



Trentini Tirolesi del Minnesota Stella del Nord

March 2023

Dear Trentini and Friends,

It is with great sadness that we share with you the loss of two of our active members, Sharon Kearney and Rudy Zattoni. Both have given their time, talent, and friendship to the Trentini club, as well as many civic organizations in their communities. Family and heritage were very important to both of them and we enjoyed many trips to conventions and Italy with them. They will be greatly missed and we all extend our sympathy to their families.

Announcements:

Our annual Vince Gentilini Polenta feed, which was started in the 1990's, will once again take place on Sunday, April 23rd at the Buhl Senior Center. In honor of Sharon Kearney, who has always made the sugo and managed the kitchen crew, her husband, Bob Kearney, and daughter, Stef Carlson, will be taking her place. The event will commence with the social starting at 12 p.m. followed by the polenta meal served at 1. There is no cost for Trentini club members who have paid their dues and the cost for a Trentini member's guest is \$6 per person. If you plan on attending, make a reservation by calling Linda at 218-929-1697 by April 17.

***Event dates for 2023:**

Picnic: July 29th, 2023 at Tonn's cabin on Dewey Lake

September meeting and Antipasto processing will be September 14th & 15th, 2023 at the First Lutheran Church in Hibbing

Christmas Party: Valentini's on December 2nd, 2023

Scholarship news:

Scholarship applications are open and due by April 1st, 2023

ITTONA club news:

ITTONA has announced that the next convention will be held in Pinzolo, Italy on September 6-8, 2024. We will forward information when we receive it.

Christmas Party 2022:

Thirty-six Trentini and friends shared another wonderful Valentini's Supper Club meal, served family style. Cathy Gentilini & Nancy White had decorated the tables with favors and Italian candy and Pete O'Brien had once again made biscotti for our spumoni ice cream. Our scrapbooks depicting our last 27 years as a club were also enjoyed. After our meal and dessert, the Hibbing High School Northern Lights Choir entertained us with Christmas carols. Those attending the party donated \$115 toward

the club's donation of \$100 to each of the four food shelves: Hibbing, Nashwauk, Chisholm and Quad Cities. To date, the Trentini Club has donated \$4600 to food shelves on the Iron Range.



Altruistic Donations for 2023:

This year the club voted to gift the following: Rosie Marino (mittens for children), Hospices in Hibbing and Virginia, Rides for Vets and the Virginia Police Department Canine Division.

Club notes:

Cookbook:

We are currently contemplating printing a cookbook compiled by club member's recipes. It will not be a fundraiser, but a way to share OUR recipes with other members. You can include any recipe, not just the ones that are of Trentini origins. You could even add short family stories and pictures later. We are hoping to have it ready for our "30th anniversary" celebration. We would love to have all of you contribute your favorites to this project. So, if you have recipes that you'd like to contribute, you could send/email them to Louise Fort - 3626 2nd Ave. E, Hibbing, MN 55746

lou_lou_fort@hotmail.com, cell: 218-258-8423) and/or Debbie Corradi - 8758 Iron Junction Road, Iron, MN 55751(ziadeb@gmail.com, cell: 218-969-9939).

Congratulations:

Nathan Leszko is proud to announce that he has a baby brother, Andrew Thomas Leszko. He was born on November 16th, 2022. His parents are Andrea (Corradi) and Peter Leszko. Proud grandparents are Tom & Judy Corradi, Nick and Meg Leszko and, of course, the late great-grandparents, Angelo and Dorothy Corradi.

Condolences:

This is the story of **Sharon Kearney**, a woman who loved whole-heartedly, read voraciously, travelled extensively and decorated her world with Post-its.

Sharon (Gentilini) Kearney's story begins on March 26, 1947, in Chisholm, Minn., when she was born the first child of Venancio and Lillian (Beckman) Gentilini. Sharon grew up in Chisholm and spent many happy days on her Nono and Nona's farm riding her pony, Ginger (yes, she had a pony!). Sharon attended school in Chisholm and graduated from Chisholm High School with honors in 1965. Following graduation, Sharon attended Hibbing Junior College where she was a Phi Beta Kappa Society member. She would earn an Associate of Arts Degree at "The J.C." She then went on to the University of Minnesota Duluth graduating in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and a minor in Political Science.

In 1970, this Italian girl met a wild Irishman by the name of Robert (Bobby) Kearney at a college dance, he wore her down and eventually, they would marry on July 29, 1972, and spend the next 50 years together. Sharon and Bobby would have 3 children, Stefanie, Shawn (who sadly died at birth) and Jason. "Mother" was Sharon's favorite and most important title . . . until 1994, when she would become, Grandma! Along with her children, her granddaughter, Devin Rae, and later her new grandson Brayden, would be her greatest joy in life. Her family was her world.

Sharon's work life began at the age of 12, when she started working in her father's store, "Vince's Surplus," in Chisholm, MN. After working there for a few years, her father gave her a card with the title, "Vice President of Looking Out the Window," because she would watch her friends having fun out the store window while she had to work. She would work at the store until she was 18, and she put her head for numbers and organization to good use creating a business and operational plan for her dad's store. In 1972, Sharon would begin teaching at the Cotton, MN school where she taught high school English and History. She was also, the senior class advisor, drama club advisor and speech team coach. But after 8 years of a long commute and much precious time away from her young family, she made the decision to stop teaching. Then, in 1989, she decided to go back to school at Itasca Community College in Grand Rapids, MN where, in 1991, she would earn an A.A.S. degree in accounting, graduating with high honors. A year later, she would begin work at Minnesota Twist Drill working in accounts payable, where she would remain for 30 years, only to retire on Dec. 1, 2022. Sharon loved her job and the many special relationships she made while working there.

Sharon was a first generation American and was very proud of her Italian heritage. She was a long-time member of the Trentini Tirolesi del Minnesota, joining in the early 2000s with her father, Vince, who helped to co-found the club with other immigrants and descendants of the Trentino region of Northern Italy. Every year, Sharon would make her father's famous sugo for the club's annual polenta feed. She was involved in many other club events over the years and served on the board in many positions including president.

For many years, Sharon was a member of AAUW as well, where she would be involved in many events and programs put on by the organization and she would hold many board positions including, president and book sale co-chair. Her favorite event by far was the annual AAUW Book Sale. During the days leading up to the sale, Sharon and other members would sort 1000s of mystery books into their section of the sale. She was also in charge of keeping track of the sales and handling all of the money that was made which goes to scholarships for local women and girls. Personally, the book sale was heaven to this voracious reader. Sharon often read as many as 5 books at a time and figured she had read 1000s over her lifetime, many of them more than once. Reading was her peace, her, solace and her escape. Sharon would instill this love of reading and learning in her children and granddaughter and in many nieces and nephews and anyone else she could give a book to; they were her absolute favorite gifts to give.

Sharon also loved live theater in all forms. Plays, concerts, lectures, singers, dancers and everything in between. Going to the theater was one of her favorite pastimes. She instilled the love of theater in her family as well and they would travel all over Minnesota, the country and even the world to see Broadway shows, all star concerts and spectacle events. The shows they attended are too numerous to count, but the memories are priceless.

Travel was Sharon's greatest extravagance and pleasure. Some of her favorite adventures include, a trip to Italy in 2002, to see her father's birthplace and meet her extended Italian family and of course, taking time to see the rest of Italy too, a cross-country road trip with her husband Bobby where they made their way through more than 10 states, a once in a lifetime trip to Egypt and Petra, Jordan with her son, Jason, a graduation trip to London and Paris with her granddaughter Devin and 2 trips to New York City with her daughter Stefanie and many other trips large and small in between all of those, including 25 annual North Shore trips with her daughter, granddaughter and husband. And not to forget, "Grandma and Devin Days,"

where they would pick a direction and just wander, discovering things they had never seen before. The world was Sharon's oyster and she took full advantage of its pearls.

Sharon loved babies, red roses, penguins and beef stroganoff. She hated snakes, onions, salmon loaf and dark water, she was a life long learner and was amazed by the world around her, but mostly, she loved her family and she loved sharing all of her passions with them, and they are all the richer for it. Sharon was not a showy person, she did not crave the limelight, but she will leave a lasting impact on all that knew and loved her. The world is definitely a better, and more organized place because she lived.

On, January 8, 2023, Sharon left this life peacefully, having lived a long and happy life on her own terms. She leaves behind her husband of 50 years, Bobby, her daughter Stefanie (Michael) Carlson, of Hibbing, son Jason (Teresa) Kearney, of Duluth, MN, granddaughter, Devin Carlson, of Memphis, TN, grandson, Brayden Boyer, of Hibbing, her beloved sister, Cathy Gentilini of Hibbing, brother Butch (Clairissa) Gentilini of Chisholm, MN, brother Garrett (Jim Brox) Gentilini of Dallas, TX, many nieces and nephews and many, many other cherished family members.

Sharon was preceded in death by an infant son, Shawn, and her parents, Venancio and Lillian (Beckman) Gentilini.

Sharon's story does not end here, it continues on in all of those who knew and loved her. "The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart." -Antoine De Saint Expery

The Kearney family would like to extend their heart-felt gratitude to the ICU staff of Fairview Range Medical Center and to Fairview Range Home Care and Hospice for all they did for Sharon and for our family. Words cannot express how much your kindness, compassion and professionalism are truly appreciated. We are so incredibly grateful to you all.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Sharon's favorite charity, [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#), in her honor. A celebration of Sharon's life will be held a later date.

Arrangements are with the Dougherty Funeral Home of Hibbing.

Patricia L. Ciatti, 84, of Chisholm, died Sunday, January 22, 2023, at Heritage Manor in Chisholm. Celebration of Life on May 30, 2023. Visitation: 10:00 -11:00 a.m., Mass of Christian Burial: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 113 SW 4th Street, Chisholm, MN. Arrangements are with Rupp Funeral Home, Chisholm.

Rudolph David "Rudy" Zattoni, age 95, died peacefully surrounded by family at Essentia Health Hospital on February 21, 2023. He was born on September 20, 1927, in Eveleth, the son of Celeste and Josephine Zattoni and was a graduate of Eveleth High School. Rudy married his beloved Roberta "Bobbette" Kulaszewicz on May 2, 1953 in Biwabik. He was a long-time resident of Fayal Township residing in the home he built on Ely Lake until 2021. He spent his last years at Edgewood Vista in Virginia.

Rudy was employed by Dow Chemical, Nitro Chem Energy, and retired from MNEX where he made and delivered explosives for the mining industry. Rudy sailed the world with the Merchant Marines and was a proud Army Veteran having served in combat as Sergeant First Class during the Korean War. He was an active volunteer in the VFW, Lions Club, Trentini Club, Meals on Wheels, and the Knights of Columbus. His faith was important to him as praying the Rosary was a part of his daily routine. He was in the Honor Guard marching in parades and serving at funerals until he was in his late 80's.

Rudy was proud of his Tyrolean roots and traveled to the "old country" multiple times. A man of adventure, he loved riding motorcycles, snowmobiling, canoeing in the BWCA, and flying airplanes. He had a passion for chopping wood and spending time at deer camp with the boys. He was an avid reader and a stranger to no one. He always had a story, book, or joke to share. Countless memories were made on Ely Lake as he taught neighborhood kids how to swim and make maple syrup. He shared many a sauna with family and friends as well as hosted 4th of July picnics. Family was EVERYTHING to him.

Rudy is survived by his children: Gina (Jeff) Hunsinger of Grand Blanc, Mich., Peter (Cheryl) Zattoni of Mt. Iron, Minn., John (Lynette Wheelock) Zattoni of Eden Prairie, Minn., and Paul (Deborah) Zattoni of Albertville, Minn.; grandchildren: Nicholas (Mandy Beerley) Hunsinger, Megan (Charles) Venz, Allison (Keith) Koshiol, Breanne (Collin) Stremke, Mario Zattoni, Vincent Zattoni, Andrew Zattoni, and Emily Zattoni; great-grandchildren: Rowan, Patrick, Evelyn, Brooklyn, Tayleigh, and Vivian; sister-in-law: Betty Lou Enquist; brother-in-law: Alan Kulaszewicz; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Roberta; sister: Adeline (John) Waichunas; and sister: Alice (Frank) Turk.

As a long-time parishioner of Resurrection Catholic Church in Eveleth, a Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 15, 2023, at the church. Fr. Justin Fish will be the Celebrant. Visitation will be for 2 hours prior to the service at the church.

Inurnment will be in Ft. Snelling National Cemetery. Memorials are the preferred way to honor Rudy's memory and may be directed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.