

The History of the First Frankie Johnnie & Luigi Too!

The building that serves as the original Frankie Johnnie and Luigi Too!, located at 939 W. El Camino Real in Mountain View has a colorful and varied past to say the least. In the 1920's, it was home to one of the better-known speakeasy and gambling establishments in the South Bay area. In the 1930's, the building was transformed into a coffee shop and in the 1940's, it became a pharmacy owned and operated by the Mantelli family.

In 1947, Rocky D'Augustino, an orphan from New Haven, Connecticut moved out West to California to seek his fortune. One of the first things he discovered upon arriving here was that the wonderful pizza that was a staple in his old neighborhood did not exist in his new hometown.

He decided to go into the restaurant business, rented the pharmacy building from the Mantelli family, and renovated it into the first and only pizza house between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Rocky stayed in business for the next nine years until he left and moved to San Francisco.

As fate would have it, Frank D'Ambrosio Sr., who delivered his homemade sausage to Rocky on a weekly basis, was looking for a business opportunity for his brother John and himself. Not only was he a fellow Italian, but Frank and his brother were also natives of New Haven, Connecticut. Their buddy from WWII, Luigi, expressed an interest in joining his friends in the new business venture, and thus Frankie Johnnie and Luigi Too! was born. The trio operated the restaurant for the next two years and eventually Frank and Luigi sold their interest to John who ran the business until 1968. The business changed hands briefly until 1972 when Franks' four sons, Don, Nick, Frank and John D'Ambrosio, dazzled by the success of their Giorgio's Pizza House in San Jose, opted to buy the restaurant which they own and operate to this day.

Lively chatter and the aroma of garlic are the first things you notice when you walk in the door of Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too! The interior is warm, friendly, and classically "Italian," (complete with red checkered tablecloths). It is perfect for romantic couples as well as the entire family. The restaurant has an open kitchen where patrons can watch the cooks "hand toss" the pizza dough and prepare entire meals. Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too! is the pizza "Mecca" of the South bay. Do not look for yuppie pizza here. We feature authentic Italian pie which can be topped with your choice of items or one of the house combos. In addition to pizza, Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too! has a broad selection of hearty and filling pasta dishes as well as veal, chicken, steak and seafood entrees. The complete menu is available to go. Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too! is proud to serve "New York Style" brand Italian sausage. The sausage company, established in 1951, is owned and operated by the D'Ambrosio family, which also owns Frankie, Johnnie & Luigi Too!

Hand tossing pizza dough is a true art form. It is also necessary for the perfect crust, light and airy. Nobody hand tosses pizza dough like the pizza cooks at Frankie Johnnie & Luigi Too!



UNICO, is the largest Italian-American Service Club in the United States. It is similar to Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary. Its membership is dedicated to the support of the underprivileged, handicapped children and adults (regardless of race or creed), community mental health programs as well as scholarship funding. The name, UNICO, translated from the Italian, means "one" or "only" or "only one of its kind." Additionally, the letters are interpreted as Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity, Oppportunity

Unlike other charities, no UNICO member is paid. 100% of every dollar donated goes directly back into our community. The 22 active members of the San Jose chapter of UNICO, raise money for the following community organizations:

The San Jose Alzheimer Adult Day Care Facility

The Concetta Conti D'Ambrosio Scholarship Foundation

Esperanza Soccer League For Underprivileged Latino Children

Holiday Baskets For Thanksgiving & Christmas For The Needy

“Action Baseball Team”, Mentally & Physically Challenged Children

C's Personal Ponies" For Autistic, Physically And Mentally Challenged Children

“Cooley's Anemia”, A Blood Disease That Attacks Children Of Mediterranean Descent

“The Go-Getters”, 132 Adult Member Mentally & Physically Challenged Bowling League

Explorer Troop #887, A Boy Scout Troop Of Mentally & Physically Challenged Children

Toys Delivered By Santa To Valley Medical Children’s Ward & A Battered Children’s Shelter

Remember, John D'Ambrosio, the owner of Frankie Johnnie & Luigi Too!, is an active member in UNICO - San Jose Chapter. He contributes not only his time and energy to this group but also donates 5% of the gross of all six (6) of his restaurants (3 - Frankie Johnnie & Luigi Too!, 2 - Giorgio's Italian Food & Pizzeria and 1 - Nicolino's Garden Café) every third Monday of the month. So come and visit us the 3rd Monday of the month to contribute to this worthy charity.