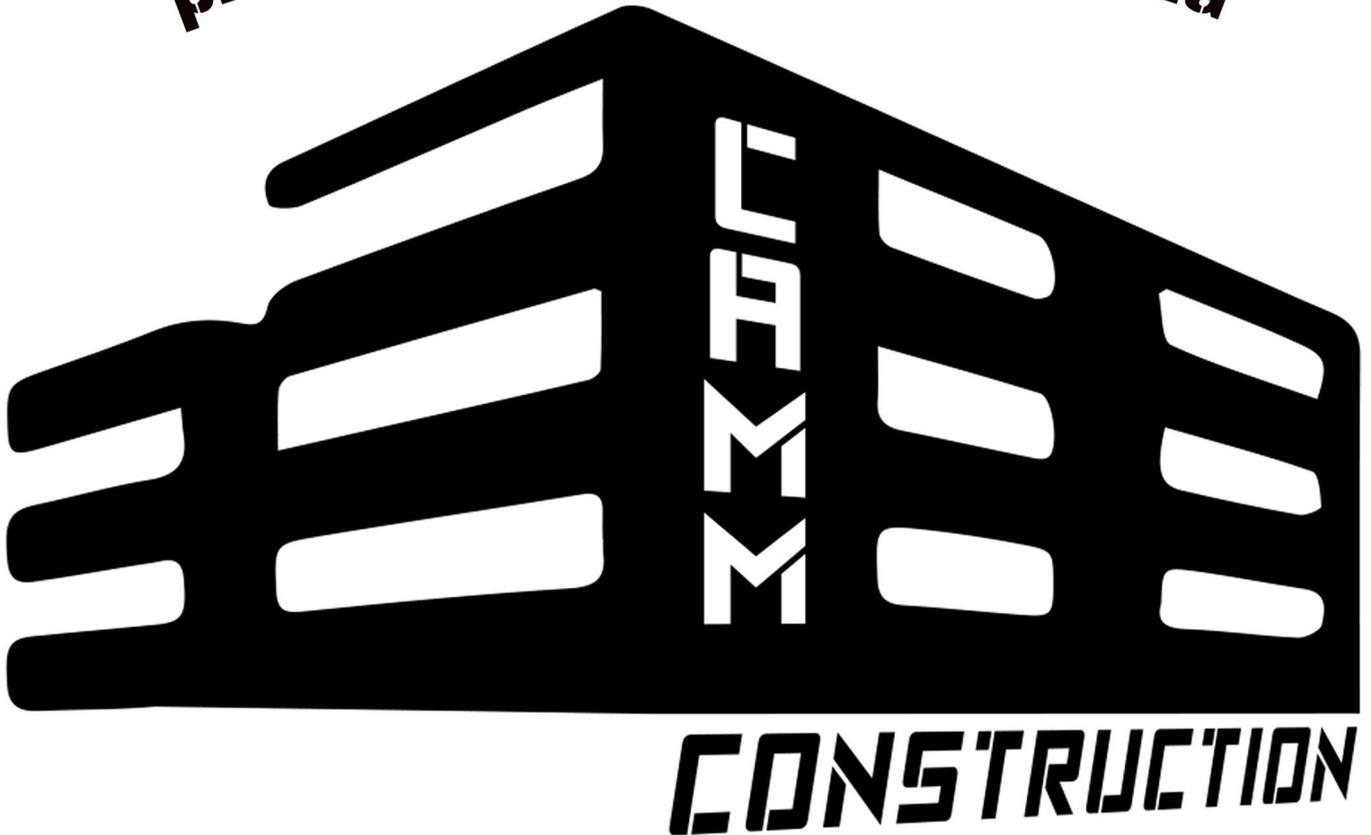
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On Saturday night, enjoy the nation's number one disco experience "Disco Dick and the Mirrorballs". Then get ready for Ilaria Della Bidia, the versatile, full of energy and emotion sensational vocalist from Tuscany, Italy. The evening will conclude with another fabulous show from "The Bronx Wanderers".

On Sunday, join us for our popular Catholic Mass at 10:00 AM, our wonderful Italian motor show during the day, the wildly popular upbeat band "4 Fried Chickens and a Coke", and many more live shows. The festival will close by

UNICO awarding 27 scholarships totaling \$47,000. We are honored that you would spend time with us this weekend!

Grazie,

Jerry Viviano—Entertainment Director

About Jerry

Jerry Viviano is the straw that stirs the drink, orchestrating Festa Italiana and numerous other events to which he contributes his time and talent. Festa 2022 marks his 16th consecutive year choosing, directing and managing the entire entertainment schedule. Jerry himself is a talented showman and singer whose versatile talent compliments whatever role he performs.

Jerry is most proud of his family, faith, Italian heritage, and is a dedicated UNICAN whose on-going commitment to UNICO's motto "Service Above Self" is very well documented. He is the chairman, founder and director of the Viviano Benefit Variety Show. This event has netted over \$2,400,000 for several Kansas City charities since its inception in 1985. Jerry is a retired sales representative for Sysco Food Services of Kansas City.

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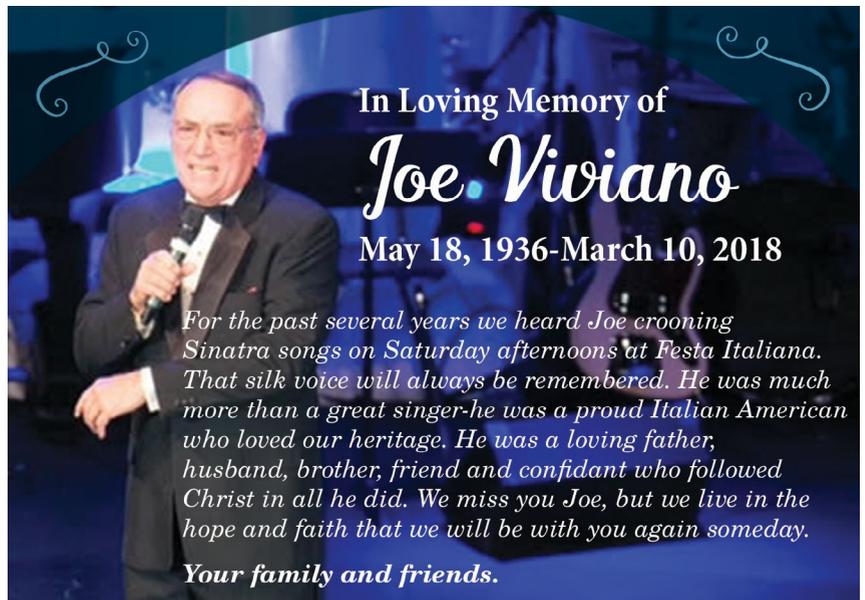
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The Bronx Wanderers

Friday, 9 PM / Saturday 9 PM

The Bronx Wanderers, up close and personal, yet larger than life, take you on a journey of the greatest music of our time. The story is about a family that delivers a passionate heart-pumping mix of Rock N' Roll's great American Songbook from the first generation right through today's current hit-makers. Buckle your seat belts because THE BRONX WANDERERS bring a high octave, toe tapping, dancing in the aisles experience that you **WON'T WANT TO MISS!**



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Sunday 2 PM

KC band that has been around for 22+ years and counting...we are a lively, Rhythm and Blues, Swing, Funk band...with the **BEST FANS EVER!!!**



Ilaria Della Bidia

Saturday 7:00 PM

Italian singer, pianist, song composer and writer.

Italian, born and raised in the wonderful province of Lucca, in the heart of Tuscany; she approaches the music from an early age, showing since the beginning a natural talent for singing and music. She graduated in piano at the Conservatory of Lucca and then, moved to Rome, she attended several important Italian TV and radio shows on the main national channels as guest singer, pianist, performer and writer. As a writer and song composer as well she has been collaborating for several discography projects (Den J Rose, Shock Mama, Duel, Alex Barattini, Gold 'n Chic), movie soundtracks, TV, radio jingles, documentaries and commercials. In 2011 Ilaria met the most beloved tenor Andrea Bocelli and since then she has been performing with Andrea Bocelli as guest pop artist all over the world in tours, festivals and special events.

Ilaria sings and have been recording in Spanish, Russian, Swahili, French, Armenian, Portuguese, Arabic, Jewish as well as English and Italian as a tribute to some of the countries that kindly have hosted her during worldwide tours and journey. In 2020 she released the album "The Music of My Heart" following the success of the music show of the same name presented at "The Cutting Room" in New York City. Ilaria can lay claim to a remarkable series of collaborations with illustrious artists such as Andrea Bocelli, David Foster, John Legend, Lionel Richie, Reba McEntire, Sophia Loren, De Laurentiis, Leona Lewis and many more. In 2016 Ilaria received the USA green card for her artistic skills and career. In only 15 years, she matured an extraordinary success both in Italy and abroad (Europe, USA, Asia, Russia, Africa) putting on more than 2,000 concerts and live shows designed to entertain the audience. Since 2012 she is sponsor of Arpa Foundation and warmly supports the ABF - Andrea Bocelli Foundation, performing as singer and presenter for many events and by taking part of several missions in Italy and abroad.



Disco Dick & The Mirrorballs

Saturday 5 PM

Disco Dick and the Mirrorballs are the Midwest's Premiere Tribute to the Disco Era. The Dick was formed in Kansas City, Missouri in 1998. With nearly 25 years under their belt, Disco Dick & the Mirrorballs have gained quite a reputation for their one of a kind show. Playing the greatest hits from KC and the Sunshine Band, Kool and the Gang, the Commodores, Earth, Wind & Fire, Michael Jackson and many more, the group has certainly established themselves as a premiere disco act. However, Disco Dick's roots are also very evident, raised on Rock & Roll, the guys have gained notoriety from also including groups like Van Halen, Bon Jovi, Poison, Def Leppard and many more within their sets.

Viviano Brothers

Saturday 2:00 PM

Jerry is a proud active member of UNICO Kansas City Chapter and the entertainment director of Festa Italiana for the 16th year. He is also the chairman, founder and director of the Viviano Benefit Variety Show. The event has netted over \$2,400,000 for several Kansas City charities since its inception in 1985.

Frank the youngest of the Viviano brothers, performs at clubs, hotels, festivals and private parties in St. Louis. He has written and recorded four original songs that have been played on major radio stations. Frank has performed with members of the Jimmy Buffet band, Sheryl Crow, and was an opening act for Chuck Berry. He has also produced and performed in a TV commercial for Popeye's Restaurants.



Tony and his band have performed at the most prestigious hotels, country clubs, restaurants and night clubs in St. Louis, Las Vegas, Chicago, Kansas City, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and at numerous Italian Festivals around the country. He has performed with such greats as Tony Orlando, Carol Channing, and Tony Bennett.

Rose Rose's greatest performances and influences have been offstage. She is the biggest cheerleader of the Viviano brothers and is always supportive of the family and our heritage in all she does. She was the caretaker of Mama Viviano in her last years and continues to give to her family and friends. Rose, a widow, is the mother of 3 daughters, Antonena, Sharon, and Julie, a grandmother of 11, and a great grandmother of 5.



Flashback

Friday 6:30 PM

We're Flashback, a Kansas City based group that is bringing crowds together for fun and dance with great music. Our songs are easily recognized as the most enjoyed classics, as well as contemporaries in Rock, R&B and downright Funk genres. No boundaries- just good soul moving, butt-shaking fun! You can enjoy our following the most fun-loving and beautiful crowd in town! Flashback is a collaboration of hometown KC boys that sprouted from a summer '07 party jam and developed into a hard-working, fun-breeding rhythmic cornucopia suitable for any event. We party through our music, come party with us!



Maria Gabriella Milazzo

Sunday 11:30 AM

Soprano, is currently the Director of Music and Liturgy & Music teacher at Nativity of Mary Church & School in Independence, MO. Maria graduated with her M.M. in Vocal Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in May of 2018 studying under the vocal direction of Maria Kanyova. She graduated from Westminster Choir College with her B.M. in Vocal Performance in 2014. Maria has most recently worked on the roles of La Princesse in Ravel's L'enfant et les sortilèges, Unulfo in Handel's Rodelinda and Lauretta in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi with UMKC Opera. Other credits include featured soloist in Brahms' Liebeslieder Walzer and the chorus of Les Contes d'Hoffman at Westminster Choir College, First Cretan Woman in Idomeneo with Princeton Opera Alliance, and the choruses of La Boheme and Don Giovanni with Eastern Opera of New Jersey. Maria has developed a love for teaching and music within the liturgy and hopes to continue bringing music to the Kansas City community and Diocese in many forms for years to come! As always, she would like to thank her parents and sister for their constant love and support. She wouldn't be where she is today without them! Maria will perform Italian classics and favorites at noon on Sunday.



Frank Favoroso

Saturday 3 PM

Frank Favoroso is a returning performer of the Festa. He will be singing a variety of music ranging from country, rock and roll and top 40 hits from the day.



The Gumbas

Saturday 12:30 PM & Sunday 12 PM

The Gumbas began singing together in 2004. Originally organized because they love Italian music, they wanted to perpetuate the singing of their favorite Italian folk songs and love songs. They have performed at Italian Festivals in Lawrence Kansas, Des Moines Iowa, and Kansas City Missouri, as well as numerous private events. "We love to sing, you'll love to listen" For bookings contact Frank Ancona 816-547-7860 or e-mail to serentiyact@sbcglobal.net



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Frank Cherrito

Friday 5:30 PM



A native of Kansas City, Frank Cherrito's singing career began over 35 years ago at a restaurant on Admiral and Grand. Soon Frank found he was booking gigs around the metro area and beyond. He has become a featured entertainer at numerous clubs, restaurants, hotels and various other events.

Michael Donze

Saturday 4:00 PM

My father Paul Donze was born in Camporeale, Sicily and immigrated to Kansas City with his mother and siblings in 1960. I was born in Kansas City and spent my early childhood in Northeast Kansas City before moving with my parents to Independence, MO. I attended St. Mary's High School and Rockhurst University, later following my passion for cooking by working my way through the ranks and attaining the rank of Executive Sous Chef at The Country Club of Blue Springs, then later became the Executive Chef for Lakewood Oaks Golf Club, as well as two other establishments. I left the culinary field to pursue a new career in the financial services industry. Currently I am an entrepreneur, Property Manager and Elvis Tribute Artist. In August of 2019 I started singing Karaoke and was repeatedly told I sounded like Elvis without really trying. I then started singing Elvis' songs and with the encouragement and support of my girlfriend Dee, I started to perform



then started singing Elvis' songs and with the encouragement and support of my girlfriend Dee, I started to perform Elvis Presley music in my own tribute shows in retirement communities, for special events, and at a local bar. This is my second time performing at the Festa Italiana.



AnnaMarie Cardello

Saturday 3:30 PM

a 23 year old Italian American from Lee's Summit, MO. She is a graduate of Northwest Missouri State University and Phi Mu Fraternity Alumni with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She has a passion for singing and has since she was four years old and has never stopped! AnnaMarie was in choir and orchestra in all of her years of elementary school and high school competing in state and district competitions. Although she played the violin for 9 years, her favorite instrument to play is the ukulele! She is the oldest and has four brothers who keep her busy, but she adores very much. AnnaMarie's goal is to become a kindergarten teacher in a Kansas City area school district in Fall of 2022! She will be performing contemporary pop numbers on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 PM.

Jasper Mirable

Saturday 11 AM



Famed Kansas City Restaurateur and Chef, Jasper Mirable, will be doing on stage interviews Saturday at 11:00 AM. Jasper's Restaurant has been rated as one of the premier Italian restaurants in the Midwest for nearly 60 years. Jasper's is located between State Line and Wornall on 103rd Street in South Kansas City. Adjacent to Jasper's is their Marco Polo's Italian Market. This is an ideal place for a quick lunch, for fresh salads, made-to-order sandwiches, homemade dressings, and so much more.

Chris Canzoneri

Sunday 11 AM

is the executive chef for Garozzo's Italian restaurants. He is honored once again this year to cook up a favorite receipt for all to enjoy.



Chef Silverio Pagano

Saturday 1:30 PM



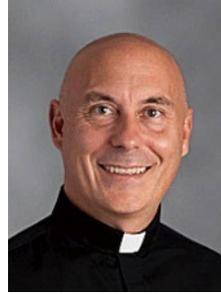
Silverio Pagano is a graduate of The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. He began his career in the Hospitality industry over 30 years ago and has been an Executive Chef for 26 years. He has worked in New York, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas; and served 10 years with Marriott Education Division as Executive Chef. He also was Executive Chef for Dining Services at JCCC.

Chef Silverio has had the pleasure of cooking for stars and VIPs including Charlie Pride, Harry Carey, Bob Costas, Richard Karns from "Home Improvement"/ "Family Feud," Grammy Award winner Country Music stars Lee Ann Womack and Sara Evans, Carl Sagan, Astronaut John Glen, and President George Bush Sr. Locally, he has taught cooking and grilling classes for William Sonoma, Kansas City, The Kansas City Culinary Center, Smoke n' Fire, The Bisceglia Italian Cultural Center, and Lukas Liquor's "The Wine Bar".

Silverio is known as the "Singing Italian Chef" in Kansas City! He has finished his first cook book called, "Home Party Cookbook" and it will be available in Amazon-Kindle on July, 2022. Silverio is also a member of, "American Opera Studio," under the direction of Dr. Hall the owner and Maestro!

Catholic Mass

Sunday 10 AM



All are welcome to attend. Some of the Festa entertainers will sing during the Mass. Celebrating the Mass will be Father Vincent M. Rogers, UNICO KC's chaplain. Father Rogers was born and raised in the Chicago area. He studied for the Priesthood at North American College in Rome. Father Vincent is presently the Pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Gladstone, MO.



Miller Marley Entertainers

Friday 5 PM

Miller Marley's faculty is made up of dedicated professionals, each of whom is a specialist in his/her field. Many of our instructors are among the most sought after choreographers by professional and community theater companies in the city.

Our eight Performance Groups, comprised of selected students from 6 years through high school, are well known by Kansas City audiences for their Broadway-style musical revues. These, along with the Miller Marley Youth Ballet Companies and the Competition Teams, pave the way toward developing students as well-rounded and Miller Marley's reputation for turning out talent is reflected in its illustrious alumni of which over 60 have gone on to successful stage and film careers. It is not unusual to see Miller Marley credited in a Broadway Playbill as the school that most contributed to a performer's achievement.

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Katherine Viviano

Saturday 2:30 PM



Katherine is thrilled to be returning to Kansas City for Festa Italiana. After graduating from Millikin University with a BFA in Musical Theatre in 2018, she moved to her new home of Chicago, IL. There, she kicked off her performance career in Paramount Theatre's *Beauty and the Beast* as a member of the ensemble

and the understudy for *Madame de la Grande Bouche*. Her list of credits include "Cinderella" at the paramount Theatre, "Women of Soul" at the Mercury Theatre and she had had numerous performances in summers at the Rocky Mountain Theatre in Grand Lake, Co. Katherine, the daughter of festival entertainment director Jerry Viviano, extends her deepest gratitude to each of you for attending the showcase of our Italian heritage. She will be performing at 2:30 PM on Saturday and will make a guest cameo appearance on Saturday night with the Bronx Wanderers!

Elizabeth Tabor

Sunday 1 PM

Elizabeth (Vigliaturo) Tabor is a 10-year-old who has studied dance for five years at the Dance Arts Center in St. Joseph, MO. She has performed in Dance Arts Center recitals at the Missouri Theatre. She loves to dance and especially enjoys learning Ballet and Jazz. Elizabeth is the great-granddaughter of longtime Unico member and past President, Joseph D. Vigliaturo.



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Guiliana Cuccia

Sunday 1:15 pm



Guiliana is 8 years old, the oldest of 3 children, and the only daughter! She attends Northview Elementary and is in the second grade. Guiliana is in her second year of the MelRoes Competition/Hip Hop Dance team! Dancing is what she was born to do! When she isn't dancing, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, doing hair and make up, and being the best big sister. Guiliana wants to be a hair dresser and have her own salon like her aunt when she grows up!

Cascone Sisters

Saturday 1:00 pm

Sisters Sofia and Isabella Cascone, ages 19 and 18, have been dancing and performing on stage since the age of



two. Sofia just completed her freshman year at Arizona State University where she is a member of the dance team. Isabella trains at Priscilla and Dana's School of Dance in Kansas City, Missouri, and performs in regional and national competitions with jazz and modern solo acts, and in group jazz, tap, lyrical, ballet, contemporary and modern routines. The girls' performances have earned them many prestigious awards and accolades over the years. Locally, they have performed at various charitable and cultural events, including MyArts KC, Fox 4 Love Fund for Children, Cabela's, Miss Kansas City Pageant, KC Classic exhibition and of course the Kansas City Festa Italiana. This is their 15th year performing at the Festa!

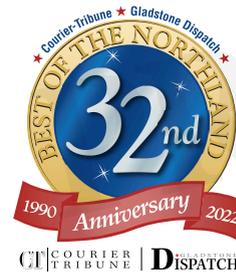
Sofia and Isabella are second generation Italian-American. They enjoy dancing for trophies and titles, but their greatest reward is giving back, and they are honored to do so by performing on stage as proud representatives of their nationality.

Please join the Cascone sisters on Saturday, June 3th at 1:00pm as they take the stage at this year's Festa Italiana.

MelRoe's School of Dance

Sunday 1:30 pm

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2022

MelRoe's School of Dance started in 1997 and is going on their 26th year of being in business. Rosemary Glorioso and Melanie Egbert are the Co-Owners of MelRoe's School of Dance located in Liberty, MO and both hold B.A. degrees in education. MelRoe's offers a variety of classes such as tap, jazz, ballet, hip hop, tumbling, leaps and turns, contemporary, modern, pointe, tiny tots, tumble tykes, adult tap, and more! We are currently taking enrollment for our Summer camps and Intensives and offer recreational and competitive classes. If you would like more information about our studio please call us at 816-781-6989 or visit our website at www.melroesdance.net. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Youtube. If you would like to try a class for FREE mention that you heard about us at the Italian Festival and you will also receive \$10.00 off your registration fee and a free dance bag or T-shirt! We would love for you to become a part of our dance family. Call us today!!!

Dan Carney

He's done voice-over work for local radio and TV for the past 15 years. Dan has loved theater work since his college days at Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Calif. He is currently the Director of Safety and Security for the Blue Valley School District. He and his wife, Allison, have three sons - Stephen, Brendan and Jordan. Dan will be doing introductions and keeping the acts moving along.



SUMMER



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Thursdays
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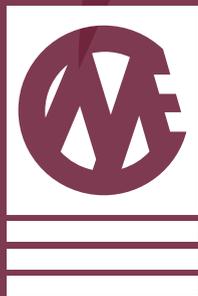
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Festa Italiana 2023 Event Schedule

JUNE 2nd 3rd and 4th

U.N.I.C.O. Wine Tasting Tent.
On the West side of the Festival Grounds.

Italian Motor Show. Sunday, June 4th. 12 noon – 2 p.m.

FRIDAY

- 5:00 PM** **Miller Marley Entertainers.** *Overland Park's premiere dance troupe.*
- 5:30 PM** **Frank Cherrito** *KC's smooth Italian crooner*
- 6:30 PM** **Flashback.** *Classic rock, R&B and funk band.*
- 8:30 PM** **UNICO's Meatball Eating Contest.** *Very entertaining!*
- 9:00 PM** **The Bronx Wanderers.** *One family, one dream, one amazing rockin' show!*

SATURDAY

- 11:00 AM** **Live with Jasper Mirable.** *Celebrity Italian chef hosts hour show with guests.*
- 12:00 PM** **U.N.I.C.O.'s Cannoli Eating Contest.** *Hosted by Jasper Mirable.*
- 12:30 PM** **The Gumba's.** *A musical journey through Italy.*
- 1:00 PM** **The Cascone Sisters.** *Sofia & Isabella Cascone – returning for their 15th year of dancing excellence!*
Special Appearance – Watch for The Strolling Gumbas from 1–2 p.m. on the Festival Grounds
- 1:30 PM** **Chef Silverio Pagano.** *KC's singing Italian chef's secret recipe.*
- 2:00 PM** **The Viviano Brothers.** *Singing Italian favorites.*
- 2:30 PM** **Katherine Viviano.** *Chicago Musical Star!*
- 3:00 PM** **Frank Favoroso.** *Classic Rock and Country.*
- 3:30 PM** **Anna Marie Cardello.** *Contemporary Pop Artist.*
- 4:00 PM** **Michael Donze.** *The Italian Elvis Tribute.*
- 5:00 PM** **Disco Dick and The Mirrorballs.** *The nation's number one disco experience.*
- 7:00 PM** **Iliara Della Bidia.** *Sincere artist, versatile, full of energy and emotion from Tuscany Italy.*
- 9:00 PM** **The Bronx Wanderers Return.**

SUNDAY

- 10:00 AM** **Catholic Mass.** *Presiding celebrant Fr. Vincent Rogers.*
- 11:00 AM** **Chef Chris Canzoneri.** *Secret recipe from Garozzo's head chef.*
- 11:30 AM** **Maria Milazzo.** *Singing Italian arias and classics.*
- 12:00 PM** **The Gumbas.** *A musical journey through Italy.*
- 12:00 PM** **Italian Motorsports Show.**
- 1:00 PM** **Elizabeth Vigiatiuro Tabor.** *Festa's young dancer returns in 2023.*
- 1:15 PM** **Guilana Cuccia.** *Festa's youngest dancer.*
- 1:30 PM** **Melrose's School of Dance.** *Liberty's Showcase Dancers.*
- 2:00 PM** **Four Fried Chickens and a Coke.** *Upbeat, fun rock band since 1997.*
- 4:00 PM** **Recognition of U.N.I.C.O. Scholarship Winners.**

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Festa Italiana Kansas City

2023 Map

Dillard's Plaza



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Entrance

Motori in Piazza
Sunday 12 pm - 2 pm

Dixson Avenue

Beer Garden

STAGE

Old Time Photos

Garozzo's

Little Italy

Wine Tasting

VIP Tables

Shade Tent
Shade Tent

Memory Lane

Evola's

Johnnys Italian Steakhouse

Cheese the Bar

North Park

Scola's

Brew Pub Pizza

Cigars

Twin Lakes

Crazy Cute

Hootchie

Cootchie BBQ

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