



La Notizia Italiana



POINTers in Person: Lou Costello Chapter #15

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Italian-American
Service Organization**

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Ancient House in Pompeii Collapses

Sat Nov 6, 7:56 pm ET
AdChoices



AP- Workers among debris in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, Italy:
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010

ROME – A 2,000-year-old house in the ancient Roman city of Pompeii, which was once used by gladiators to train before combat, collapsed Saturday, officials said.

The site was closed at the time and nobody was injured, but the collapse underscored a controversy over the poor state of Pompeii, one of Italy's main tourist attractions.

The office of Pompeii's archaeological superintendent said the collapse occurred Saturday at around 6 a.m. (0500 GMT). Attendants opening the site saw the collapse about an hour later.

The house, called by the Latin name "Schola Armaturarum Juventis Pompeiani," was closed to the public, and could only be seen from the outside, and it was not considered at risk of collapse, officials said. (cont' on p. 2)

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Situated on Pompeii's main street, the site was quickly cordoned off. Antonio Varone, director of Pompeii's excavations, told the ANSA news agency that officials were trying to "preserve up to the last fragment of the 'Schola Armarum.'"

There was no official word on possible causes. News reports said water infiltration following heavy rains in the past days might be the cause.

The 430-square-foot (40-square-meter) space was used by gladiators to train before going to fight in a nearby amphitheater, as well as by other athletes. It was also a storehouse for weapons and armor.

Pompeii was destroyed in A.D. 79 by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius that killed thousands of people and buried the city in 20 feet (six meters) of volcanic ash. But the ash also helped preserve Pompeii's treasures, providing precious information about what life was like in the ancient world.

The gladiators' house was believed to have been built near the end of Pompeii's life. It was partially destroyed during World War II, and the roof and some of the walls had been rebuilt.

The Culture Minister, Sandro Bondi, said some frescoes on the lower walls may have been preserved.

Italy has long grappled with its vast cultural and archaeological heritage, amid chronic shortage of funds, negligence and vandalism. Officials have had difficulty preserving Pompeii, which is visited by over 2 million people every year.

Only last month, Italy's most influential paper, *Corriere della Sera*, ran an editorial headlined "The humiliation of Pompeii" in which it said the cement works were damaging the ruins and that the last commissioner had ended his mandate in June.

Bondi called for greater funds for Pompeii, while the opposition was quick to blame the government.



Italy: More Building Collapses at Pompeii Possible

Sun Nov 7, 2:53 pm ET

AP Associated Press

ROME – More buildings inside the ancient Roman city of Pompeii could collapse, Italy's culture minister said Sunday, a day after a 2,000-year-old house once used by gladiators disintegrated into rubble.

The collapse Saturday at one of Italy's main tourist attractions was a source of embarrassment for the government and the country. President Giorgio Napolitano said it was a "disgrace for Italy" and demanded an explanation.

Culture Minister Sandro Bondi, who went to Pompeii to survey the damage on Sunday, warned that other buildings could also fall, according to Italian news agencies.

Given the number of buildings that need restoration, further damage is virtually "inevitable," said Daniela Leone, a spokeswoman for Pompeii's archaeological superintendence.

"This is a vast area that requires maintenance, resources," she said. The house that collapsed on Saturday was used by gladiators to train before going to fight in a nearby amphitheater, as well as by other athletes. It was also a storehouse for weapons and armor.

It was believed to have been built not long before Pompeii was destroyed in A.D. 79 by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which killed thousands of people and buried the city in 20 feet (six meters) of volcanic ash.



UNICO was founded on October 10, 1922 in Waterbury, Connecticut. A group of 15 men, led by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola, came together to create what has become a very special and very proud organization. It was Dr. Vastola's dream to create an Italian American service organization to engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds.

In World War I, the Italian American community represented only four percent of the entire United States population. Although 12 percent of all Americans casualties during this conflict were Italian-American, the loyalty of Italian Americans was questioned. The Sacco-Ventzetti trial was fueled by prevailing sentiment that Italian Americans remained loyal to their former homeland. Our founders wanted to insure that everyone understood that Italian Americans loved their adopted country and held no allegiance to their native land save traditions and culture.

The name UNICO was selected as best representing the nature and the character of this fledgling organization. The name is the Italian word for unique, one of a kind. The founders believed that UNICO would be the only one of its kind because it placed service to the community before and above fraternity. At the same time they hoped that the rest of society would come to know and understand the real contributions of Italian-Americans to our way of life. Its sole purpose was to unite all Italian Americans and motivate them to become more civic minded. In order to accomplish this, members would have to understand that they would have to make sacrifices, not for personal gain, but for service to others. In the ensuing years UNICO became an acronym that stood for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, and Opportunity.

UNICO and the National Civic League Merge

Immediately following World War II, interest was created in merging two disparate groups who held a common idea and common vision; the creation of a truly National Italian American organization with chapters from Massachusetts to Oregon. This second group was known as the National Civic League, with a very strong presence in the Midwest.

Antonio R. Rizzuto was the founder and driving force behind the creation of the National Civic League. On May 27, 1931, Rizzuto called a meeting of prominent Americans of Italian heritage in his native city of Omaha. The purpose of this gathering was to discuss the need to organize Italian-Americans into a national body or group. The underlying theme or purpose for this group would be to promote service to the community. The ultimate goal was to make all of its members better American citizens.

A Promise that Continues to be Delivered

Since the inception of UNICO National in 1947, thousands of people and individual charities have been the recipients of UNICO's charity. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised for national and international disasters. Typical of this generosity was the gift of \$500,000 to create 10 buildings in Italy to house those suffering from the ravages of an earthquake. UNICO's latest disaster relief effort was raising \$30,000 for victims of the September 11th Twin Towers attack.

Each year, UNICO Foundation and UNICO National Chapters donate approximately \$1 million to various charities. Scholarships continue to be the primary focus, as roughly one-third of all monies raised goes to deserving students from chapter locations throughout the chain.

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UNICO National has funded major research in Cooley's Anemia and Mental Health. Through its association with the Jimmy Valvano Foundation it has funded several \$50,000 grants to help find a cure for Cancer. These worthy areas continue to receive generous support from the chapters and its members for these worthy causes.

UNICO National has taken a lead position in combating the negative stereotype of Italian Americans, in the electronic and the print media. The Anti-Bias committee is recognized as one of the leaders in this important battle. Through its efforts UNICO has become recognized as a true leader in this important battle.

It is in higher education that UNICO National has established itself as a true leader of the Italian-American community. In 1986 the UNICO Districts and Chapters were asked to support the creation of the first Endowed Chair in Modern Italian History, in the United States, at the University of Connecticut. After an arduous campaign this small group was responsible for raising over \$250,000 toward the \$1 million objective. The campaign was completed in 1992 and Professor John Davis was appointed to be the first Noether Chair in Modern Italian History.

On March 10, 1993, the Chancellor of Seton Hall, Father Edward Peterson, asked UNICO National to partner with the University to create a Chair in Italian Studies. This \$1 million campaign was completed five years later and Professor William Connell became the first La Motta Chair in Italian Studies. As a result, in the enthusiastic response by the New Jersey membership and community, a separate endowment was created to provide an Italian Library Collection. The Valente Collection represents one of the richest of its kind in the United States and supports the activities of the La Motta Chair.

At the 1994 National Convention, a third \$1 million Chair campaign was launched. This one represented a partnership with California State

University - Long Beach. In 1999, Professor Carlos Chiarenza was appointed as the first Graziadio Chair in Italian Studies.

Concurrent with the Graziadio Chair campaign was yet another unique endeavor. It was a creation of a committee to raise \$300,000 to fully endow a Fellowship in Italian-American History. The first DeDominicis Fellowship was conferred on Annette Pontilo in 1998 who is currently conducting research on her doctoral thesis.

The trend continued in 1998 when a group led by the Brookhaven, New York Chapter started the campaign to create a Chair in Italian Studies at SUNY - Stony Brook. This \$1.5 million campaign is in its final stages.

In January 2001 a campaign for a Chair in Italian Studies was formally launched at Montclair State University in New Jersey. This effort has met with a great deal of interest and support from the UNICO Foundation and in New Jersey Chapters. This campaign is progressing well and is anticipated to be successfully completed.

All of these charitable efforts have more than met the objectives of our founder Dr. Vastola and the vision of Antonio Rizzuto. UNICO continues to provide the scholarships and the scholars to elevate the awareness of the real Italian and Italian-American contribution to our way of life. It also continues to lead in the battle against discrimination.

UNICO membership is available to anyone of Italian Ancestry. Contact UNICO at:



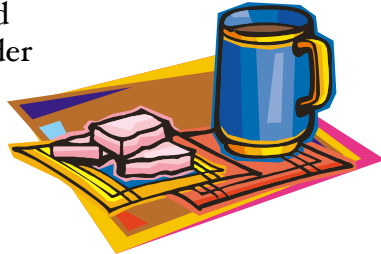
Fairfield Commons
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Phone: (973) 808-0035 Fax: (973) 808-0043
<http://www.unico.org/>

Favorite POINT Member Recipes

Butterscotch Brownies

Ingredients

1/4 cup butter
 1 cup brown sugar
 1/2 cup flour, sifted
 1 tsp. baking powder
 1/4 tsp. salt
 1 egg, beaten
 1 tsp. vanilla
 nuts, chopped



Method

Melt the butter.
 Stir in the brown sugar until it is dissolved.
 Cool a little.
 Sift the flour with the baking powder and salt.
 Stir the egg, vanilla and flour into the butter/sugar mixture.
 Add the chopped nuts.
 Pour batter into a greased & floured 8" pan.

Bake at 350 for about 28 minutes.
 Cut while still warm.

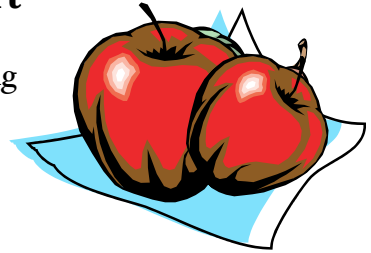
(12 servings)



Easy Dessert

Ingredients

2 cans pie filling
 1 cake mix
 1 stick butter
 nuts, chopped
 extra fruit



Method

Spread pie filling in a 13" x 9" pan.
 Pour dry cake mix over the pie filling.
 Swirl with a knife until cake mix is just moistened.
 Sprinkle with nuts.
 Dot with butter.
 Bake at 350 for 50 to 60 minutes.

Possible combinations:

Spice cake, apples and walnuts
 Yellow cake, peaches and pecans
 White cake, cherries and almonds

Note: I usually add a little more fruit, either fresh or a small can.

(18 servings)

Thanks to POINT member Maryanne Graham for sharing her delicious recipes!

For more POINT member recipes, go to:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/-njpoint/recipes.html>



ROOTS IN THE BOOT ITALIAN GENEALOGY SEMINAR

JUNE 18, 2011

9 AM to 4 PM

Carnegie Lecture Hall

Behind the main entrance of the Oakland Library

Pittsburgh, PA



Ruth Merriman of the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah will present four lectures related to Italian Research.

Sponsored by POINT Chapter 20

If you would like to be on the mailing list for further information and for a registration form:

rootsintheboot@yahoo.com



POINTers in Person

The POINTers In Person program, an autonomous branch of **POINT - (Pursuing Our Italian Names Together)** was founded in 1992. Our group, Chapter 15, was organized in September 1996. The 21 nationwide chapters of POINTers In Person provide genealogical researchers an opportunity to meet socially, and learn and share information pertinent to Italian research. Each chapter is independent and sets forth its own procedures and schedules of events.

We cordially invite Italian genealogical researchers to attend our quarterly meetings. Membership is open to all. In addition to regular meetings our group takes occasional field trips to genealogical research sites in the New Jersey/New York area.

Membership in our parent organization, POINT, is not a prerequisite to joining our group; however, it is highly recommended.

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 Chapter 15
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OFFICERS

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Your letters and comments are welcomed.
 We reserve the right to edit submitted materials.

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E-mail: LaNotiziar@aol.com
 Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~njpoint/>

Calendar

POINT Chapter 15 Future Meetings:
 Elmwood Park Municipal Building, 10 AM

Future Meetings:

May 7, 2011: *Navigating Key Genealogy Websites*
 Presenter: Tony Lauriano
 August 6, 2011: To be announced
 Nov. 5, 2011: *Ellis Island: Passage to All Things Possible*
 Presenter: Mark Simmons

Passaic County Genealogical Society: **February 12**

10 a.m. at Lambert Castle:
 Genealogy Club Meeting:
 Richard Townsend: "*More Pompton Families*"

March 12

10 AM at Lambert Castle
To be announced

April 9

10 AM at Lambert Castle
 Beverly Yackel: "*Genealogy Myths*"

Passaic County Historical Society: **March 2**

7 PM. at Lambert Castle:
 Society Quarterly Meeting:
To be announced

Lambert Castle Events:

January 17-March 30
 "Return of a King" Exhibit

April 14-17

Victorian Tea at Lambert Castle
(RSVP required)

**For more information on PCHS
 & Lambert Castle Events:**
 973- 247-0085 ext 200
www.lambertcastle.org

Genealogy Society of Bergen County: 7PM, Ridgewood Library

February 22

Video Presentation:
 "The Extraordinary Journey - The Eastern Europeans of
 Northeastern Pennsylvania"